

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

January 22, 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
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. John Kistler Mr. Jim Simeroth
Mrs. Sandy Martushoff Mr. Mike Wiley
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mr. Kurt Haider
Ms. Melissa DeVaughn Mrs. Ann Bayes
Mrs. Angela McKinney Mrs. Pam Lettington
Mrs. Pam Russell Mrs. Kathy Gensel
Mr. Todd Syverson Mrs. Vickie Leach
Dr. Donna Peterson
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:37 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 Absent - Excused
Mrs. Susan Larned Present
Mr. Emery Thibodeau Absent - Excused
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 a special meeting on January 4, 1996, and special meeting on January 8, 1996, were approved as printed. The School Board Minutes of the January 8, 1996, regular meeting were approved with a correction.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION:

Mrs. Sandy Martushoff spoke to the Board related to the staffing at Vozneskenka School for the upcoming year. She noted the school board approved formula had not been applied to their school which has 146 identified students although there are 140 students projected for the 1996-97 school year. She commented that teachers have forgone their prep time to teach classes, a classified staff member conducts Russian classes, their full-time principal teaches a class and is an administrator at another school, and with the increase of student population teacher supervision is needed for the lunch recess. She stated the parents are not asking for special treatment, but want to be treated equitably within the school district.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending December 31, 1996.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:

Mr. Swarner reported on Budget Transfers #49 through #310 for various schools and departments within the district.

Mrs. Germano stated she felt budget transfers should cease due to the financial condition of the district, and to save funds as a reserve. Mrs. Gross explained that some accounts are established and intended to make transfers from as the year progresses. Many accounts are transferred in the same categories.

Mrs. Fischer commented the budget explanations needed clearer descriptions for the transfers.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Fischer reported the Budget Committee met on January 4-5, and have held public hearings in Kenai and Homer. Other hearings will be held in Seward, Soldotna and Nikiski this week. She noted the budget reductions had been prioritized, but at this point are suggestions only. The Board will determine the reductions at their February 20 meeting and does welcome input from the public.

Mrs. Gross reported she attended the Budget Committee meetings as an observer.

She also reported on attending the Graduation Requirements Study Committee large group and subcommittee meetings. Another large group meeting is scheduled for January 24.

Mrs. Gross also reported that she attended a Technology Committee Meeting at Homer Junior High and a meeting at McNeil Canyon Elementary related to the bilingual program.

BOARD REPORTS (cont.):

Mrs. Gross commented the budget meeting in Homer was well attended with good public input.

Dr. Anderson commented he was a member of the Budget Committee, but like all members of the committee, he was unhappy with the reductions which need to be made.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Substitute Teacher Contracts, 1995-96 Teacher Assignment, Extended Field Trip Requests, and Australian Teacher Exchange Application.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Linda Felz, Kindergarten, Tustumena Elementary; and Jeanne Moore, Grades 4-5, Nikolaevsk Elem/High School.

1995-96 TEACHER ASSIGN- MENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a 1995-96 teacher assignment for Daniel Verkuilen, Science, Nikiski Jr/Sr High (Temporary).

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for five Nikolaevsk High seniors to participate in Close-Up activities in Washington, D.C., May 4-11, 1996; and for 12 Skyview High School swing choir students to participate in a national choir festival, March 19-26, 1996, in San Diego, California.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CHAPMAN SCHOOL GRADE
CONFIGURATION:

Mr. Dahlgren reported he had been working with the Site Council at Chapman Elementary School this year, and it was the decision of the council that the 7th and 8th grade students remain at Anchor Point. He recommended the Board approve staffing the school as a K-8 elementary school. There would be no difference in the total number of staff members, whether the students remain at Chapman or attend school in Homer. He noted the question still remained unsolved as to how large the school should get before splitting out the 7th and 8th graders.

Mrs. Angela McKinney told the Board that the parents and community recommended they accept the recommendation that the 7th and 8th grade students remain at Chapman School.

CHAPMAN SCHOOL GRADE
CONFIGURATION (cont.):

Mrs. Germano questioned the number of staff for an elementary school. Mr. Dahlgren responded the staffing is one teacher for 24 students in the primary grades and one teacher for 26 students in grades 4-8. No allowance is made for vocational or specialty rooms or staffing for these.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board retain the 7th and 8th grade students at Chapman Elementary School. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Fischer commented that Chapman 7th and 8th grade students have scored the highest of all 7th and 8th grade configurations, and that the point is that education is what it's all about.

