

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Borough Administration Building
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

January 8, 1996

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk
Mr. Emery Thibodeau, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member
Miss Aubrey Robinson, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,
Operations, and Technology
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Suzanne Little Mr. Mark Burgener
Mr. Dave Spence Mrs. Jana Robinson
Mr. Hank Overturf Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. Jim Simeroth Mrs. Dawn Thorpe
Mr. John Kistler Mr. Red Smith
Mr. Pat Dixon Ms. Linda Jarvi
Mr. Dave Dieckgraeff Mrs. Pam Lettington
Mrs. Pam Russell Ms. Mo Sanders
Rev. Joe Knox Mr. Kurt Haider
Mrs. Kimberlie Foley Ms. Melissa DeV Vaughan
Mr. Roger Swenson Mrs. Ronda Holm
Ms. Kari Mohn
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present
Mr. Joe Arness Present
Mrs. Susan Larned Present
Mr. Emery Thibodeau Present
Dr. Nels Anderson Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present
Miss Aubrey Robinson Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of December 4, 1995, were approved with corrections.

KENAI CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
REPORT:

Mr. Dave Spence, Principal, Kenai Central High School, reported to the Board on his school's 1995-96 goals which included a staff mentor program, enhancement of computer literacy, implementation of the language arts curriculum and community involvement of students. Also reporting for the school was the Leadership Class presenting a skit on school activities, a report from Mrs. Foley's Home Economics Class on their "Christmas Around the World" project which included treats for the Board and audience, a student-produced multi-media presentation, an art display, and a student presentation on the continued need for creative classes.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Ronda Holm, Seward PAC and PTSA member, spoke in support of a request from the PTSA requesting a waiver for one site council to represent the two schools in Seward. She stated the PAC would meet later this month to take official action on the request. She noted a site based council was formed at the end of the last school year which included the PAC members plus teacher and support staff representatives from each school. At this time, the PAC has not been dissolved, pending action of the school board. In response to Dr. Anderson's question related to responsibility of specific student learning goals, Mrs. Holm responded the PAC worked with each of the principals on this, and it is the intent that the site based council would do the same.

Mrs. Germano questioned Mrs. Holm on the function of the PTSA. Mrs. Holm responded the PTSA consisted of approximately 100 members who are advocates for the students and are fund-raisers. She commented they have raised approximately \$10,000 each year for the elementary school, which is mostly for the computer lab. They also sponsor Close-up activities and other activities. The PAC does not do fundraising and is more involved in programmatic matters.

Mr. Roger Swenson, PAC member, spoke in support of the request for a waiver to Seward's site council. He noted he was a strong supporter of site based decision making to help the administration and school board to make the Seward schools even better. He stated both schools are considered as one school in their town due to the size of their town. He felt flexibility was needed in the district because of the diverse community needs and desires.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Red Smith, Cooper Landing resident, spoke to the Board on revenue which could be generated, as established by federal laws, from stumpage on federal lands of the Kenai Peninsula if bark beetle infested trees are removed. He commented the current situation with dead trees creates a fire hazard, which, if logged off in a proper manner could enhance the forests, improve the economy, and generate funds for education. He supported his presentation with copies of federal regulations, current fiscal data, communications to various agencies and a proposed school board resolution.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross read a letter from Mr. and Mrs. James Fisher complimenting Ms. Nancy Courtright as well as the Soldotna Elementary School staff for their dedication to education as evidenced by their advanced training, often at their own expense, and work beyond the normal work-week.

Mrs. Gross read a letter and petition from the Seward School Council which requested the Board consider approving a waiver whereby the Seward schools would be served by the one existing council for the purpose of School Based Decision Making.

SEWARD SITE BASED DECISION
MAKING COMMITTEE:

Mr. David Dieckgraeff, President of the Seward School Site Based Decision Making Committee, explained several of the PAC's goals over the past years had been for the construction of a new elementary school, change to a middle school concept, and block scheduling. He commented that he felt site based decision making is good, and something that has been done in Seward for many years. He stated the committee is currently working on their by-laws. He noted the Seward schools have set up a computer program to compile suggestions on ways to save money and suggested this be done throughout the school district.

Mr. Thibodeau noted that according to the School Based Decision Making document the School Board needed more information related to their request for waiver. Dr. Bromenschenkel commented the SBDM Committee designated three types of waivers, those being for: 1) composition different than defined in the document, but proportional, 2) waivers from negotiated agreements, and 3) waivers from district and board policies and regulations. The Seward request was for one combined council rather than two as required by the SDBM document. He noted Seward was set up similar to Homer.

Mrs. Fischer questioned whether there were representatives from the Seward area on the Site Based Decision Making Committee. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded two principals and Mr. Dieckgraeff were on the committee.

