

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

June 9, 1997

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, 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  
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Jane Stein	Mr. Ed McLain
Mrs. Jennifer Tabor	Mr. Hal Smalley
Mr. Lawrence Colston	Mrs. Esther Richeson
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mr. Don Oberg
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mrs. Barbara Dahl
Mrs. Angela McKinney	Mrs. Anne Bayes
Mrs. Grace Merkes	Mr. John Kistler
Mr. Jay Sauer	Ms. Terri Woodward
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Wright	Ms. Melissa Daugherty

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. A quorum of School Board members were present with Mrs. Gross, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Larned, Mrs. Fischer, and Mrs. Mullins in attendance. Dr. Anderson and Mrs. Germano arrived during the executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 1:04 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 3:40 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS;

At 3:41 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 7:30 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present

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SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed with the deletion of Item 10a (8), Approval of 1997-98 Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of May 19, 1997, were approved as written.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President-elect, told the Board that, although there were differences between the union and the Board on the health insurance issue, both groups should work together this coming year. He felt there must be ways that they could reach out and work together. Mrs. Gross responded one of the Board's goals for next year is to work closer with the associations and the public.

Mr. Scott Wright, McNeil Canyon Elementary School parent, told the Board he and his wife were concerned with the reduction of the nursing services to their medically fragile child at that school. He quoted sections of Federal Law 504, Rehabilitation Act, where schools are obligated to provide necessary services and accommodations for students with health problems in order for the students to attend school safely and achieve successfully. He requested that the nursing position be reinstated for the 1997-98 school year.

Mrs. Linda Martins, Homer resident, spoke in support of school nurses, and expressed concern about the decrease in nursing staff at McNeil Canyon Elementary School for next year. She told the Board she is a substitute secretary and volunteer at the school, and it is a frightening situation for those individuals when medical problems occur. She stated she attended the Board's worksession earlier in the day and understood the Board's position on staffing. She requested that the nursing and teaching position be restored for next year.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Mrs. Angela McKinney, Anchor Point parent, expressed appreciation to the Board for working with the parents on issues at their school. She noted she looked forward to working with them on a continued basis to reach a solution for the school.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Gross acknowledged receipt of numerous communications related to the McNeil Canyon School situation.

KPESA: Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA, extended appreciation to retiring staff members Barbara Jewell and Richard Swarner for their support and cooperation to the support employees of the district.

Mrs. Mahurin requested the Board reconsider their request to deduct \$113 from the employees' paychecks in July. She asked that they go into executive session to make a decision and everyone could go on to summer.

- KPEA: Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, wished the retiring central office staff well in their retirement.
- Mr. Smalley also asked that the Board rescind their April action to withdraw funds from the health account. He quoted sections of the KPEA Negotiated Agreement supporting his request for the health insurance and the \$650 payment to employees. He noted KPEA did not want to go to an intensive grievance process and, instead, the year should begin on a strong working relationship. He announced Mr. Colston would represent KPEA beginning in July.
- AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Gross presented Special Awards of Appreciation to Mrs. Karen Mahurin, Head Secretary, Sears Elementary School, in recognition of her selection as the National Education Association Support Person of the Year; and to Jennifer Tabor, Home Economics Teacher at Skyview High School, in recognition of her award as National Home Economics Teacher of the Year.
- Mrs. Jane Stein, member of the American Association of Family and Consumer Science, stated the association was pleased in the selection of Mrs. Tabor for her efforts to bring the community and students together.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a written report on the status of the 1996-97 goals for the school district. He announced the ten goals for the 1996-97 school year set by the Board were completed.
- BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT: Mr. Swarner reported on Budget Transfers #439 through #901 for various schools and departments in the school district.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were: Approval of Grant Applications, Extended Field Trip Requests, Early Graduation Request, 1997-98 Teacher Assignments, Substitute Teacher Contracts, Resignations, and Furniture and Equipment List.
- GRANT APPLICATIONS: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve grant applications for the Title VI/Innovative Education Program Strategies in the amount of \$81,045 and the Title II/Eisenhower Grant in the amount of \$96,880.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 22 Nikiski High School students to participate in the National Music Festival, May 23-April 1, 1998, in San Francisco, CA; for six Homer High School students to participate in the National Future Homemakers of America Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA, July 5-12, 1997; for four Seward High School students to participate in the National Future Homemakers of America Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA, July 5-11, 1997; and for 5-25 Skyview High School students to travel to Europe, March 19-30, 1998, to explore the culture and historical sites studied in their Social Studies class.
- EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Kenai Alternative School student to graduate in September, 1997, and begin her college career.

