

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Homer High School Auditorium
Homer, Alaska 99603

March 18, 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
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Joe Gallagher Mr. Harry Gregoire
Mr. Alex Trout Mr. Richard Patton
Mr. Rick Ladd Ms. Laura Norton
Mr. Michael Murray Mrs. Millie Martin
Ms. Annie Whitney Mrs. Angela McKinney
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Chitty Mrs. Nancy Radtke
Ms. Melissa DeVaughn Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. James Simeroth Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 Absent - Excused
Mr. Emery Thibodeau Present
Dr. Nels Anderson Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present
Miss Aubrey Robinson Absent - Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 4, 1996, were approved with a correction.

VOZNESENKA AND KACHEMAK
SELO SCHOOLS REPORT:

Mr. Michael Murray, Principal of Voznesenka and Kachemak Selo schools, reported on these schools through a slide presentation of classes and activities. He noted the Old Believer schools have a growing population of enthusiastic students and are taught by dedicated and accomplished teachers, bilingual aides and support staff. He reported the schools have innovative sports programs, and students are working on the President's Physical Fitness Award. The students produce a school annual yearly, and hold student assemblies to recognize student accomplishments, attendance, honor rolls, etc. Voznesenka School has an active PAC and Kachemak Selo is developing a School Based Decision Making Council which should be in place by the end of the school year. An extensive display of art work, science experiments and handiwork accompanied the report.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Richard Sander, Homer High School math teacher, told the Board that Homer Junior High School students recently placed third in state mathematics competition. Two of those students placed individually and one of the students will travel with the state team to Washington, D.C.

Ms. Annie Whitney, Homer Flex School teacher, expressed concern related to the reduction of teachers at the flex school for next year. She told the Board 174 students have attended the school over the past six years and the school has attempted to address the education and intensive needs of these students. She noted there needs to be a program to address the concerns of these students.

Ms. Betty Erickson, Homer resident, spoke on behalf of the students of Homer Flex School who gathered 841 signatures in four days on a petition to retain a two-teacher program for the flex school. She presented the petitions to the School Board for their review and supported the need for a second teacher at Homer Flex School.

Ms. Lindee Sprong, Homer Flex School student, told the Board how important education is for the students who attend the flex school. She noted many of the students struggle to attend school, work, and have daily problems that face them. She noted there is a camaraderie among the students where they support each other.

Ms. Nichole Hull, Homer Flex School student, stated she is working hard to complete her studies at the school despite the demands of her time with a child. She commented she is thankful for the flex school which she is dependent upon to complete her education.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Ms. Adella Pirkle, Homer Flex School student, told how Homer Flex School has changed her life and she had hopes to become a marine biologist. She commented the teachers at the flex school were role models for the students. She requested the school continue to educate students who do not fit in the regular school program.

Mr. Ira Ellsworth, Homer Flex School Student, told the Board that he had come to appreciate an education from the flex school and he was concerned that he might not be able to go to school next year if the school was cut.

Mr. Mike Huffnagle, Homer Flex School student, stated he was new to Homer and felt the flex school was a home to him. He commented the staff, in addition to educating the students, also counsels the students with their problems. He noted the students are like a family. He did not want the future taken away from the students. He presented the Board with letters from the students.

Ms. Mindy McDowell, Homer resident, told the Board she graduated from Homer Flex School in 1994. She stated the students deserve a second chance through the flex school, and to eliminate any part of the program would deny students a future.

Mr. Justin George, Ninilchik resident, expressed concern related to a recent distribution listing for money to be spent for equipment with most of it being distributed to technology. He commented that chairs and tables are needed, and, if there are no funds for them, the schools would not have anything to place the technology equipment on.

Mrs. Patricia Chitty, Nikolaevsk High School counselor/ librarian and member of the School-to-Work Advisory Committee, urged the Board to reconsider not cutting the Director of Vocational Education position. She stated that currently education is involved in Tech. Prep. and other programs concerned with community partnerships and vocational education. She commented it is necessary for a full-time person to coordinate all programs involved in this effort.

Mrs. Mildred Martin, Homer resident, commented that she felt the flex school is an important element of the K-12 educational system today. She felt the flex school provides an education for those students who do not fit in the traditional school setting. She questioned whether the staff

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

was included in the staffing discussion and budget development. She noted the flex school was not advertised last fall so the enrollment did not increase until this winter. She felt the increased enrollment would generate the funds necessary for an additional staff member.

