

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

November 18, 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:

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:

Mr. Hal Smalley	Mrs. Jacquie Imle
Ms. Terri Woodward	Mr. Lawrence Colston
Mrs. Melody Douglas	Mr. John Kistler
Mrs. Kelly Smith	Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh
Mrs. Debra Horne	Mr. John Steckel
Mr. Paul Fischer	Mr. Buck George
Mrs. Debra Oskolkoff	Mrs. Katherine Kennedy
Mrs. Kathryn Russell	Mr. Butch Leman
Mrs. Vickie Steick	Mr. Bruce Oskolkoff
Mrs. Elaine Sandoval	Mr. Frank Waldering
Mrs. Nellie George	Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:07 p.m., Dr. Anderson 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. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:30 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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
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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of November 4, 1996, were approved as written.

PTR GRANT REPORT: Mrs. Jacquie Imle, Sears Elementary School Principal, gave a video presentation on the three-year PTR grant program at her school. She noted the grant allowed for flexible class scheduling, involved the hiring of coordinators in the areas of staff development, art instruction, parent coordination and technology. Although the additional staff are gone due to discontinuation of the grant, the school program is enhanced by utilizing methods and ideas introduced through the grant.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Kathryn Russell, Ninilchik parent and EMT, expressed appreciation to the borough officials, fire fighters, maintenance department, local legislators, school administration, school board members, the Ninilchik principal and teachers for their work in responding to the fire situation at Ninilchik, meeting with the community, and preparing for the smooth reopening of school on November 18. She commented that Ninilchik school is not just an institution but home to some of the most outstanding families known.

Mrs. Fischer commented that from information she obtained the skill and effort of the fire fighters was responsible in keeping the fire limited to the elementary wing.

Mr. Lawrence Colston, Seward High School computer teacher, spoke on the future of computer technology which he felt lies with the students, society, and a real understanding of the computer as a tool. He noted the willingness of society and schools to include computer technology is key to the future. He urged that computer technology be included in the subject matter for education.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS (continued): Mrs. Nellie George, Ninilchik parent, expressed appreciation for the help of all the people who worked to get Ninilchik school opening again. She noted it is time to look to the future of the Ninilchik School. She stated the enrollment has grown over the past six years and the building has reached its 50 year life expectancy. She felt the water, heating, electrical, sewage and parking area are at capacity. She added there is standing room only in the gym at school events. She suggested the school district and community work together for the future of the Ninilchik School.

Mrs. Katherine Kennedy, Ninilchik School Based Decision Making Council Chairperson, questioned the function and role of the SBDM council. She felt the council should be an integral part of decision making at the school, but they have not been called upon when major decisions needed to be made. She noted the SBDM council had not been called on during the recent crisis at Ninilchik, although it was handled very effectively by the authority of the school superintendent. The message from the community is that they want to be involved in future decisions, and she urged the utilization of the SBDM council in this process.

Mr. Butch Leman, Ninilchik parent, told the Board he was concerned about safety at the Ninilchik School. He felt the parking lot was unsafe, it was very close to the elevated road, and drainage existed from the Sterling Highway. He added the gymnasium was also too small. He asked the Board to consider the location and that the school has served its purpose. He urged the Board to consider the Ninilchik students and parents interests.

Mrs. Vickie Steik, Ninilchik parent, echoed concerns from Ninilchik. She noted the Ninilchik School facility is old, has served its purpose, and a new facility is needed. She added that the school is the center of the community and it is time that a new facility be constructed to benefit the students and community into the future. She expressed appreciation to Dr. Bromenschenkel and Mr. Dahlgren for their immediate response to have the students back in school so soon.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

Mr. Bruce Oskolkoff, Ninilchik parent, stated that although the fire was a tragic incident which damaged the school, it is time to look to the future of Ninilchik. He requested the Board consider giving Ninilchik a better opportunity through a new school. He added he felt there has been a disparity that Ninilchik has been overlooked for years which has been lacking in equipment, space in the gymnasium, parking area, etc. He told the Board the Ninilchik Native Corporation has agreed to donate land in a suitable area for a new school.

Mrs. Elaine Sandoval, Ninilchik teacher, expressed appreciation to the administration, community, other schools, and organizations for their efforts in getting the Ninilchik school open again. She felt the staff and students should not be separated and appreciated the promise that all would be together within the near future. She felt this was important for the morale of the students and teachers.

Mr. Frank Waldering, Ninilchik parent, urged that windows be installed in the temporary classrooms at the fairground building. He felt this would be a positive thing due to the current conditions. He told the Board that Ninilchik needed help in defining options for the future of the Ninilchik School.

