

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

October 21, 1996

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  
Miss Megan Corazza, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

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. Nancy Spooner	Mr. Hal Smalley
Mrs. Melody Douglas	Mr. John Kistler
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mr. Gordon Griffin
Ms. Mo Sanders	Ms. Terri Woodward
Mrs. Jacquie Imle	Mr. Mick Wykis
Mr. Jay Sauer	Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 4:01 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough, specifically administrator negotiations and ongoing litigations; and to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

OATH OF OFFICE:

The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected school board members Joe Arness, Nels Anderson, and Debra Mullins by Notary Public, Barbara Jewell.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present

Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Miss Megan Corazza	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed with the deletion of Item 4a, Hearing of Delegations; Item 9a, Youth Court Report; and Item 10f, Approval of KPAA Negotiated Agreement 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD: Mrs. Gross announced reorganization of the Board was in order.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Mrs. Gross as President of the Board. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Mr. Arness as Vice President of the Board. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Mrs. Larned as Clerk of the Board. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Dr. Anderson as Treasurer of the Board. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ESTABLISH MEETING TIME, DATE, AND PLACE: Mr. Arness moved the Board approve their meeting time, date, and place at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month at the Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion that a fall and spring meeting would be held in Seward and Homer. Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

NO - Fischer

Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

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

NO - Fischer

Advisory Vote - YES

Amended motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of October 7, 1996, were approved with a correction.

KPEA:

Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, presented petitions from the Port Graham Elem/High School staff, Chapman Elementary School staff, and Bartlett Elem/High School staff related to the 1998-99 2-day versus 5-day spring break situation. He presented information to the Board on a Future Search proposal which would be a Kenai Peninsula mini-education summit to follow suit to the summit held in Anchorage earlier this year. He offered the services of KPEA to facilitate seeking funding for a two and a half day seminar involving students, teachers, school board members, administration, legislators, and community. The purpose of the seminar would be to lead the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District into the future. He noted several Alaskan school districts have undertaken this process.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren, Superintendent in Charge, reported Mr. Sam Bushon has been appointed as interim building administrator at Tustumena Elementary School for the remainder of the school year. He noted he met with the school based site council, staff and parents to consider options for filling the interim position and principalship for next year. The principalship will be advertised with other building administrator vacancies next spring.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(continued):

Mr. Dahlgren reported KPSAA met on Friday, October 18, where club status for Homer High School hockey was granted. He noted they will play JV teams on the Peninsula. Another issue discussed was inclusion of soccer as a sports activity. He indicated the parents were informed this is currently not a school board approved activity at the high school level. The Boys and Girls Club has sponsored this activity during the summer with over 600 participants, and it is an after school club activity conducted at the larger high schools. KPSAA will research the costs for soccer if the Board decides to go in this direction.

Mrs. Fischer commented that she was supportive of extracurricular activities, but was concerned how things get "slipped" in. She noted there were various activities being suggested, i.e., baseball, for inclusion in the district, and she questioned how this would financially affect the current programs. Mr. Dahlgren responded that KPSAA manages the funding as equitably as possible, and programs are born and die at the school level depending upon the interest level. He commented it is difficult to not allow schools to initiate sports programs when the sport is approved in other areas of the district. An interest and number of participants is important to allowing for a new activity. The KPSAA activities manual sets guidelines for activities which is finally approved by the Board. Mrs. Fischer responded that her concern was of a financial nature and she did not want to see activity fees become exorbitant. She suggested that a formula be developed whereby schools would be allocated a certain amount for activities and then allowed to manage these funds for activities as they saw fit. For Board information, Mr. Dahlgren clarified that the district pays for stipends and some travel funds only. All other expenses are raised at the local level.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending September 30, 1996. He noted the 20-day count period ends Friday, October 25. Currently, the district is 66 students over projection.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:

Mr. Swarner reported on budget transfers #1 through #134 for various schools and departments within the district.

BOARD REPORTS:

Dr. Anderson reported he attended a portion of the science curriculum meeting. He discussed with the committee the Board's intent on the proposed graduation requirements as they relate to science. He noted the science standards set in Alaska are high and possibly difficult to meet, but the committee is anxious to attempt to meet these as close as possible.

RECONSIDERATION OF  
SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTMENT:  
ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved for Reconsideration of the Superintendent Appointment. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Angela McKinney, Anchor Point resident, spoke in support of Mr. Dahlgren as Superintendent of Schools. She commented she worked with him on the proposed plan to move Chapman 7th and 8th grade students to Homer for school attendance. She noted the site council found Mr. Dahlgren to be honest and fair in his comments, although they did not always agree with the answer. She added that his focus has always been for the benefit of the children of the district and he works well with families.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve John Dahlgren as Superintendent of Schools pending negotiating a contract. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Extended Field Trip Requests, Leave of Absence Request/Support; 1996-97 Teacher Assignments; Early Graduation Request; and 19-Day Substitute Teacher Contract.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 132 Homer High School band students to travel to Los Angeles, CA, to participate in the Educational Field Studies, Inc. concert tour and adjudication, February 16-21, 1997 or February 24-28, 1997; for 8 Seward High School Future Leaders of America and Home Economics students to attend Countdown to Success seminars in Spokane, WA, November 7-12, 1996; and for 15-25 Kenai Middle School students to participate in the Lakeland Tours Program in Washington, D.C., March 23-28, 1997.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/  
SUPPORT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for Bonnie Larkin, Title I Tutor, Seward Elementary, effective January 25, 1997 through January 25, 1998.