Mr. Garry Betley, Homer resident, stated he was working with a group interested in establishing a charter school. He presented the board with a survey which has been developed distributed to the community. He expressed interest in teleconferencing with the board when topics of charter schools are on the agenda.

Mrs. Nancy Radtke, representing the Village of Nanwalek, asked the Board to acknowledge the petition written to them. The petition spoke to teacher reductions at the school for next year. The parents requested that staff be reinstated.

Mrs. Nancy Yeaton, Nanwalek parent, expressed concern on the reduction of staff at the bush school. She stated the children need a good, structured education, and she hoped the Board would listen to their concerns for the future of the children of Nanwalek.

Mrs. Violet Yeaton, Port Graham resident, presented a copy of a letter to the Board from the School Based Decision Making Council related to staff reductions. She noted the SBDM council had not received a response to their February letter. Mrs. Gross responded the Board had received the letter. Additional letters from the Port Graham Village were presented. These letters addressed the RIF Program, supply formula and special needs of a village school.

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Mr. Mark Robinson, Homer choral director, expressed concern related to regular education teachers taking over elementary music instruction, fine arts credits not required at the secondary level, and massed choir and band programs which are fabulous experiences for students. He did not feel a \$30 fee was justified for two-days required attendance. Mrs. Gross corrected Mr. Robinson that the Board had reduced the amount to \$15 at their worksession earlier in the day.

Mrs. Mary Sanders, retired teacher, told the Board she has been a substitute teacher at Homer Flex School and enjoyed getting to know the students and their needs. She requested the Board consider adequate funding and staffing at Homer Flex School to meet the needs for the number of students desiring to attend the school. She commended the staff at Homer Flex School for their loving care of the students.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mrs. Sally Ash, Nanwalek parent, spoke to the Board related to the proposed staffing cuts at the Nanwalek School. She felt the students of Nanwalek should receive the same education as other schools.

Ms. Gallion Desidus, health care provider, spoke on the positive impact Homer Flex School has on the young people of Homer. She felt that in addition to an education the students receive counseling in their growing experiences. She praised the flex school staff for their work with the young people at the school.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross noted receipt of the following communications: Kenai Chamber of Commerce writing in support of the Vocational Education position, the Department of Education soliciting membership to the Mt. Edgecumbe Advisory Board, from Dillon Kimple on the Kids Voting Program, from Harry Eaton of the Vocational Education Advisory Committee supporting the Vocational Education Director position, a letter from Skyview High supporting the vocational education position, a letter from Susie Franklin thanking school board members Anderson and Thibodeau for being at the school and other concerns, a letter of concern about the whole language program from Mrs. Lorrie Cockrill, three letters of concern related to the teacher decisions at Chapman School, and letters and a petition from Nanwalek School related to staff reductions.

CHAPMAN SCHOOL PTA:

Mrs. Angela McKinney, Chapman School PTA and SBDM Council representative, expressed concern related to the .5 staff reduction at Chapman School for next year. She commented the reductions would affect the music program, and students entering Homer High School from Chapman School would be ineligible for that music program. She requested the staffing allocation be reviewed for that school.

KPESA:

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, presented the Board with a packet of letters from food service and nurse staff members supporting the Breakfast Program. Currently eight schools have breakfast programs and she was surprised this program was considered for reduction from the budget since it had not been previously mentioned in budget worksessions. She noted the Breakfast Program is a viable, necessary program for children who do not have food to start the day. She felt the benefits of the program outweighed its cost.

VOZNESENKA SCHOOL:

Ms. Laura Norton, Voznesenka School secretary, spoke on behalf of Voznesenka SBDM Committee reminding the Board of the parents concern related to staffing at their school. She requested the school be recognized as a K-12 school. She noted it is a unique school with talented students.

- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Superintendent Bromenschenkel presented a listing of worksessions requested by the Board. He requested the Board consider time at a future meeting to consider scheduling the items for worksessions. Mrs. Gross requested Alternative Schools be added to the listing.
- FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending February 29, 1996.
- RECESS:** At 9:05 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:** At 9:20 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda included Approval of Early Graduation Request, Substitute Teacher Contracts, Resignations, Leave of Absence Requests/Certified, 1995-96 Teacher Assignment and Grant Application.
- EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST:** Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an Early Graduation Request for a Soldotna High School junior to graduate at the end of the 1995-96 school year.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:** By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Michael Stockburger, Generalist, Voznesenka School; and Beth Rice, English/Art/Home Economics, Susan B. English Elem/High.
- RESIGNATIONS:** By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations from Carolyn Tinsley, Special Education/Resource, Homer Junior High, effective May 24, 1996; Ann Dahl, 1995-96 Leave of Absence; Joy Hobart, 1995-96 Leave of Absence; Deanne Pokryfki, 1995-96 Leave of Absence; Bea Klaich, 1995-96 Leave of Absence; Robert Bell, 1995-96 Leave of Absence; Mary Louise Combs, 1995-96 Leave of Absence; and DeeAnn Steffensen, 1995-96 Leave of Absence.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/CERTIFIED:** By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 1996-97 school year for Scott Christian, Grade 8/Language Arts, Nikiski Jr/Sr High; and Holly Zwink, Special Education/Emotionally Handicapped/Learning Disabled, Nikiski Jr/Sr High.
- 1995-96 TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:** By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a 1995-96 teacher assignment for Ann Riedel, Music, half-time, Chapman Elementary School (Temporary).
- GRANT APPLICATION:** Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve a grant application for the Bilingual/Bicultural Education Program in the approximate amount of \$1,041,522. The application would be forwarded to the Department of Education for funding consideration.
- ACTION** Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.

EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST: Mr. Thorpe recommended denial of an Early Graduation request from a Nikiski High School junior. He noted the student transferred to the district for her junior year and that her credits from the out-of-state transfer were not aligned to credits in the district. Additionally, the student had not applied for attendance at the college indicated in her request. He recommended the student apply for graduation from the high school previously attended.

The student explained she could not apply for graduation at the college since she would need to have a graduation diploma first. She also noted the counselor at Nikiski High School told her she would receive credit for the QUEST program. Mr. Thorpe noted these credits do not count towards graduation, but are reflected on the transcript and allows the student to advance in certain classes. In response to Mr. Thibodeau's question, the student responded it was her intent to attend college in the fall.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved to approve the Early Graduation Request. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Mr. Arness commented he would support the request based on the fact that the high school intervention team approved and forwarded the request to central office, and the circumstances surrounding the request.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONFIGURATION FOR NEW WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Mr. Dahlgren reported numerous committee meetings had been held in the Homer area related to public input into the configuration of the new West Homer Elementary School. He presented nine grade configurations and recommended that configuration #3 be approved. This configuration consisted of McNeil Canyon, grades K-6; Paul Banks, grades K-2; West Homer, grades 3-6; and Homer Middle, grades 7-8. He expressed appreciation for the work of the Homer area principals, the site councils, and Configuration Committee. Planned opening of West Homer Elementary School is in the fall of 1997.

Ms. Brenda Hayes, Homer parent, spoke in support of Mr. Dahlgren's recommendation.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Mr. Dahlgren's recommendation for configuration of the new West Homer Elementary School. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

In response to Dr. Anderson's question related to additional costs or savings for the new school, Mr. Dahlgren responded there would be an approximate \$75,000 increase.

Motion carried unanimously.

TENTATIVE TENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS: By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended approval of the following tentative tenure teacher assignments for the 1996-97 school year:

Not Assigned
Kandi Diamond
Lana Esposito

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the tentative tenure teacher assignments. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

TEACHER TERMINATIONS: By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve terminations of Deborah Burnham, Gary Lindman, Arlo Morgenweck, and Felicia Smith. The terminations were recommended in accordance with Section 345 of the KPEA Negotiated Agreement, where teachers on unpaid leaves of absence must notify the district of their intent to return in writing on or before March 1.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the terminations as recommended. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 95-96-3/
CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER: Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve Resolution 95-96-3 supporting a Challenger Learning Center in Kenai. He noted representatives from the Challenger Learning Center Project spoke to the Board about the project and requested a resolution supporting this project.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve Resolution 95-96-3, Challenger Learning Center. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 95-96-4/ SUPPORTING
HB 452, SCHOOL FINANCE: Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve Resolution 95-96-4, Supporting HB 452, School Finance. He noted this is the best possible scenerio in the legislature for school funding this year. If approved, the resolution would be forwarded to the legislature.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Resolution 95-96-4. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 95-96-5/ SUPPORTING
HB 431, TOBACCO TAX: Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve Resolution 95-96-5, Supporting HB 431, Tobacco Tax. He noted the resolution focuses on the essential elements of the proposed legislation.

