

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

August 21, 1995

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President  
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Vice President  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk  
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Member  
Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Member  
Mr. Emery Thibodeau, Member

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. James Simeroth	Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. and Mrs. John Gensel	Ms. Melissa DeVaughan
Mr. Timothy Navarre	Mr. Tom Atkinson
Mr. William Raemaker	Dr. Donna Peterson
Mr. Ron Drathman	Mr. Ken Lancaster
Mrs. Catherine DeLacee	Ms. Anne Gentry
Mrs. Pam Lettington	Mr. Todd Syverson
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Mrs. Joyce Fischer
Mrs. Rosemary Reeder	Mrs. Pam Russell
Others present not identified.	

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Obendorf called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Obendorf invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Betty Obendorf	Present
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Mr. Michael Tauriainen	Present
Mr. Emery Thibodeau	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of August 7, 1995, were approved as written.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Obendorf noted receipt of communications from the Skyview PTSA vice president informing the Board their School Based Decision Making Council is organized and ready to begin its responsibilities; a letter from Governor Knowles requesting a committee to review basic issues of importance in vetoed HB 217 and other educational issues; minutes from the last AASB Board meeting; and information related to the September 23-24 AASB Boardsmanship Academy.

- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Bromenschenkel announced the Department of Education has confirmed that a Charter Schools Organizational Meeting will be held in Anchorage on Tuesday, September 26, 1995, at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He noted various interested persons have been invited to attend the meeting. He advised school board members to let him know if they desired to attend the meeting.
- FINANCIAL REPORT:** Dr. Bromenschenkel presented the financial report of the district for the period ending July 31, 1995.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda included Approval of Tustumena Furniture and Equipment List, Resignations, 1995-96 Teacher Assignments, Leave of Absence Request/Support and Rescind/Leave of Absence Request/Certified.
- TUSTUMENA FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST:** Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for the Tustumena Elementary addition in the amount of \$4,359.05.
- RESIGNATIONS:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations from Judy Morgenweck, Grade 2, Soldotna Elementary, effective May 26, 1995; Carol Tauriainen-Ernst, Counselor, Nikiski Jr/Sr High, effective August 9, 1995; and Ed Marman, Mathematics, Skyview High, effective May 26, 1995.
- 1995-96 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1995-96 teacher assignments for Margaret Blanding, Mathematics/Science, Homer Junior High; Kenneth Gunderson, Science/QUEST, Kenai Central High; Sandra Lewis, Grade 3, Redoubt Elementary; Trudy Petersen, Music/Vocal, Soldotna High, .6 time (Temporary); Tiel Smith, Elem/Middle Grades, Nanwalek Elem/High; and Dianne Spence-Chorman, Art/Home Economics/Science, Homer Junior High.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE/SUPPORT:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 1995-96 school year for Patricia Sexton, Special Education Aide, Kenai Central High.
- RESCIND LEAVE OF ABSENCE/CERTIFIED:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve rescinding an unpaid leave of absence for the 1995-96 school year for Cindy Rehm, Music, Nikiski Elementary.
- ACTION** Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items #1 through #5. Mrs. Gross seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- RECONSIDERATION OF HAZARDOUS BUS ROUTES:** Mr. Dahlgren presented the status of hazardous routes resulting from the Board's action of April 15 and August 7.
- Mrs. Obendorf announced the Board would take comments related to the reconsideration motion. She cautioned the speakers to address the reconsideration motion only, not the hazardous bus routes. She noted the Board would vote on the reconsideration motion first followed by a vote on the main motion, which could be amended if the Board desired.

Mr. John Gensel, Soldotna child care business owner, requested the Soldotna hazardous bus routes be funded for the entire year, not just the winter months. He stated he considered the Soldotna routes to be extremely hazardous because of the volume of traffic, unpainted cross walks, only one traffic light on Binkley Avenue, numerous traffic accidents, and he cited police reports for various police infractions throughout the city.

Mr. Ron Drathman, Homer parent, told the Board the routes eliminated in Homer were hazardous, particularly route #60, where students would need to cross the Sterling Highway which is without cross walks, has inadequate lighting, and is a high speed road. He felt other hazardous Homer streets, along with behavior problems from older walking students, peer pressure, etc. needed to be considered. He and other parents were concerned that the routes should be reinstated.

Mrs. Deborah Germano, Homer parent, reiterated her comments from earlier this year that student safety was the main issue in reinstating the hazardous routes.

**ACTION**

Mr. Thibodeau moved to reconsider the motion. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Mr. Thibodeau commented it had been brought to his attention that 159 students would be walking to Redoubt Elementary, which he felt were too many students on the streets. He also commented the sidewalk on Binkley Street was only 40 inches wide and close to traffic for students walking.