1996-97 TEACHER ASSIGN-MENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1996-97 teacher assignments for Joseph Miller, Generalist, Bartlett School (Temporary); Laurie Cramer, Districtwide Physical Therapist (Temporary); and Michael Gustkey, Drama/Reading (half-time), Soldotna Middle (Temporary).

EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST: Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Homer High School senior to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 1996-97 school year.

19-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Roy Shapley, Grade 1, Nikiski Elementary; and Rhonda Orth, Grade 5, Soldotna Elementary.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 through #5. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, October 21, 1996. The student and his parents elected not to attend. The parents withdrew the student from the District. Mr. Sam Stewart, Vice Principal of Skyview High School and Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, and recommended permanent expulsion of the student for serious assault on another student.

The evidence presented showed that on September 16, 1996, TD was suspended from school for violating rules and regulations found in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District policy concerning alcohol and other drugs. TD came to school and left with three other students. When the students returned late to school, the scent of marijuana was detected. TD refused to submit to a urinalysis. Based on this, and a signed statement from another student, he was suspended by school officials.

Following the suspension on Friday, September 20, 1996, TD assaulted another student because he suspected the student of having signed the statement given to school officials. The victim was seriously injured and may have sustained permanent nerve damage. This was the second student TD assaulted for allegedly informing on him. Mr. Stewart, Vice Principal, Skyview High, stated he feels strongly that he needs to be able to question students without threats of reprisal. The Assistant Superintendent for Instruction stated that it is the responsibility of the school to provide a safe environment. The student is an unsafe person to have at Skyview High School.

The Board has adopted policies supporting its commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment in the District. Given the uncontradicted evidence, the Board concludes that it is necessary to remove this student permanently from the school by expulsion, subject to the terms set forth below.

EXPULSION (continued):

Even though the assault occurred off school grounds, there is a nexus to the school because the assault arose out of one student allegedly reporting another student to school authorities for substance abuse. Further, violent conduct poses a threat to the safety and welfare of students. The principal recommends permanent expulsion because of his obligation to provide a safe environment to students. To permit the student back in the school would undermine the efforts of the District to provide a safe learning environment. Therefore, permanent expulsion is warranted.

TD may reapply for readmission upon the following conditions: He must complete and pass three statewide correspondence courses; and he must complete counseling related to his violent behavior. The counseling and correspondence course shall be either at his or his parent's expense. Prior to seeking readmission he must provide a psychologist report to the Board certifying that his behavior is not likely to be repeated. TD shall not go on any school grounds nor shall he attend any Kenai Peninsula Borough School District function or event during the period of expulsion." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

GRADUATION POLICIES:

Mr. Thorpe presented the following policies for approval: BP 6146, Graduation Requirements and Standards of Proficiency; BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements; AR 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements; E 6146.1, Physical Education Waiver Request; AR 6146.4, Special Services Grading and Graduation Guidelines; BP 6146.7, Diplomas; BP 6177, Summer School; BP 6180, Program Adaptations/Alternative Arrangements (dual credit); AR 6180, Dual Credit Guidelines; and BP 6186, Independent Study Program. Mr. Thorpe commented the Board had held worksessions on the graduation policies.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve BP 6146, Graduation Requirements and Standards of Proficiency. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Larned expressed concern with the language of the policy and budgetary constraints the policy might present. She felt the costs for competency standards were unknown and might be expensive. Mrs. Germano agreed that the fiscal impact was not attached to the policy and was a concern to her, also.

GRADUATION POLICIES  
(continued):

Mr. Thorpe responded that funding has already been approved and set aside for assessment. Test development would stay within the budget. On the issue of diploma certification, he explained students would need to develop basic competency in problem solving for basic mathematical skills that were discussed previously. Miss Corazza commented she felt there were double standards with competency testing and curriculum driven tests. She felt some of the tests were quite simple and not challenging. Mr. Thorpe responded she was probably referring to norm referenced tests and not the curriculum driven tests. A lengthy discussion followed on interpretation of testing, comparison of testing standards, continuous grade level testing, benchmark standards, curriculum changes and realignment of testing to the curriculum. Mr. Thorpe noted the curriculum and assessment process was part of the strategic plan. Dr. Anderson commented that the district is committed to setting competency standards, and if standards are set students will rise to those standards. Mrs. Gross noted that the Governor's Educational Summit identified student competency for the state and the KPBSD was recognized for its work toward this effort.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Mullins, Gross