1997-98 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1997-98 teacher assignments for Linda Young, Elementary Grades, Port Graham Elem/High School; Wayne Young, Lead Teacher, Port Graham Elem/High; Kersten Overturf, Language Arts, Soldotna Middle; Brian Zinck, Grade 3, North Star Elementary; Sara Moore, Counselor, Soldotna High; Patricia Lukin, Intermediate Grades, Ninilchik Elem/High; Tracy Erwin, Grade 1, Soldotna Elementary; Jean Dixon, Grade 6, Soldotna Elementary; Camron Wyatt, Districtwide Special Education/Resource, Chapman Elementary; Lisa Stanyk, Districtwide Special Education/ Resource, Head of the Bay; and Clark Chesbro, Vocational Education/Generalist, Susan B. English Elem/High.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Suzanne Phillips, Special Education/ Resource, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary; and Tari Hoeft, Grades 4-5/Physical Education, McNeil Canyon Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Clay Poindexter, Lead Teacher, Port Graham Elem/High; Melinda Poindexter, Grades K-2, Port Graham Elem/High; Colleen O'Brien, Grade 3, Redoubt Elementary; and Fred Esposito, Vocational Education Specialist, Districtwide.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$44,901.20.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 through #7. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFERS: Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve budget transfers over \$10,000 which cannot be approved administratively as follows: #000650, Soldotna Elementary, \$12,205; #000668, Seward Elementary, \$12,881; #000738, Soldotna Middle, \$10,041; #000780, Unallocated, \$12,644; #000884, Special Services, \$11,785; #000885, Special Services, \$24,311; #000887, Special Services, \$11,150; #000898, Instructional Operations/Assessment, \$10,275; #000899, Instructional Operations/Assessment \$10,100; and #000900, Instructional Operations/Assessment, \$14,260.

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the budget transfers as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

REVISED FINE ARTS CURRICULUM: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve the revised fine arts curriculum as reviewed at the May 5 worksession.

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the fine arts curriculum. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION #1: ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of JC:

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, June 9, 1997. The student and her parents elected not to be present. Mr. Mark Norgren, Assistant Principal, Soldotna High School, and Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent

EXPULSION #1 (continued):

for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration. The administration recommends that JC be expelled from the district for a violation of substance abuse policy 5131.6 on May 28, 1997.

According to uncontradicted testimony, on May 28, 1997 a search of JC and her possessions revealed a small container of marijuana in her pants pocket and a bag of marijuana in her book bag. This is JC's second offense.

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that JC did violate the district's substance abuse policy 5131.6 on May 28, 1997 and concludes that JC should be expelled from the District for one year. She may be readmitted to the District after the end of the first semester of the 1997-98 school year upon providing proof that she has met the following requirements: (1) completion of a drug assessment program and compliance with the recommendations made by the program; (2) completion of 40 hours of community service; (3) completion of at least four courses of correspondence work at her own expense; (4) proof of a clean chain of custody UA due within two weeks of readmission. She may apply immediately for admission for district correspondence or if available to the ATOSS program. Except as necessary for such readmission, JC 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. Mullins seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
ABSTAIN - Anderson, Germano

Motion carried.

EXPULSION #2:  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of LD.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, June 9, 1997. The student and her parents were present. Todd Syverson, Principal, Soldotna Middle School, and Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration. The administration recommends expulsion for LD's second violation of substance abuse policy 5131.6 on May 14, 1997.

EXPULSION #2 (continued):

LD's first violation of policy 5131.6 occurred on February 13, 1997 when she was found to be in possession of marijuana on school grounds. On May 14, 1997 LD brought two beers from home. She and another girl consumed the beers in the girls bathroom at 8:45 a.m. A teacher found both girls in the same stall. They dropped the two cans of beer into the toilet. LD did cooperate with the District's investigation of the incident.

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that LD did violate the District's substance abuse policy 5131.6 on May 14, 1997 and concludes that LD should be expelled from the District for one year. She can immediately apply for admission to District correspondence, or if available, ATOSS program. She may be readmitted to the District after the end of the first semester of the 1997-98 school year upon providing proof that she has met the following requirements: (1) completion of the CICADA program and compliance with the recommendations made by the program; (2) completion of 40 hours of community services; (3) successful completion of at least four courses of correspondence work at her own expense; and (4) proof of a clean chain of custody UA due within two weeks of readmission. Except as necessary for such readmission, LD shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall she attend any school event or function whatsoever." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
ABSTAIN - Germano

Motion carried.

EXPULSION #3:  
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of CS.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, June 9, 1997. The student and her parents were present. Todd Svyerson, Principal, Soldotna Middle School, and Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration. The administration recommends expulsion for CS's second violation of substance abuse policy 5131.6 on May 14, 1997.

EXPULSION #3 (continued):

CS's first violation of policy 5131.6 occurred on February 13, 1997 when she was found to be in possession of marijuana on school grounds. On May 14, 1997 another girl brought two cans of beer from home. She and LD consumed the beer in the girls' bathroom at 8:45 a.m. A teacher found both girls in the same stall. They dropped the two cans of beer into the toilet. CS did cooperate with the District's investigation of the incident.

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that CS did violate the District's substance abuse policy 5131.6 on May 14, 1997 and concludes that CS should be expelled from the District for one year. She can immediately apply for admission to District correspondence, or if available, the ATOSS program. She may be readmitted to the District after the end of the first semester of the 1997-98 school year upon providing proof that she has met the following requirements: (1) completion of the CICADA program and compliance with the recommendations made by the program; (2) completion of 40 hours of community service; (3) successful completion of at least four courses of correspondence work at her own expense; and (4) proof of a clean chain of custody UA due within two weeks of readmission. Except as necessary for such readmission, CS 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.