Mr. Dahlgren stated he hoped the borough would recoup its expenses from the insurance company. He was uncertain whether funds would be available for windows at this point, and he would follow through on whether this would be a reimbursable expense. In response to a question from Dr. Anderson related to insurance coverage and cost for a new school, Mr. Dahlgren explained the borough would be negotiating on the rebuilding expenses, but construction of a new school would need to be included on a bond issue for any facility over \$1 million.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross noted a letter was received from Mr. Elmer Schetzl who encouraged the Board to build a two-story structure at Ninilchik to give the school more class space.

Mrs. Gross also noted receipt of a letter from the Ninilchik Senior Citizens who expressed appreciation for the work accomplished after the school fire, and requested the Board work closely with the parents and teachers at the school to resolve their concerns about the future of Ninilchik School. They offered their services, if needed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a written report on the November 8 Ninilchik School fire. He noted students returned to school on Monday, November 18, and are housed at the Chinook Building at the Fairgrounds, at the Ninilchik Tribal Council Subsistence Building, and at the high school portion of the school building. He commented he would have a better assessment of the situation by the December 2 board meeting. He expressed appreciation to all agencies and the community for pulling together in a cooperative effort to have students back in school.

YOUTH COURT REPORT:

Judge Charles Cranston explained the purpose and training process of the Youth Court Program initiated in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. He stated approximately 100 students have begun training at Homer and Central Peninsula Schools. Youth Court is a real court where students act as attorneys and judges who adjudicate juveniles. This has been a successful program in Anchorage where statistics have shown that it reduces reoffenses and the rate of criminal offenses. The KPBSD provides classroom space, copying of materials, and those students who complete the course of 20 hours classroom participation and 90 hours of Youth Court time receive one-half social studies credit. He anticipated the students would be sworn in soon after taking their bar exams in February, and the Youth Court will begin operations in March, 1997. Two teachers, Linda Raemaker of Skyview High and Sid Maurer of Kenai Middle School, serve as curriculum liaisons for this project.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending October 31, 1996. He noted expenditures have increased in the support staff substitute account and the fuel account. He stated the district was waiting for RFP responses on natural gas proposals.

BOARD REPORTS:

School Board Members Mari-Anne Gross, Debra Mullins, Susan Larned, Deborah Germano and Megan Corazza reported on attending the AASB Annual Conference recently. Dr. Anderson reported he would be attending the Science Committee meeting where mandatory integrated science classes will be considered. He noted he would speak with the board members to get their opinions on the topic. Mrs. Fischer reported the Awards Committee met and discussed developing more meaningful criteria for making awards at school board meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Rita Pfenninger, Grades 1-2, McNeil Canyon Elementary; Dave Feldman, Science, Kenai Central High; Robert Shirley, Special Education/Resource, Kenai Central High; John Sauer, Social Studies, Soldotna High; Karen Mohn, Library/DMC, Soldotna Elementary/DMC; Everett Huff, Mathematics, Kenai Central High; Elizabeth Huff, Grade 4, Nikiski Elementary; James Howard, Physical Education/Science/Art, Nikolaevsk Elem/High; Darrell Aleckson, Vocational Education/Social Studies, Soldotna High; Suzanne Legner, Grade 5, Tustumena Elementary; Donna Sigler, Grade 3, Chapman Elementary; Michael Efta, Grades 5-6, Susan B. English Elem/High; James Fredrickson, Social Studies/Mathematics, Language Arts, Seward Jr/Sr High; David Brann, Industrial Arts, Homer Jr. High; Janet Walker, Kindergarten/Grade 1, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary; Steven Johnston, Pool Director, Soldotna High; Kaye Waldsmith, Grades 3-4, Ninilchik Elem/High; Judy Olson, Leave of Absence 1996-97; Quentin Carr, Science/Mathematics, Seward Jr/Sr High; Douglas Capra, QUEST/Language Arts, Seward Jr/Sr High; James Hunter, History/Athletic Director, Nikiski Jr/Sr High; Alice Mae Hopkins, Kindergarten, Sears Elementary; Mary Estes, Library, Mt. View Elementary; Joy McMahill, Social Studies/Mathematics/Language Arts, Nikolaevsk Elem/High; Charles Rehburg, Psychologist, Special Education, Districtwide; Donna Rehburg, Grade 1, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary; Frank Cullum, Counselor, Soldotna Middle; Vince Spady, Physical Education, Sterling Elementary; Joyce Taylor, English, Kenai Central High; Carla Carlisle, Grade 2, Soldotna Elementary; Mark Gower, Grade 6, Ninilchik Elem/High; Carla Stanley, Art, Skyview High; Lynda Thompson, Grade 2, Sears Elementary; Donna Mears, Grade 1, Soldotna Elementary; and Chris Banas, Vocational Education, Soldotna Middle.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/  
SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Cheryl Samples, Personnel Specialist, Personnel Office, effective January 3, 1997, through January 3, 1998.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 and #2. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1997-98 STAFFING FORMULAE:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the proposed staffing formulae for both certified and support employees for 1997-98. She noted the formulae were discussed in a worksession with the Board and would be used as the basis for formulating the 1997-98 budget.