SEWARD SITE BASED DECISION
MAKING COMMITTEE (cont.):

Mrs. Fischer further questioned whether in approving one committee would they instead be approving a committee to both schools. Dr. Bromenschenkel commented that whatever the Board decided, they would need to make the same opportunity available to all other schools in the district.

Mr. Arness commented it was his feeling that the council should continue as they have in the past, and each school should be represented separately.

Dr. Anderson suggested the council have more proportional representation, either add more parents or delete school administrative representation.

AASB BOARDSMANSHIP AWARDS:

Mrs. Gross presented Awards of Excellence to Mrs. Susan Larned and Mr. Emery Thibodeau for their competition of AASB Boardsmanship Training.

CHARTER SCHOOLS REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel reported the State Department of Education approved regulations related to the implementation of charter schools in seven rural school districts of the state. He presented the state statutes as well as a flow chart to implement such a process in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District by June 30, 1996. He noted the state regulations did not allow for deviations and would allow for little or no experimentation from current practices in the district, i.e. certification, negotiated agreements, etc. He reported he would be attending meetings in Anchorage on January 18 and 19 related to charter schools. He announced he would bring the charter school policy to the Board at their January 22 meeting for a first reading.

MEDICAID FUNDS:

Dr. Bromenschenkel reported the administration has been working with Mecca-Tech and the Department of Education in an effort to research possible reimbursable funding through Medicaid for various special services within the district. He noted such an arrangement had the potential of generating \$300,000-\$500,000 of revenue to the district.

- FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending November 30, 1995.
- CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES: A calendar of activities for January, 1996, was presented to the Board.
- BOARD REPORTS: Mr. Thibodeau reported the Vocational Advisory Committee would meet at Nikiski High School on January 30, and Vocational Student Leadership competitions would be held at Kenai Peninsula College on February 23.
- Mrs. Larned reported she attended the Graduation Requirements Study Committee meeting on January 4. This group has divided into subgroups and will conduct a meeting of all groups on January 24 at 4:30 p.m. She requested that Board members give her their suggestions on changes to the graduation requirements.
- RECESS: At 9:35 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 9:50 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignation, Substitute Contracts, Furniture and Equipment List, and Extended Field Trip Requests.
- RESIGNATION: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of Eldon Brothen, Social Studies, Soldotna Middle School, effective May 24, 1996.
- SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Linda Saito, Music, Chapman Elementary; Cathy Zorbas, Social Studies/Dance, Skyview High; and Lisa Kent, Kindergarten, Sterling Elementary.
- FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for the Tustumena Elementary School addition in the amount of \$828.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: By memorandum, Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for seven Port Graham Elem/High School ninth and tenth grade students to travel to Southern California, March 16-22, 1996, for a historical tour; and for 15 Soldotna High School Swing Choir students to travel to Honolulu, Hawaii to participate in musical instruction and performances, March 16-22, 1996.
- Mrs. Germano requested the extended field trip requests be considered separately.
- ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items #1 through #3. Mr. Arness seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the extended field trip requests. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Germano noted that Port Graham's original request was for March 16-30, 1996, and questioned why this was unacceptable. Dr. Bromschenkkel responded the original request was reviewed by the instructional department, and dates revised to travel during spring break. Mrs. Germano commented this was a long way to travel and a lot of money if things do not work out for them.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION:

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board in the Matter of Expulsion of the Student KT.

This matter was heard before the board on January 8, 1996. The student and his mother were present on behalf of the student. The Principal of Skyview High School and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction were present on behalf of the administration, and recommended permanent expulsion of the student for a premeditated serious assault on another student on campus.

The evidence presented showed that on November 20, 1995, there was a suspension involving three students and a substance on campus that a field-test showed was apparently cocaine. On November 21, 1995 at about 7:20 a.m. a student entered the principal's office who had been badly battered about the face. The student was very disoriented and confused. He did not know where he was or how he got there. Subsequent investigation revealed that KT had planned, orchestrated and executed a vicious attack on the student for his cooperation with authorities on the previous day. He had enticed the student into a secluded area and severely beaten him, having first involved other students to keep people away during the beating. After repeatedly denying his involvement, KT finally admitted to the beating and showed no remorse, telling the principal he thought the student deserved the beating. KT has a very poor academic record and displays very little interest in education. The facts were not disputed by KT.

EXPULSION (continued):

The board has adopted policies supporting its commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment in our schools. Planning and executing a premeditated vicious attack on a fellow student, for any reason, is contrary to and inimical to the safety and welfare of other students. Even though KT has no history of violent behavior, his premeditation and execution of a serious physical assault on this other student is an individual act of significant misconduct that warrants denial of admission as the most appropriate action. To do otherwise, would appear to accept or condone such behavior and undermine the efforts of the district to provide an education that provides a safe learning environment. The principal recommends permanent expulsion as she believes she is unable to effectively ensure a safe environment if this student is readmitted.