Motion carried unanimously.

**GIRLS' GYMNASTICS PROGRAM:**

Mr. Dahlgren told the Board the KPSAA Board recommended approval of a pilot Girls' Gymnastic Program to be developed for the 1997-98 school year. The program would be an outsourced activity developed through the Polar Gymnastics Academy. He recommended approval of the program pending satisfactory review of the facility by the Borough Risk Manager, clarification of fees, and review of outsourcing information.

Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, questioned whether this activity would be in accordance with the criteria of the negotiated agreement. Mr. Dahlgren responded this activity declined due to lack of coaches and interest in the past. Mr. Smalley stated this appeared to be an extracurricular activity; contract language states that coaching positions should be first offered to competent, qualified bargaining unit employees first and then delineated elsewhere.

**GIRLS' GYMNASTICS PROGRAM  
(continued):**

Ms. Melissa Daugherty told the Board she was head coach at Polar Gymnastics. She stated she has been a coach for nine years, and explained the various equipment at her establishment. She further noted the facility had been inspected.

**ACTION**

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the pilot girls' gymnastics program as an outsourced activity at no cost to the district, pending legal review to be in compliance with negotiated agreements. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJUSTMENT TO 1997-98  
STAFFING FORMULA:**

Mrs. Mahurin commented it was difficult for members of the audience to speak to this item since no information was available to them. She requested that comments be permitted after a motion and discussion were made. The Board agreed to this arrangement.

**ACTION**

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve adding 2.75 staff to 1997-98 formula: .5 FTE, Chapman Elementary; .5 FTE McNeil Canyon Elementary; .25 FTE Susan B. English School; .75 FTE, Special Education Unallocated; and .75 FTE support nurses. This would be added to the budget with the PERS money that will be generated. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

TEACHER EVALUATION  
HANDBOOK:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the revised Teacher Evaluation Handbook which reflects two years work by the committee. She stated the handbook is in compliance with new state statutes and Department of Education directives.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Procedures Handbook for Teacher Evaluation as presented. Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion to add to the section on Role of Community "and quarterly thereafter". Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Germano commented that during the first 30 days of school people would miss notices related to providing information regarding teacher performance. Mr. Arness commented this might be a noble goal, but another responsibility placed upon administrators.

TEACHER EVALUATION  
HANDBOOK (continued):

VOTE:

YES - Fischer, Germano, Larned, Gross

NO - Anderson, Arness, Mullins

Amendment carried.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion to add an "exemplary" column to the evaluation document. Motion died for lack of a second.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

KPAA MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT/HEALTH  
INSURANCE:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement with KPAA which establishes co-payments between KPAA and the district for the 1997-98 school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the KPAA Memorandum of Agreement on Health Insurance for the 1997-98 school year. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. John Dahlgren told the Board and audience of the appreciation he has had over the years working with Dr. Bromenschenkel, Mr. Thorpe, and Mr. Swarner. He complimented Dr. Bromenschenkel on his leadership and work on the strategic plan which will lead the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District into a well-planned future, to Mr. Swarner for his leadership in the financial area as well as his genuine help to all, and to Mr. Thorpe for his administrative abilities and leadership in the instructional department.

Mr. John Kistler, Kenai parent, said good-bye to the four friends - Dr. Bromenschenkel, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Swarner, and Ms. Jewell. He thanked them for their work in the district and wished them well in the future.

Mr. Scott Wright thanked the Board for their decision on the McNeil staff assignments for next year.



Ms. Linda Martins also thanked the Board for their support on the nurse allocation at McNeil Canyon Elementary.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Gross presented Plaques of Appreciation to Dr. Bromenschenkel, Mr. Swarner and Mr. Thorpe in recognition of their years of service to the district. The Board expressed appreciation to the retirees and extended best wishes to them in their future endeavors.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mr. Thorpe commented that he had enjoyed his assignments and work in the district since his arrival in 1978, and felt the Kenai Peninsula was a special place to raise a family and work. He also expressed appreciation to Dr. Bromenschenkel for his leadership and direction in assessing and teaching of students, performance certification and so many other student-related issues. He also thanked the Board for pulling together in making the right decisions for kids.

Dr. Anderson commented that he was pleased to report that he has hired Kenai graduates at his office, and was happy that local graduates are completing medical training. This speaks well for the district.

Mrs. Mullins extended best wishes to Mr. Smalley on his retirement, and told him she was appreciative of his representation of the employees he represented.

Dr. Bromenschenkel told the Board the last three years of his career in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District were the most exciting years in his 33 years in education. He noted the strategic planning process had focused his resources on students and student learning which is the business which the Board and staff are involved in. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the district, and he was pleased to end his career in school administration in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Mrs. Gross extended best wishes to Diane Borgman on her retirement.

Mrs. Gross requested reconsideration at the July 7 of the removal of the \$650 from the health fund.

ADJOURN:

At 8:43 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk