

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

December 4, 1995

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk
Mr. Emery Thibodeau, Treasurer
Mr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mrs. Joyce Fisher, 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
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Robert Harwood	Mrs. Vickie Leach
Mrs. Crystal Shedd	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mrs. Kara Simpson	Mrs. Robin Nyce
Mr. Gene Dyson	Miss Ann Pfitzner
Mr. Larry Simmons	Mrs. Carolyn Cannava
Mr. and Mrs. Stan Histan	Mr. Tom Anderson
Mrs. Jana Robinson	Mr. Jim Simeroth
Mr. Rick McCrum	Mrs. Katherine DeLacey
Mr. Hans Bilben	Mrs. Jean Gdula
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mrs. Alyce Johnson
Mrs. Wanda Bonillas	Mrs. ReAnn Pitts
Ms. Jan Bobek	Mr. Kurt Haider
Mrs. Nancy MacVie	Mr. Mike Wiley
Mrs. Yvonne Emery	Mrs. Zena Udelhoven
Ms. Susie Franklin	Miss Colleen O'Brien

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:32 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
Mr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Joyce Fisher	Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present
Miss Aubrey Robinson	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item 10d, Approval of Expulsion #3, and 10g, Approval of Expulsion #6. The special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 1995 was canceled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The special and regular School Board Minutes of November 20, 1995, were approved with corrections.

SOLDOTNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT: Mrs. Carolyn Cannava, Principal, Soldotna Elementary, presented a packet of school information to the Board and explained that the success of her school is due in part by the safe, nurturing environment provided for students.

Mrs. Cannava presented a short video featuring the Geography Bear Program and the MainStreet Soldotna project and display model. With the assistance of several students, Mrs. Robin Nyce explained the peer mediation process. She explained that the program has been designed to teach children how to solve problems among themselves without resorting to violence. Since initiation of the program there has been a 43% decrease in student-principal interactions.

Mrs. Cannava reported school test scores are above the district average in all areas. She noted 199 parent volunteers have assisted Soldotna Elementary last year. Mrs. Yvonne Emery concluded the presentation by leading the sixth grade choir in four songs which would also be performed at the Holiday Musical on December 12.

RECESS: At 8:01 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 8:10 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. John Kistler suggested Board members who do not have computers in their homes attend a review of the next Borough auction items and pick out the equipment necessary to bring them on-line with the district.

Ms. Renee Rights, attorney, Ruthford Institute, spoke on behalf of three Seward parents who had contacted her regarding the Youth In Action Club which formerly met at Seward High School. The group was told that could no longer meet at the school. Ms. Rights stated that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education sent a letter to all superintendents concerning religious expression in public schools. The contents of the letter stated that students have the same rights to engage in individual or group religious discussion during school days as they would engage in any other comparable activity. Any school under the Equal Access Act receiving federal funds that allows one or more student non-curriculum clubs to meet during non-instructional times may not refuse access to student religious groups. Non-instructional time is defined by the Department of Justice as lunch periods or other recess time during the school day, as well as before or after school.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Gross announced she received letters from the staff at Skyview High School concerning custodial cuts. Separate letters were received from Sherry Daugherty at Paul Banks, the staff at Razdolna Elementary, Barbara LaReive from McNeil Canyon Elementary, and Joan Kimball, who were concerned about nursing cuts.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she had received a letter which was copied to the Board from an individual in Seward regarding the cancellation of the Youth In Action Club. Mrs. Gross stated that she had been out of town for several days and had not been home to receive her mail.