Motion carried unanimously.

SOLDOTNA MIDDLE SCHOOL
SBDM WAIVER:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve the SBDM waiver request from Soldotna Middle School which would change the council's membership.

Mr. Todd Syverson, Soldotna Middle School Principal, told the Board the school advisory council had balanced the council membership by adding one parent per core team, which is equal to the number of staff on the council.

Mrs. Germano questioned how many members were on the council. Mr. Syverson responded there were nine parents and nine staff members. Mrs. Germano expressed concern that some of the parents would be chosen by staff, and that decisions would be made by simple majority vote. Dr. Bromenschenkel commented it was the SBDM Committee's determination that each site based council would decide what the consensus of the group would be for them.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, stated the principal needed to be considered staff thus making ten staff members on the site committee. He provided the Board with a listing of concerns related to the Soldotna Middle School Council. He expressed concern that staff members could make a decision without parents being present, and although he liked the concept of the council, he urged the Board to not approve the waiver request.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board grant the Soldotna Middle School a two-year waiver on the current proposal, with a review later. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

SOLDOTNA MIDDLE SCHOOL
SBDM WAIVER (cont.):

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Larned, Gross

NO - Germano, Fischer

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion failed.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer requested reconsideration at the February 5, 1996 meeting. She requested the advisory committee revisit the concerns expressed.

SECOND READING/POLICIES
3000, BUSINESS AND NON-
INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS:

The Board heard a second reading on Policies, 3000, Business and Noninstructional Operations. These policies will be presented for adoption at the February 5, 1996 meeting.

FIRST READING/POLICIES 4000,
PERSONNEL, AND 5000, STUDENTS:

The Board was presented with a first reading on Policies 4000, Personnel, and Policies 5000, Students.

FIRST READING/ CHARTER
SCHOOLS POLICY:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented the Charter Schools Policy for first reading.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPEA President, requested clarification on the method used for readings of the policy revisions. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded that normally policies usually have two readings and adoption, however, since the entire policy manual is being reviewed and rewritten, the Board conducts worksessions at each meeting and two readings are held prior to adoption at the third reading. The public has opportunity to give input at the second and third readings, and any time they are on the agenda.

Mr. Todd Syverson, Soldotna Middle School Principal, called the Board's attention to Article III, A-Team Responsibility, which states that the council would give monthly reports to the PTSA in an effort to receive additional feedback and direction on school issues. He commented that the council had no intention of setting up a dictatorship and was open to all suggestions from parents because they are an equal and important part of the educational process. He further noted the chairperson would only vote in the case of a tie, and nothing more. He also asked the Board to consider that the turnover of parents is extremely high because of the grade configuration for the school, and the PTSA and council work closely on issues.

Mrs. Kathy Gensel, Soldotna Middle School PTSA President, stated she did not feel there was an imbalance on the site council, and that both groups worked well together for the

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

betterment of the students and school. She felt the two-year waiver with a review would be favorable at this time. Mrs. Fischer commented she felt there should be some protection for the future with possible staff, parent and administration changes where decisions could be made without parent involvement.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Larned stated she attended an excellent jazz band dessert concert this week. She stated she was impressed with the musical ability of the students.

Mrs. Fischer requested a resolution be prepared from Mr. Red Smith's presentation at the January 8 meeting to free harvesting of timber which is dedicated to school funding at the federal level. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded that he would prepare a summary report to be presented under the Superintendent's Report at the next meeting, then direction could be given for the administration to prepare a resolution on this.

Mrs. Germano suggested the Board hold a worksession on advertising for district committees.

Dr. Anderson commented that review of the policy manual is a major undertaking and responsibility of the board, which is very time consuming. He added that in revising the policy manual the board may have been detracted from some of the board goals, but in reviewing the mid-year update it indicates many things have been accomplished. On having completed the policy manual review he hoped the board would be able to address more direct issues.

Mrs. Gross expressed appreciation to the board members and administration for the work and time involved in reviewing the policy manual.

ADJOURN:

At 8:29 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of January 22, 1996, were
approved on February 5, 1996, as written.