

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

January 20, 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  
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. Robin Coursen  
Mr. Paul Fischer Mr. Carlton Kuhns  
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mr. Phil Biggs  
Mr. James White Mrs. Melody Douglas  
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh Mr. Todd Syverson  
Ms. Heidi Chay Me. Rob Robson  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike McLane Mr. Mike Tauriainen  
Ms. Terri Woodward Mrs. Jacquie Imle  
Mr. Paul Sorenson Mr. Rick Matiya  
Mrs. Rosemary Reeder Mr. David Henson  
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:30 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  
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 January 6, 1997, were approved as written.

NIKOLAEVSK ELEM/HIGH SCHOOL  
REPORT:

Mr. Carlton Kuhns, Principal, Nikolaevsk Elem/High School, reported on his 150-student school via a student-produced video, comments, and overhead projections. He noted the school is dedicated to preparing its students with a strong background for those seeking college or the business world. He reported this year's school instructional goals focus on the writing process and technology implementation in the classroom. Assessment scores indicate improved performance in the upper grades as language barriers are eliminated at this bilingual school. He noted the staff feels they have one of the best behaved student bodies in the district.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Robin Coursen, home school parent, addressed the situation where home school parents in the Kenai Peninsula have purchased the Calvert School curriculum from the Copper River School District. She noted these parents learned of this service offered by the Copper River School District from the Alaska Private and Home School Education Association Newsletter. She stated permission was denied by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District to pursue this option by a waiver. She explained the Copper River School District program offers curriculum options to parents which are not available through the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. She urged the local school district to offer similar options that the Copper River School District has available. She did not feel the current program in the district was adequate to serve their needs. Many persons in the audience indicated support of her presentation.

Mrs. Jenny Olendorf, home school parent, told the board she and her husband opted out of public school due to continued increasing class sizes and escalating discipline problems. They were discouraged by other home school parents from using the district's home school program because of the endless paperwork required, and instead, purchased the Calvert School curriculum directly from Maryland. In researching Copper River School District's home school program, she stated they are now preparing to use that program for the next school year. She expressed concern that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District might not allow parents to cross district boundaries through the home school program, and felt the local school district was attempting to make them a public enemy. She felt the KPBSD needs to consider what is best for all students of the district, including home schooled students.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

Dr. Richard McCartan suggested the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District correspondence department make different curricula available to correspondence students, and to support and encourage home schooling. He commented that his children have had excellent teachers within the district, but not all their needs were met, so he and his wife have home schooled their children using the district's home schooling program. He stated they have discovered that the district's program involves a large amount of paperwork, is discouraging and is filled with tedium, and staff is inflexible to individual student needs. He urged the district to make other home school programs available because home schooling is a tremendous benefit to students, a benefit to students in the public school, and makes financial sense by reducing classroom size and workload while generating funding for the school district.

Mrs. Linda McLane, home school parent, told the Board she uses the Calvert School program directly, but would like to see the money received by the Copper River School District to come to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District instead. She also commented that home school students use the local school facilities. She stated the school district's program does not have a good reputation, and she would like to see other alternatives available to residents, especially the Calvert Program or Oak Meadow Program.

Mrs. Leona Oberts, Director for the proposed Aurora Borealis Charter School which would use the Calvert School Program, told the Board 66 students have signed up for enrollment. Some of those students are currently being home schooled or attend private school.

Mrs. Sherry Hanson, Kenai parent, told the Board she would like an alternative choice to their children's education, and that some children are "falling through the cracks" in the present curriculum in the schools. She felt principals and the school board are not listening to parents, and felt the Charter School option would serve their needs.

Mrs. Rebecca Perry, working parent, spoke in support of the Aurora Borealis Home School, which she felt would be of tremendous benefit to parents. She commented the small pupil-teacher ratio, individualized attention, use of the Calvert curriculum, and parental accountability would give students a solid educational foundation.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

Mrs. Laurie Sanders, Soldotna parent, told the Board her children attend public school but parents would like to have other options for their educational program. She favored a program of getting back to basics but did not have the confidence to home school her children herself. She felt the charter school would provide a better educational program for her children.

Mrs. Karen Grodowski, home school parent, stated she had been told the district's home school program involved a great deal of paper work and, therefore, she opted for another home school program. She felt she, as a taxpayer, should have an option to other home school programs. She added the district would receive additional funding through other home school options. Mrs. Gross responded that the Board is considering other options for home school parents, and there is no way the board can stop home school parents from going elsewhere for a home school curriculum. She further stated the board was looking at getting the Calvert curriculum for the parents.

Mr. Carl Sorenson, Sterling parent, stated that he felt most people are reasonable, and instead of the district getting legal counsel to stop people from getting what they want, it would be advantageous to the school district to look at alternative curriculums. As a taxpayer, he felt it would be beneficial to keep the money within the borough.