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- SOLDOTNA ELEMENTARY PTA:** Mrs. Vicki Leach, Soldotna Elementary PTA President, thanked the Board for providing the money to wire the school for the phone and computer network. She also reported a parent survey taken during the parent/teacher conference indicated an overwhelming request from parents that the pupil-teacher ratio remain the same or be lowered. She noted that small computer stations in each room would allow the classroom teacher more time to provide individual instruction to other students.
- Mrs. Leach asked the Board to reexamine the projected enrollment count for next year. Soldotna Elementary enrollment is currently at 429 and she felt the projected enrollment of 399 was too low. Ms. Leach expressed her support for full-time nurses and asked the Board not to consider any cuts in this area.
- KPESA:** Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, spoke in opposition to the proposed staffing formula. She stated that during the last round of budget cuts support staff received the largest share. The work load of support staff has continued to increase. If custodian and nurse positions are cut, she warned the Board that new job descriptions would have to be written eliminating one-quarter to one-half of their previous duties.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Mrs. Gross presented Awards of Appreciation to Mrs. Alyce Johnson, Grant Coordinator, Mt. View Elementary School, Hans Bilben, Vocational Teacher, Skyview High School; and Debra Lowney, Physical Education Teacher, Homer Middle School. Ms. Lowney was unable to attend so Ms. Gross will deliver her certificate.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a cost analysis for installing electronic mail in the homes of each board member. Each computer would need to be equipped with a modem and a dot matrix printer to print messages or documents.
- Mr. Thibodeau stated that he had a computer and that other board members may also. He suggested that an inventory be made of existing computer equipment owned by board members and that a cost analysis be generated which would include the cost of sending out board packets.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
(continued):** Dr. Bromenschenkel explained that a variety of software is used throughout the district. In order to convert information from each department into a format that can be transmitted through E-mail some standardization would have to occur. Those costs are not included in the November 28 analysis.
- Mr. Thibodeau asked that the administration track down the costs to be included in the 1996-97 budget. Dr. Anderson suggested that each board member report the kind of computer equipment they already own to Dr. Bromenschenkel so that exact costs can be determined.
- Mrs. Germano stated that because each school has access to E-mail that board members would simply need an address and then could check their mail at the nearest school.
- Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended that the Board have a five or six hour work session during the winter vacation. A review of Board Goals 1995-96, preliminary budgetary information for FY 97, and other issues of interest would be among the topics to be discussed. After general discussion, a worksession was scheduled for December 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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- BOARD REPORTS:** Mr. Thibodeau reported he did not attend the Vocational Advisory Committee meeting on November 28 at Homer High School. During that meeting the following topics were reported on: Public Relations, School-to-Work, student success stories, applied academics, and technology education. The next meeting will be in Seward in January, 1996.
- Mr. Arness reported he had attended meetings of the Calendar Committee, KPSAA, and the Professional Leadership Forum.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Extended Field Trip Request, Furniture and Equipment List, Substitute Contracts, Early Graduation Requests, Leave of Absence Request/Support, and Resignation.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST:** Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for Homer Junior High School eighth grade students to travel to Washington, D.C. and New York as part of the American Student Travel Program. The trip will take place March 16-22, 1996.
- FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST:** Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the furniture and equipment list for the Tustumena Elementary School Addition in the amount of \$2,960.27.
- SUBSTITUTE CONTRACTS:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve substitute teacher contracts for Steve Hughes, Social Studies/Industrial Arts, Homer Jr. High; and Pam Hershberger, Grades K-1, North Star Elementary.
- EARLY GRADUATION REQUESTS:** Mr. Tom Thorpe recommended the Board approve early graduation requests from Seward High School for two students to graduate in January, 1996, and one student to graduate in May, 1996.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/SUPPORT:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Jacqueline Savoie, Warehouse Supply Buyer, for January 1 through December 31, 1996.
- RESIGNATION:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of Patricia Taber, Science, Nikiski Jr./Sr. High.
- ACTION** Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- EXPULSION HEARING #1: ACTION** Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board in the Matter of the Expulsion of the Student JF.
- This matter was heard before the board on December 4, 1995. The student, her mother, and foster mother were present. The Principal and Assistant Principal from Soldotna High School and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction were present and recommended expulsion of the student for violating School Board Policy 7.13, prohibiting the possession of firearms on school grounds.

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The school administration submitted a detailed memorandum and testified as to the events leading to this recommendation. The evidence showed that on Tuesday, November 14, 1995, the Principal was informed JF may possess a firearm on school grounds. A subsequent search of JF's locker revealed a loaded .22 semi-automatic pistol in JF's backpack, in violation of school policy 7.13. JF testified that the gun had been placed in her backpack the previous Friday without her knowledge by an acquaintance, that she had contacted the owner over the weekend and had expected him to remove the gun from her back pack, at the school, on Monday. He failed to do so and was supposed to pick it up on Tuesday, November 14. JF read and presented a written letter of apology to the school board, and stated she was unaware that the gun was loaded and that she had not touched it. Evidence also showed that JF has continued to do all required work for her courses during her suspension since November 14, 1995, and that her foster mother was willing and able to provide home schooling services to JF.

EXPULSION HEARING #1
(continued):

Given this evidence, the board concludes JF violated School Board Policy 7.13 by knowingly possessing a firearm on school grounds, and that her behavior was inimical to the welfare and safety of other students. Alaska Statute 14.03.160 requires a school district to expel for at least one year a student who knowingly possesses a firearm on school premises, but that the administrative officer of the school may reduce or modify the expulsion on a case-by-case basis.

Although there are extenuating circumstances, these factors make it necessary to remove JF from the school by expulsion for one year, provided that the administration shall consider readmitting JF at the beginning of the Fall, 1996 term as provided in AS 14.03.160(b). During the expulsion, the administration may allow limited readmission, at JF's expense, for district correspondence and any necessary special services to accomplish that program. The district is also requested to provide JF with an opportunity to complete her current courses by correspondence, with JF responsible for any related additional expense. Except as necessary for completing correspondence courses, JF shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall she attend any school event or function whatsoever." Mrs. Fischer seconded.

VOTE:

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

ABSTAIN - Germano

Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried.

EXPULSION HEARING #2:
ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following: "Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board in the Matter of the Expulsion of the Student GB.

This matter was heard before the board on December 4, 1995. GB and his father were present. The School Principal and Assistant Principal from Soldotna High School and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction were present and recommended expulsion of the student for possession of drugs and paraphernalia on school grounds in violation of district policies.

The Assistant Principal submitted a detailed hearing report and also testified as to the events leading to this hearing. The testimony showed the Assistant Principal was contacted by the wood shop teacher regarding suspicious behavior of students in the classroom, causing him to suspect the students were secretly exchanging something inappropriate. When questioned, GB provided the Assistant Principal with

EXPULSION HEARING #2
(continued):

cigarettes. GB was then taken to the office, where he was asked to empty his pockets. GB then produced a small bag of what appeared to be marijuana. The police and GB's mother were then contacted. Evidence also showed that GB was expelled by the board in October, 1994 for a similar violation and that he was recently suspended for three days for tobacco possession. This evidence has not been contradicted or disputed by the student. GB's father testified that they intend to send GB to the college for his G.E.D.

Given this evidence the board concludes the student has engaged in continuing conduct of a serious nature that represents a serious continuing threat to the welfare of himself and other students. The student has exhibited behavior that leads the board to conclude this is likely to occur again unless the student is removed for a significant period of time from the school setting and that expulsion is warranted.

These factors make it necessary to remove this student from the school by expulsion for the remainder of the current school year. The student shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever. Prior to readmission, at his own expense GB must seek an assessment from Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse for possible problems associated with drug abuse, and provide proof that he has successfully completed their recommendations. As further evidence that the behavior leading to this expulsion is not likely to be repeated, at the end of the expulsion period the student must provide a negative urine analysis test result from a test conducted within 10 days of applying for readmission." Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

EXPULSION HEARING #3:
ACTION

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

EXPULSION HEARING #3
(continued):

This matter was heard before the board on December 4, 1995. The student was not present, but his mother and his attorney were present on his behalf. The School Principal and Assistant Principal from Seward Jr./Sr. High School, and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction were present and recommended expulsion of the student for the use and possession of drugs and paraphernalia on school grounds in violation of district policies.