**RECONSIDERATION OF  
HAZARDOUS BUS ROUTES  
(contineud):**

Mrs. Obendorf noted she received a petition signed by 60 parents attending Soldotna schools requesting the hazardous bus routes be reinstated; a resolution was received from the Soldotna City Council related to reinstating the hazardous bus route; and a letter from Carolyn Cannava, Principal, Soldotna Elementary related to traffic patterns at and near Soldotna Elementary School.

Mrs. Gross commented that Heath Street in Homer needed to be reconsidered because of its hazardous conditions.

**VOTE:**

YES - Anderson, Arness, Gross, Larned, Thibodeau, Obendorf  
NO - Tauriainen

Motion to reconsider carried.

**ACTION**

Mrs. Gross moved to amend the motion on hazardous bus routes as they originally were for the 1994-95 school year. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

**VOTE:**

YES - Anderson, Arness, Gross, Larned, Thibodeau, Obendorf  
NO - Tauriainen

Amendment carried.

Dr. Anderson stated he would support the motion since Mr. Thibodeau had indicated he would revisit the issue with the committee. He considered the reinstatement of hazardous bus routes as a moratorium like the Anchor Point situation, and he felt there were legitimate areas where safe walking can be provided for students.

Mr. Thibodeau commented he definitely intended to be on the committee.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

VOTE -

YES- Anderson, Arness, Gross, Larned, Thibodeau, Obendorf

NO - Tauriainen

Amended motion carried.

#### CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a listing of capital projects which would be forwarded to the Department of Education for inclusion in their Six Year Plan and, ultimately, sent to the state legislature for funding consideration. The priority projects included a new central peninsula middle/junior high school, roof replacement for Seward Jr/Sr High, an addition at Nikolaevsk School, and Districtwide ADA accessible required projects.

Mr. William Raemaker, Soldotna parent, spoke in support of an additional middle school for the central peninsula area. He noted that the staff at Soldotna Middle School does an excellent job at educating students, however, with continued enrollment increases, crowded conditions and eight portables it is becoming more difficult for teachers to teach and motivate students. He expressed concern that some students could become lost in the system with the large number of students. He felt another middle school was long overdue in the central peninsula area and needed to be included in the capital projects list to insure a good educational program for students.

Mr. Todd Syverson, Soldotna Middle High School principal, expressed concern on the overcrowded conditions at Soldotna Middle School, now projected at 605 students for a growing community. He noted that by setting up a middle school the staff would work with students for three years rather than a 50% student turnover each year. He noted educational research supports advantages of working with parents and students for three years. Additionally, there is a great deal of wear and tear on the building and staff due to the overcrowded conditions. He urged support of the central peninsula middle school on the capital projects list.

#### ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the Capital Projects List as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Thibodeau questioned what would happen to the current facility if a new middle school was built. Mr. Dahlgren commented both schools would be used as 6-7-8 grade schools, which would alleviate crowding in the five feeder elementary schools and the current junior high school.

Mr. Tauriainen expressed concerns regarding full use of facilities, and stated he would not support the motion at this time because there were some under used facilities. He felt the budget would be strained in operating new facilities.

CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST  
(continued):

Dr. Anderson commented there were items on the list which he could not support, and alternate use of the facilities should be reviewed considering the financial conditions.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Gross, Larned, Thibodeau, Obendorf

NO - Anderson, Tauriainen

Motion carried.

1995-95 TENTATIVE NON- TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the following 1995-96 tentative non-tenure teacher assignment:

Paul Banks Elementary

Debra Schmidt

Dr. Donna Peterson, North Star Elementary Principal, told the Board she experienced unanticipated staff replacements this summer. She expressed appreciation to Mrs. Radtke and her staff for their professional assistance in the hiring process.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the tentative non-tenure assignment for Debra Schmidt at Paul Banks Elementary. Mr. Tauriainen seconded

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Tauriainen expressed appreciation to the people who spoke on the hazardous bus routes.

Dr. Anderson congratulated the Homer High School football team on their recent first-ever win against Soldotna High School.

Mr. Thibodeau commented he was pleased with the public input to the hazardous bus routes.

He stated that although he voted for the capital projects lists he had reservations on new buildings and suggested the administration present alternate solutions to building use.

Mrs. Gross commented she was pleased with the interest of the number of candidates running for the school board positions.

Mrs. Obendorf announced the next school board meeting would be held on September 18, 1995, at Homer High School.

ADJOURN:

At 8:20 p.m., Mr. Tauriainen moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

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Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of August 21, 1995,  
were approved on September 18, 1995,  
with a correction.