1997-98 STAFFING FORMULAE  
(continued):

Mr. Buck George, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary Head Custodian and KPESA Custodial Concerns Chairperson, reminded the Board he spoke to them related to reductions in the custodial staff last year. He noted there was to have been a density factor which was to hold staffing at the present level. He commented that 12 custodial positions were lost through the budget process. He stated the density factor remains in the staffing formula along with the custodial staffing reductions. He felt there was an error in the formula, particularly as it applied to his school. As a result of the staffing reductions schools are dirtier, parent concerns have risen, and there has been a rise in custodial injuries. He requested the Board take careful consideration to the custodial staffing as they develop the budget.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, requested the Board address the inequity of the pupil teacher ratio between the secondary school and elementary school levels. He felt more attention was needed at the elementary level even though this would eliminate some choices at the secondary level for students.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the formulas for the purpose of budget preparation. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Germano questioned whether the custodial formula this year was the same as last year. Mrs. Radtke responded that all formulas reflect the staffing as is currently in the schools this year. Dr. Anderson commented the formulae will be used to formulate the budget but will probably change because the district will need to reduce staffing by approximately \$2.5 million.

VOTE:

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

NO - Germano

Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried.

NINILCHIK LEASE AGREEMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve lease agreements for space to house students in the Ninilchik Traditional Council Subsistence Building and the Ninilchik Fairground Chinook Building for the remainder of the 1996-97 school year. The space would be leased for \$.60/square foot and conditions for utility costs were specified for each facility.

NINILCHIK LEASE AGREEMENTS  
(continued):

Mrs. Debra Oskolkoff stated the Ninilchik Traditional Council would like an addendum to their agreement stating that the council will turn over all revenues from their agreement for uses in a new school fund. She stated Senator Torgerson told them there might be state funds available for a new school. She questioned whether the Board would be supportive of such a request. The Board responded affirmatively.

Mr. Dahlgren stated the Kenai Peninsula legislative delegation has expressed a willingness to help if needed, but the damages need to be assessed. Mayor Navarre will bring forth this information when it's known. He stated an addendum was not necessary if the Ninilchik Traditional Council wanted to give their checks to the school.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the lease agreements with the Ninilchik Fairgrounds Association and the Ninilchik Tribal Council. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Fischer commended both the Fairgrounds Association and the Tribal Council for their willingness to work with the school district. She added she did not make the amendment a part of the motion because there were too many unknowns, i.e., state funding available, etc.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Buck George, Ninilchik resident, stated there were many concerns about plans for the future of Ninilchik School. He asked that the Board and administration keep the community informed about options and future plans for the school.

Mr. John Kistler questioned why board policy was not followed at Kenai Central High School on parents signing off on the student handbooks. He noted the students meet and sign off on this but parents are not involved. Mr. Thorpe stated there is no board policy related to parents signing off on student handbooks. He noted this is a school procedure, and he would speak to principals that parents need to be notified that references to certain policies are in the handbooks.

Mrs. Katherine Russell, Ninilchik parent, requested that a school board meeting be held in Ninilchik at a future date where more people would like to attend. Mrs. Gross stated a meeting in Ninilchik is not on the board's meeting calendar, but this did not preclude a special meeting with Ninilchik parents.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

Ms. Susie Franklin, teacher, requested a search begin soon for the two librarian positions which will be vacated for the next school year. She noted it had been agreed by both the Board and the Association that both groups would abide by the binding arbitration decision. She noted the district is to make the \$650 health insurance payment and illustrated this through the disbursement of different kinds of candy. She noted the district must pay the \$650 to each employee, it does not have the option not to pay, but instead it is an option for the money to come from any other account.

Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, told the Board that Ninilchik is truly a community and he urged the Board and administration to listen and work with them on their school concerns.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer stated she is aware that the Ninilchik community is supportive of their school and its students. She requested the administration keep the school based decision making council informed of the plans for the Ninilchik School.

Mrs. Germano and other school board members expressed appreciation to Ninilchik parents and residents for attending the meeting and working together to get school back in order.

Miss Corazza thanked Judge Cranston and others who have worked on the Youth Court. She felt this was a real asset to kids.

Mrs. Mullins stated the Board really did not deserve credit for resolving the Ninilchik School situation, but the credit really should go to the borough mayor, the school administration, and borough maintenance staff.

Mr. Arness and Mrs. Gross stated they were appreciative of the work of Superintendent Bromenschenkel and his staff for having students at Ninilchik back in school in such a short time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:25 p.m., Dr. Anderson 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. Mr. Arnese seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:31 p.m., Mrs. Germano moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN:

At 10:32 p.m., Mrs. Germano 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

The Minutes of November 18, 1996,  
were approved on December 2, 1996,  
as written.