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The Principal submitted a detailed student hearing report and also testified as to the events leading to this hearing. The testimony showed on Tuesday, October 31, 1995 several students reported that the locker room smelled of marijuana smoke. As JE was found in the locker room at that time, the school nurse administered a rapid eye exam on JE, which he passed. A search of all student possessions in the locker room revealed JE possessed two, unsmoked marijuana joints and a used marijuana pipe in his pants pockets. JE's mother and the police were then called, and JE was arrested and taken to the Seward Police Station. This evidence was not contradicted or disputed by the student. The student, through his attorney, offered to voluntarily submit to a reasonable number of random urine analysis tests until the end of the 1995-96 school year if the school would readmit him next semester. Evidence also showed that JE is presently attending school in Washington, and is performing satisfactorily in his studies. The School Principal stated that he would like to have JE return, so long as he does not violate the drug policy.

Given this evidence the board concludes the student has engaged in conduct of a serious nature that represents a threat to the welfare and morals of himself and other students. The student has committed an individual act of significant misconduct that warrants denial of admission as the most appropriate action.

These factors make it necessary to remove this student from the school by expulsion for the remainder of the current school year, except that the student may be readmitted earlier for the Spring, 1996 term if he provides a negative urine analysis test within ten days of this early readmission and agrees in writing to submit to periodic random urine analysis tests during the Spring, 1996 semester. All urine analysis tests shall be at the student's expense. This agreement shall also provide that the early readmission will automatically terminate if any such test results are positive, showing use of illegal substances. If it is available reasonably close to the student's residence, at his own expense JE shall also attend substance abuse counseling prior to readmission. The student shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor

EXPULSION HEARING #3
(continued):

shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever. Should JE complete the courses he is attending in Washington, the school board also directs the administration to allow JE to transfer credits from those courses in the same manner it would allow other students to transfer similar course credits." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

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

ABSTAIN - Germano

Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried.

EXPULSION HEARING #4:
ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following: "Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board in the Matter of the Expulsion of the Student BG.

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This matter was heard before the board on December 4, 1995. The student and his parents were not present. Notice of the meeting had been sent by certified mail, and the student's mother had signed the return receipt. Also, the student was contacted by telephone immediately before the hearing and indicated he did not wish to attend. The School Principal from Skyview High School and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction were present and recommended permanent expulsion of the student for the possession and sale of drugs on school grounds in violation of district policies.

The Principal testified as to the events leading to this hearing. Her testimony showed on November 20, 1995 she received information that BG had cocaine in a film canister at school that he had tried to sell to another student. A search revealed BG had three prescription pills, which he stated he obtained from student #2. Student #2 was brought to the offices and questioned. BG was again searched by two male teachers for the film canister, and not found. The canister was later found in a garbage can at the school. Their investigation revealed that BG had passed the canister to student #2 while in the detention room. That student had emptied the contents into folded paper and dumped the canister in the trash, where it was later found. The drugs were then transferred to a third student, who turned them in to the principal's office. BG claimed the drug was not cocaine, but a field test was positive for cocaine. BG evidently admitted bringing the drug to school and offering it to other students. The Principal stated she has held many meetings since August 1995 with the student concerning drug abuse, to no avail. He also has severe academic problems and displays no interest in the educational process. This evidence was not contradicted or disputed by the student.

EXPULSION HEARING #4
(continued):

Given this evidence the board concludes the student has engaged in conduct of a very serious nature that represents a severe threat to the welfare and morals of himself and other students. Evidence strongly suggests the student will not change his behavior. The student has committed an individual act of significant misconduct that warrants denial of admission for a significant time period as the most appropriate action. The deterrence of similar conduct in other students also indicates a long period of removal is necessary.

These factors make it necessary to remove this student from the school by permanent expulsion, provided that after the conclusion of the 1995-96 school year BG may apply to the school board for readmission. For readmission, the student must provide evidence supporting a board finding that this behavior is not likely to be repeated. This expulsion is from all school district programs. The student shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Mrs. Fischer seconded.

VOTE:

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

ABSTAIN - Germano

Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried.