Mr. Mike Tauriainen, former school board member, stated several issues the Board faces every year were overcrowding, parent involvement and shortage of funds. He felt these could be addressed through home schooling. He added that competition is important for improved business, and the same applies to schooling. He encouraged that the Aurora Borealis Charter School be approved because of its different approach to education.

Mr. Gene Palm, home school parent, noted that when his children left the school system, he was not contacted as to reasons for leaving the school. He stated the Calvert system is a strong educational system which works well. He noted there is a fiscal impact to the district when students leave the school system, and urged that there be open communication between the home school parents. He added the district shouldn't overlook the financial opportunity by opening options of home schooling.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross acknowledged receipt of letters from Mrs. Margaret Sealy, Homer, requesting a girls' soccer program; and from Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Watson, Homer, requesting additional coaches for cross-country skiing.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented certificates to Megan Corazza for her participation in the AASB Student Leadership Institute, and to Deborah Germano for Excellence in Basic Boardsmanship Training with AASB.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a written report to the Board on the situation where the Cooper River School District has enrolled 22 KPBSD students in their correspondence study program. This has resulted in a loss of approximately \$150,000 in foundation funding to the district. He noted this was reported to the Board, not as a commentary on home schooling or the Calvert program, but as an attempt on his part to learn of the attendees, which this was denied by the Copper River superintendent. He told the Board the Copper River District receives \$8,500 per student, which costs that district about \$300 for the Calvert program, a profit of \$8,200. This generates \$165,000 to the Copper River School District where those residents do not pay taxes because they are a rural attendance area. It costs the state an additional \$91,000 to have KPBSD students attending school in the Copper River District. The KPBSD is paid \$4,400 per student, whereas, the Copper River District is paid \$8,500 per student enrolled. He noted the Copper River Superintendent called to say he did not actively recruit students from the Kenai Peninsula. Dr. Bromenschenkel stated he liked the idea that the district move ahead to provide an option, and, in a spirit of competition with the Aurora Borealis Charter School, using the Calvert program. Since the school district is in the process of reducing the budget, approximately \$160,000 could come back to the school district through these home schoolers. He commented that it appeared the Board Chairperson had given direction to the Coordinator of Correspondence Study to take action on this.

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented information related to the policy and regulation adoption process to clarify discussion at the January 6 meeting.

Additionally, he presented information on an arbitration award favoring the district in the initial placement on the salary schedule.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(continued):

Mr. Arness commented he would like to see the Board and administration hold an informal meeting with the home school parents to discuss what the district can do to aid them. Dr. Bromenschenkel stated this would be a good idea, and added that state statutes provide for a variety of approaches to educating students. His noted it would be helpful to make the best of efforts to educate students. Mr. Arness requested this be scheduled within the next month.

Mrs. Fischer stated she was appreciative of the people attending the meeting and making the Board aware of the situation where all children of the district should be educated, although in different ways. She noted the people were sincere with their request, and she was hopeful a workable solution could be reached.

Dr. Anderson commented that an inquiry had been made last year about using the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District as the home base for a cybernet charter school. He wondered if such had been implemented, would the KPBSD have been considered as raiding other school districts. If other home school programs were added, the state could be raided.

RECESS:

At 8:35 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:48 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY  
MID-YEAR REPORT:

Mr. James White, Director of Data Processing, and Mr. Phil Biggs, Director of Instructional Technology, reported on progress of the technology program in the district. They compared the roles of their departments as a highway with data processing as the road builders/mechanics, and instructional technology as the drivers who teach staff to use the technology involved. All schools in the district are currently wired for computer access, and comprehensive staff training programs related to technology are taking place. Examples of school web pages were displayed to the Board and audience.

Mrs. Germano questioned what the future direction for computer services was in the district. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded that the first two years has properly poised the district in instructional technology, but the district needs to make major investments in hardware and software for teachers. He asked the Board to consider financing for these endeavors, and noted that Juneau has had two successful bond referendums supplying these services for

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY  
MID-YEAR REPORT (cont.):

their students and staff. He stated the KPBSD is well prepared to move forward in the technology direction, and the Board would need to discuss this topic soon to be prepared for public response in the fall. He noted the Borough Assembly received information on this last year, and this would be a good topic to consider in the near future, possibly prior to the next school board meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending December 31, 1996.

BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT:

Mr. Swarner reported on Budget Transfers #135 through #301 for schools and departments within the district.