Ms. Annie Whitney stated that, on behalf of the American Lung Association, she supported this resolution. She commented as much as possible must be done to discourage teenage smoking.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve Resolution 95-96-5 which supports HB 431, Tobacco Tax. Mrs. Germano seconded.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved to amend the motion to delete paragraph #3 and #4 and substitute with: "WHEREAS, the level of tobacco consumption by teenagers is directly related to tobacco price; and, WHEREAS, few people smoke who did not start in their teens; and, WHEREAS, a reduction in tobacco consumption is a health goal which will prolong and save numerous lives;" Mr. Thibodeau seconded. The amendment was incorporated in the main motion.

Mrs. Fischer questioned what relevance the resolution had to education. She stated she had no problems altering smoking habits, however, she did not believe the purpose of taxation was to penalize people, but instead to raise funds for those things that the state is supposed to fund.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved to table. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mrs. Germano commented this is an item supported by the Association of Alaska School Boards and an issue of trying to educate children on safe and healthy environments.

Mr. Arness stated it was not the school board's position to be involved in social engineering. He did not feel taxation was the means to make smoking disappear.

Mrs. Fischer stated it is already illegal for teenagers to smoke, but the law is not enforced. Mr. Thibodeau responded that although laws are on the books, there are costs involved for law enforcement and costs for health problems which often are carried by taxpayers.

RESOLUTION 95-96-5
(continued):

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Germano, Thibodeau, Gross

NO - Fischer, Arness

Motion carried.

NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH SBDM
WAIVER:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve a School Based Decision Making Waiver for Nikiski Jr/Sr High School to add a middle school representative to their SBDM Council.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the Nikiski waiver. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND READING/POLICIES
6000/INSTRUCTION:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented Policy series 6000, Instruction, for second reading. He noted Policies 6145 (a) (b) and (c) and associated regulations will be revised to reflect a broader interpretation of co-curricular activities.

Mr. James Simeroth, KPEA president, requested clarification on Policy 6146. Mrs. Gross responded that the Graduation Requirements Committee is completing their recommendations to the Board and the policy will be revised according to their recommendations.

Mrs. Fischer suggested that instead of specific dates in 6141 (b) that the Year 1, Year 2, etc. replace the dates for review of the curriculum. She requested the word "or" be deleted in policy 6141.2.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Cindy Barker, Chapman School food service employee, told the Board that approximately a third of the school's students are on the Breakfast Program. She requested the program not be eliminated in the budget.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer stated that the flex school is staffed for fourteen students per teacher but other students would be allowed to attend. Dr. Bromenschenkel commented that there may be a misunderstanding on the number of students attending alternative schools, and the district would like to address the issue of alternative schools next year. The number of students reflect the staffing for the schools, and he felt there was a need to address the students who do not fit into the regular school program. He clarified that staffing is not adjusted until after the 20-day count. Ms. Annie Whitney offered her services to work in grant writing if needed to secure additional funding for the alternative school. She offered to share program information with central office. Beth Rice spoke to the staffing needs at the flex school.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Ms. Laura Norton from Voznesenka questioned whether school district funds would be used for the Challenger Program. Mrs. Gross responded this is a nationwide program and would receive no funding from the district.

Mrs. Fischer noted the Village schools needed to know that the Board did not choose individual schools for staffing reductions. She noted all schools are staffed according to formula in a equal manner.

Mrs. Germano requested that additional topics for the worksession list include the staffing formula, Voznesenka School and the alternative school. She requested these be placed at the top of the list.

Mrs. Gross complimented Ms. Annie Whitney for her excellent work at the flex school. She felt Ms. Whitney had given 500% to the school and its students. She noted Ms. Whitney cares very deeply for the students, often including them in her home.

ADJOURN:

At 10:21 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of March 18, 1996,
were approved on April 15, 1996,
as written.