EXPULSION HEARING
CONDUCTED NOVEMBER 20,
1995:
ACTION

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

This matter was heard before the board on November 20, 1995. The student and parents were notified of the hearing times at the time of the initial suspension and later by the assistant superintendent. The student was present, but no parent showed for the hearing. The student's mother had indicated to the student that she would be attending, but failed to show. The board waited 15 minutes, then commenced the hearing. The student indicated that he did not want to call his father who may be at home and available to attend the hearing by telephone. Marlene Byerly, Principal of Skyview High School, made presentation on behalf of the administration. The board previously held this decision in abeyance pending sending the draft to the mother to see if she wished to comment or participate in further hearing. A draft of this decision was read to the mother over the telephone by Tom Thorpe and a copy sent to her. She advised Mr. Thorpe she did not wish to participate at any further hearing or offer any testimony on behalf of CR. Accordingly the Board has no option other than render decision with only CR's participation.

EXPULSION HEARING
CONDUCTED NOVEMBER 20,
1995 (continued):

The testimony indicates that a school counselor saw CR and another student engaged in what appeared to be a possible drug transaction. Upon questioning of the students in the office, CR's backpack was searched and two bags of marijuana, a pipe and a knife were found in the backpack. The police were called. The police reports indicates that the bags were packed for distribution. CR admitted possession of the marijuana and indicated it was for personal use and not for distribution and sale. CR admitted use of marijuana over the last five months, but denied that he sold any on school grounds.

The student has a history of disciplinary interaction and this is a second offense for violation of the alcohol and drug policies of the district. The student was suspended during 1994 for 30 days. History indicates that the student did not follow and carry out the counseling programs that resulted from an alcohol assessment at that time. The principal also reports problems with truancy, conflicts with other students, an incident where a bus mirror was broken, and dropping a book of burning matches onto a carpet resulting in burning a hole in the carpet. The student has failed a significant majority of courses during the freshman and sophomore years. This pattern of non conformance and disruptive behavior has continued to present time. The principal reports the student is very bright and capable, but does not conform to rules and does not respond to any attempts to correct his behavior or to channel him in the proper direction. The principal reports that all attempts at changing behavior have failed and indicates there is no evidence this pattern will change in the future. In her view this behavior shows only signs of continuing with the consequent disruption of school operation. The principal has accordingly requested permanent expulsion of the student from the schools of the district.

The board questioned the student as to aspirations and plans. The student did not indicate any thoughts on his plans for the future, or what would happen if the expulsion occurred. The student indicated he wanted to return to school, but did not identify any particular motivation or goal in this regard nor indicate any possible changes in conduct. His statements, unfortunately, tended to show an attitude consistent with continuation of the current patterns of conduct.

Based on the testimony and the observations, the board concludes that the student's pattern of behavior and conduct warrants removal from the school. The evidence at this time does not indicate a significant likelihood of change of behavior, but the student has indicated he feels he should return to school and complete his education. The student indicated an interest in math, and indicated somewhat equivocally he believes he could enter the school and complete school.

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EXPULSION HEARING
CONDUCTED NOVEMBER 20,
1995 (continued):

The board finds that the history and pattern of behavior and response demonstrate continuation of conduct inconsistent with and disruptive of the school programs and authority without change for the foreseeable future. The board finds the evidence indicates this pattern is highly likely to continue for the normal time within which CR would complete school. Despite this evidence and finding, the district is willing to give consideration to the possibility of change in the future. The board still recognizes that the current incident together with the pattern of conduct is unacceptable in the school setting, and would be inimical to the welfare of the students if this student is allowed continue in school or return to the schools without a demonstrable change in attitude and behavior. The board therefore concludes that the student shall be permanently expelled from all schools of the district. However, to give consideration to the possible change, the board authorizes readmission at the commencement of the 1996-1997 school year if certain conditions are met. These conditions, the minimum necessary to demonstrate a change in behavior sufficient to allow return to the school, are that: 1) the student complete and pass basic correspondence of at least four courses prior to seeking readmission, and 2) the student have no involvement with drugs and/or alcohol or interaction with public officials or authorities, and 3) he has received alcohol and drug assessment and followed the treatment programs indicated by those assessments. Under the facts of this case the board finds that failure to meet any of these would render it impossible for the board and the schools to determine there was sufficient change of attitude and behavior to allow reentry into the schools of the district. This determination is based upon both the testimony and the observations of the student's behavior at the hearing. During the period of expulsion the student shall not enter school grounds or attend any school-sponsored events on school grounds, except as may be required by the district." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL CALENDARS:

Mr. John Dahlgren presented the Calendar Committee recommendations for the 1996-97 school year and tentative calendars for the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years.