NO - Fischer, Larned

Advisory Vote - NO

Motion carried.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the remaining policies. Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to amend AR 6146.1(b) that eighth grade credit may be awarded if it is aligned to the high school curriculum. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Germano commented she was concerned that students taking eighth grade algebra should receive credit and this should appear on the student's transcript. Dr. Anderson commented that algebra should be taught in seventh and eighth grades as part of routine mathematics like it is in most countries of the world. Miss Corazza spoke in support of the amendment and stated that these credits could be important for students desiring to graduate early. Mrs. Gross reminded the student representative there is a method for challenging a course. Mrs. Germano stated the

GRADUATION POLICIES  
(continued):

intent was not to have students graduate early, but to give them credit for course work accomplished. Discussion followed on recognition of credits for college entrance, recognition of Gifted/Talented course work but not receiving credit, and challenging courses.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Germano, Larned,

NO - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Mullins, Gross

Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to revise BP 6146.1(b), to change the requirements to 2 credits in mathematics, 2 credits in science, and an additional credit for a combination of two credits chosen from mathematics, science, foreign language or advanced computer sciences. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson called to the Board's attention that they were doing committee work in a board meeting, and if this is a concern to them the policy should be withdrawn for another worksession. He noted he did not necessarily disagree with the amendment, but felt this was not the time to do committee work. Mr. Thorpe commented the administration could prepare additional information if the Board desired this on the credit combination for a worksession.

RECESS:

At 8:50 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:54 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved to postpone AR 6146.1 (b) until the November 4 meeting. Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE TO POSTPONE:

YES - Anderson, Larned  
NO - Arness, Fischer, Germano, Mullins, Gross  
Advisory Vote - NO

Motion to postpone failed.

GRADUATION POLICIES  
(continued):

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned  
NO - Anderson, Fischer, Mullins, Gross  
Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment failed.

Dr. Anderson stated he would not object to discussing the issue further in committee. Mrs. Fischer responded she did not object to further discussions but objected to postponing to another worksession. It was her feeling that too much is done in worksessions where sometimes the public and student representative do not attend. She felt this work should be done at the meeting where the public would hear the discussions.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Germano, Larned  
Advisory Vote - NO

Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY LIST: Mr. Dahlgren presented a listing of projects to be forwarded to the borough assembly for inclusion in their legislative priorities list for 1997. The projects were listed by legislative districts for convenience of the legislative delegation.

Mr. John Kistler questioned whether the projects were listed in priority order. Mr. Dahlgren stated the projects were listed in order of legislative district needs.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the legislative priority list. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Germano asked what the plans were for the Homer Junior High kitchen completion and what the plans are for the junior high when Homer Immediate School no longer exists. Mr. Dahlgren stated some of the Homer Junior High School kitchen project has never been completed and food has been transported from the Homer Intermediate School. For food services purposes, the satellite kitchen should be completed at the junior high. In response to a question from Mrs. Mullins related to shower head replacements at Ninilchik school, Mr. Dahlgren responded the \$10,000 cost figure included extensive plumbing for the project.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY LIST  
(continued): Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENT: By memorandum, Dr. Bromenschenkel requested the Board appoint two of its members to participate as members of the Budget Review Committee. Mrs. Gross appointed Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Mullins to serve as their representatives on this committee.

OGLESBY VS. KENAI PENINSULA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT SETTLEMENT: Mr. Dahlgren commented the Board received information related to the settlement of the Oglesby vs. Kenai Peninsula Borough School District case. He recommended the Board approve the recommendation and authorize the administration to enter into agreement as a representative of the Board.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the Oglesby vs. Kenai Peninsula Borough School District settlement. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Kistler welcomed all of the returning school board members, noting that they have served as members of the board at various times.

Mr. Kistler suggested the Board, when establishing policies, also set methods for school compliance to the policies. He also suggested that follow-up be made to see if the policies are applied at the school level.

Mr. Aaron Short, student, commented that students transferring from other states sometimes must repeat courses in this school district because of differences in trimester scheduling. He felt some of the testing was not of value at the elementary level because some students are in attendance because they are required to be there, but not necessarily learning very much.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Corazza questioned the Board how seriously they take site councils, particularly on their comments to the graduation requirements. She noted the support for a certified diploma was negligible, with many questions posed. She was concerned about the voice of site councils on such issues.

Mrs. Mullins commented she was pleased to return to the Board after a nine-year absence. She stated she appreciated the opportunity the voters have given her and she would try to live up their expectations.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mrs. Larned questioned when the art curriculum would be reviewed. Mr. Thorpe responded the fine arts curriculum is anticipated to start after of the first of the year. The committee will be organized prior to that time.

Mr. Arness welcomed Mrs. Mullins back to the Board.

Mr. Arness questioned the progress on the counseling program with Medicaid funding. Mr. Thorpe reported the program exists in eight schools within the district and a program report is scheduled for the next school board meeting.

Mrs. Gross introduced the student representative, Megan Corazza from Homer High School.

ADJOURN:

At 9:20 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of October 21, 1996,  
were approved on November 4, 1996,  
as written.