Given the circumstances, it is the decision of the board to permanently expel the student KT from all programs of the school district. However, KT may apply for readmission if he demonstrates sufficient change in behavior so the board can determine no undue risk to other students or staff would exist from such readmission. As evidence of a sufficient change in behavior, KT must complete and pass three statewide correspondence courses, and must complete counseling related to his violent behavior. The counseling and correspondence courses shall be either at KT's or his parents' expense. Prior to applying for readmission, KT must provide a psychologist report certifying that his violent behavior is not likely to be repeated. KT shall not go on any school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any Kenai Peninsula Borough School District event or function whatsoever." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Thibodeau,
Gross
Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried unanimously.

RECONSIDERATION OF
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

By memorandum, Mr. Thorpe reported that the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee met on December 5 to consider a request from Seward Elementary fourth grade teacher, Nancy Tapsfield, that the book, *I, Houdini*, be removed from the third and fourth grade Battle of the Books

RECONSIDERATION OF
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION
(continued):

list. Mrs. Tapsfield objected to the use of the book for the Battle of the Books because of its high level of vocabulary and the difficult distinction between the anthropomorphic animals protagonist's character which acted human in some respects and very animal-like in other behaviors such as mating.

It was the committee's recommendation that the book remain on district's Battle of the Books list this year since most students who entered the competition have already completed reading of the 15 recommended books at each level. The committee recommended that a letter be drafted to the Alaska Association of School Librarians and the subcommittee that establishes the statewide Battle of the Books lists for the intent of expressing concern for the use of this book for future competitions. Superintendent Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve the committee's recommendation as presented.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee recommendation. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY 005.27, DRUG AND
ALCOHOL TESTING OF SCHOOL
DISTRICT COMMERCIAL DRIVER
LICENSED EMPLOYEES:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approved Policy 005.27, Drug and Alcohol Testing of School District Commercial Driver Licensed Employees. She noted changes recommended by the Board in worksession had been included in the revision. She further noted legal changes which had been repealed this week had been adjusted in the policy.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Policy 005.27 as presented. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN NEGOTIATIONS: Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board open negotiations with the Kenai Peninsula Education Association and the Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association. Mr. Robert Piazza will be the Board's chief negotiator.

Mr. John Kistler requested the Board hold its negotiations in public instead of behind closed doors. He felt open negotiations would be beneficial to the school board.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve opening negotiations with the Kenai Peninsula Education Association and the Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON APPOINTMENT: Dr. Bromenschenkel noted a communication had been received from the Association of Alaska School Boards encouraging a legislative liaison be appointed who would participate in discussions with legislators, advocate for AASB resolutions and serve as a conduit between AASB, the legislature and the local school board. He recommended that a legislative appointment be made.

Mrs. Gross appointed Mrs. Deborah Germano as the Board's legislative liaison with the Association of Alaska School Boards. She also appointed Mrs. Susan Larned to serve on the AASB Advocacy for Children Network representing the KPBSD school board.

Mrs. Gross assigned Mrs. Susan Larned, Mr. Joe Arness, and herself to attend the National School Board Conference in Orlando, Florida, April 13-16, 1996.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. John Kistler commented he was hopeful that the Board would continue to address the concerns of the communities as they are presented to them.

Mrs. Fischer questioned what the next step would be for the Seward request. Dr. Bromenschenkel advised it should be placed on the next board agenda. Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Gross requested this item be on the next meeting agenda.

BOARD COMMENTS: Miss Robinson commented she was concerned there was no student representative on the Seward Council, where one is required for the high schools and is optional for elementary schools. She noted this should be considered when writing the council by-laws.

Miss Robinson stated she was a preliminary finalist for Harvard University. She noted she will need to complete additional testing and a final determination will be made in February. The Board extended encouragement and best wishes to her.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.) Mrs. Larned reported she and Mr. Thibodeau went to Soldotna Middle School in December to visit classes and attend Core Team Teacher sessions. She commented that she was pleased to see how this would help students.

Mrs. Larned also noted she attended Soldotna High School senior project presentations. She stated she was impressed with the research and presentations by the students.

Mr. Thibodeau suggested the mission statement be added to the cover of the School Board packet.

Mr. Thibodeau requested an excused absence from the January 22, 1996, meeting.

Mr. Arness urged the Seward Site Council be contacted to complete a plan before a waiver is approved. He felt it was premature to approve a waiver at this time. Mrs. Fischer stated she felt the group needed to know how they would function, and was concerned about a delay. She stated she would like this to remain on the January 22 agenda.

Mrs. Gross announced the AASB Fly-Ins would be held February 11-13 and April 21-23. She felt that at least two members should attend these sessions.

ADJOURN:

At 10:18 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of January 8, 1996,
were approved on January 22, 1996,
with a correction.