SCHOOL CALENDARS (cont.):

The committee recommended that during the 1996-97 school year, school should start one week later; the end of the first quarter be moved to October 25 to coincide with the end of the 20 day count; the end of the semester would be earlier on December 20 and the end of the school year be extended to May 29 for students and May 30 for teachers. There would be 83 days for the first semester and 97 days for the second semester.

During the 1997-98 school year, the same recommendations were made. During the 1998-99 school year, the spring break was reduced to two days. Some general comments from the Calendar Committee were to have parent-teacher conferences 1-1/2 weeks after the end of the quarter, allowing teachers enough time to prepare. Another recommendation was to block inservice planning days as much as possible, rather than scattering them throughout the year. Before addressing calendar recommendations next year, the committee would like feedback on ending the quarter in the middle of the week and shortening spring break, as proposed in the 1998-99 school year calendar.

Mr. Simmeroth suggested that the spring break be kept to five days during the 1998-99 school year. Mr. Arness stated that he and the parent representatives on the committee supported the shortened spring break.

Mr. Mike Wiley, Borough Assembly representative, spoke against the early school dismissal on the 1998-99 school calendar and urged the Board to add those days to the spring break and offer President's Day and Columbus Day.

Mr. John Kistler thanked the Board for listening to some of voices of the non-employee members of the district.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the 1996-97 school calendar with tentative approval of the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school calendars as presented. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Mr. Thibodeau asked what the advantage was to end the semester before winter break. Mr. Dahlgren responded that it was felt there should be finality before the two week winter break instead of coming back for a week and then having final exams.

Miss Robinson stated that even though it is nice to have two weeks to catch up on homework, the reality is that most students do not want to be studying during the break time.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the change from Winter Break to Christmas Break. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

In response to a question, Mr. Bromenschenkel stated that the name was changed due to advice from legal counsel.

SCHOOL CALENDARS (cont.):

Mrs. Fischer stated that waivers are given to the Russian communities and Alaskan Native villages to celebrate their Christmas holidays at different times. She felt that in this culture, Christmas is the traditional holiday that the majority celebrate.

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that Good Friday is called Spring Day.

Mrs. Fischer pointed out that in the past spring break was planned around the NEA conference and did not encompass Good Friday. She felt there has been an over sensitivity towards the non-Christian community and perhaps the district should go back to tradition.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Thibodeau, Gross

NO - Germano, Larned

Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment carried.

Mrs. Germano suggested that spring break be moved up earlier in March. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the Calendar Committee is working with the Inservice Committee to schedule inservice days on holidays such as President's Day, etc.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:

At 9:28 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:35 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

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- 1996-97 STAFFING FORMULAE: After lengthy discussion Dr. Bromenschenkel explained the motion before the board is to receive the current staffing formula and direct the administration to use it in preparing the budget.
- ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board include in the motion the revised staffing formula as presented for preparing a preliminary budget. Mrs. Germano seconded.
- Mr. Arness asked what the difference was in receiving and adopting the staffing formula. Mrs. Fischer said she felt more comfortable about receiving the staffing formula rather than adopting it. She added it was almost certain to change when the budget process begins.
- ACTION Mrs. Gross passed the gavel to Mr. Arness, and moved the Board amend the current motion to "approve" instead of "accept" the revised staffing formula as presented. Motion died for lack of a second.
- Amended motion carried unanimously.
- SOLDOTNA MIDDLE SCHOOL
SBDM WAIVER: Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a waiver request from the Soldotna Middle School Advisory Council. The waiver sought to increase the council's composition to fifteen members instead of eight. Six teachers and one additional parent or community member would be added to the council.
- Mr. Kistler advised the Board against adopting the waiver because it deviates a long way from the original intent of advisory councils. He felt it would be setting a bad precedent to accept a waiver changing four parents and four employees to four parents and eleven employees.
- Mrs. Vicki Leach explained the change was to allow a member representative from each core group on the council. Before any major decisions are made by the council, the PTSA is contacted for input. Controversial issues have been tabled until the PTSA can consider the issue themselves.
- Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended that the waiver be withdrawn until he could talk further with the Soldotna Middle School administration.
- FIRST READING/POLICY
REVISION 005.27: Mrs. Gross stated the Board heard a first reading of Policy 005.27, Drug and Alcohol Testing for School District Commercial Driver Licensed Employees.
- PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Robin Nyce, Soldotna Elementary Nurse, spoke in support of nursing services. She stated that if there are no nursing services for students, the teachers will have to provide these services. This would result in untrained persons providing health care to students during instructional time. She asked the Board not to decrease nursing time.
- Mrs. Nancy MacVie, Soldotna Middle School Nurse, thanked the Board for seeing the need to have full-time nurses in every school, regardless of the grade level. She stated that nurses are no longer just a first aid station but a viable part of a student's educational process. She added that today's students are much more likely to be the product of divorce, single parenting, foster families, and have many emotional needs which produce physical illnesses. Having untrained staff to provide student medical care could lead to very expensive lawsuits against the district.
- Mr. Jim Simmeroth, K.P.E.A. President, expressed his concern for the new staffing formula for teachers. He interpreted the formula to mean there would be four less teachers in the classroom but an overall increase of one teacher.

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Mr. Dean Erik expressed his concern for the issue of religious and commercial advertising in the schools. He felt the public should have access to the schools and that religious and commercial groups make up a major part of the public community.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Buck George, Ninilchik Elem/High Custodian, reaffirmed that custodians cannot take any more cuts nor can any of the other support staff. The new formula fails to reflect community use of buildings, snow removal, portables, and playgrounds. He read from a letter of support from Mrs. Rosie Reeder. He further added that as a parent and a community member he has some serious concerns over the conditions that the facilities will fall into in regards to health, safety, and appearance if custodians are cut.

Mr. John Kistler thanked the administration for their efforts in making the new staffing formula understandable. He felt that it could be easily revised to meet the needs of each building. He also stated that he felt the Board should have adopted the new formula instead of accepting it.

Mrs. Bekkie Jackson, Sears Elementary School Nurse, spoke in support of school nurses. She stated that each year her duties have changed significantly. Her duties have also increased to include first aid and CPR training, annual and periodic health screenings, medical referrals, liaison between parents and community service organizations, monitoring communicable diseases within the school, maintaining accurate health records for all students, enforcing immunization compliance, and dispensing medications every hour.

Mr. Wally Williams, Sterling Elementary Head Custodian, stated the problem with the proposed staffing formula reduces custodians to 2 FTE, eliminates the head custodians and does not allow for custodial care of portables.

Mrs. Gross clarified that the revised formula, as presented, allowed for the same staffing as last year.

Steve Wright, Skyview High Custodian, asked the Board why positions within the central office were not included in the staffing cuts. He felt that all employees should share in the burden.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Robinson stated that she was very impressed with Soldotna Elementary's conflict resolution program and will strongly recommend it to other schools.

Mrs. Fischer concurred with Miss Robinson, and asked the Board to direct the administration to reinstate the privileges of the Youth In Action Club to meet at Seward High School.

Mrs. Larned expressed her appreciation for the Soldotna Elementary School report. She stated that watching the video showing how technology helped bring the space program into the classroom at Soldotna Elementary, listening to the students talk about their conflict management techniques, and enjoying the choir has given her an optimistic outlook for the future.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mrs. Germano asked to have a copy of the final 1995-96 budget for review.

Mr. Thibodeau stated that he had a pleasant visit at Sears Elementary last week. He asked to have an opinion from the administration concerning the district policy on religious activities in the school.

Dr. Anderson expressed his concern for the Seward Youth In Action group and stated he would like to be updated on that situation.

Mrs. Gross expressed her disappointment in not passing the revised staffing formula.

ADJOURN:

At 10:35 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of December 4, 1995,
were approved on January 8, 1996,
with corrections.