**NINILCHIK SCHOOL FIRE COSTS:** Mr. Dahlgren presented cost estimates for the replacement of the Ninilchik School elementary wing. Preliminary costs to replace the first story would be approximately \$2.4 million, and an estimated cost for a second story at schematic phase was an additional \$1,110,900. Mr. Rob Robson, Borough Public Works Director, told the Board the Borough Assembly would consider this information and determine how to proceed at their January 21 meeting. He responded to the Board on questions related to structural requirements for installing sprinklers throughout the entire facility, SBDM Council continued involvement in the rebuilding process, insurance reimbursement, and timelines for completion of the project. Mr. Dahlgren noted the report was presented as previously requested by the Board at their December 9 meeting.

**BOARD REPORTS:** Mrs. Fischer reported she was unable to attend the Budget Review Committee meetings due to travel out-of-state, but she had checked with committee members and was pleased to learn that the process went well. She thanked the administration for the accommodations made this year.

Mrs. Germano stated she attended the Homer Flex School graduation last week where four students graduated. She noted one student received a \$5,000 JTPA grant for further educational training.

Miss Corazza reported KPBSD student councils were interested in implementing girls' soccer programs within the district this spring because of the discrepancy of girls' sports vs boys' sports, the number of coaches, and number of participants. There was a feeling there was noncompliance of Title IX rules, and a great deal of interest has been expressed toward this activity.

**BOARD REPORTS (cont.):** Mrs. Gross noted she attended the Alternative School Committee meetings, and added it is a good committee involved in the working process.

**RECESS:** At 10:18 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:** At 10:35 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The item on the Consent Agenda was Approval of Furniture and Equipment List.

**FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST:** Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment in the amount of \$870.91 for West Homer Elementary School.

**ACTION** Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the Furniture and Equipment List for West Homer Elementary as outlined. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**EXPULSION #1:** Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai  
**ACTION** Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of DJ.

This matter was heard before the Board on Friday, January 17, 1997. The student and his father were present. Margaret Moran, counsel for the student, was also present. Mr. Dave Spence, Principal of Kenai Central 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 violation of Policy 5144, behavior harmful to the safety, welfare or morals of other students. Specifically, the administration contends that DJ engaged in lewd and lascivious behavior with a female student.

The evidence presented showed that on November 26, 1996, DJ exposed his penis to a female student while the two of them were in choir class watching a video. According to Mr. Spence's testimony, DJ attempted to force the student to engage in an oral act and did force her to touch his penis.

The student did not offer any specific testimony during the hearing, but upon questioning by the Board did admit he engaged in the conduct as alleged by the administration.

EXPULSION #1 (continued):

The Board has adopted policies supporting its commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment for students. The conduct DJ engaged in was inappropriate and posed a serious threat of harm to the safety and welfare of the female student who was the subject of his action. The Board concluded that in light of the uncontradicted evidence of lewd and lascivious behavior permanent expulsion from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is appropriate. The student can apply to the Board for readmission to the district after July 1, 1997 if he meets the following conditions: (1) he must complete a semester of correspondence courses at his own expenses; (2) he must present proof that he has satisfactorily completed a sexual awareness class; (3) he must present a psychological assessment performed by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist at his own expense indicating the student's sexual behavior does not pose a danger to other students; and (4) the student must present proof he is following any recommendations made by the psychologist or psychiatrist." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

ACTION

VOTE:

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

ABSTAIN - Arness, Corazza

Motion carried.

EXPULSION #2:  
ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of SM.

This matter was heard before the Board on Friday, January 17, 1997. The student's father was present. The student, who is living with her mother in another state, was not present. Mr. Sam Stewart, Vice-principal of Skyview High School and Mr. Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, and recommended one-year expulsion of the student for violation of substance abuse policy 5131.6. The administration recommends expulsion because this is SM's second drug-related offense.

The evidence presented showed that on December 19, 1996, the assistant principal for Skyview High School received several reports of the smell of pot smoke in the girls' gym. SM's name came up as being one of the students in the area. The assistant principal waited until SM completed her final exam, brought her to the office and told her of his suspicions. The assistant principal accompanied her to the

EXPULSION #2  
ACTION (continued):

nurse's office and asked the nurse to conduct a search, which revealed a pot pipe and a film container of marijuana. The troopers and SM's father were called. SM denied smoking the marijuana at school.

The Board has adopted policies supporting its commitment to maintaining a drug-free learning environment. Possession of marijuana is a serious offense. The Board concludes that in light of the uncontradicted evidence of drug possession, expulsion from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for one-year is appropriate. SM can apply to the Board for readmission in the fall of 1997 provided she provides proof that she has completed a drug assessment program and is following any recommendations made by the program. She should also be allowed to continue her education via correspondence at her own expense." Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

RECONSIDERATION/POLICY  
REVISION AR 5030/STUDENT  
HANDBOOK:  
ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board reconsider policy revision AR 5030. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Policy Revision AR 5030. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Germano stated the policy readings should be consistent with policy. The Board considered this as a second reading of the policy.

Mrs. Fischer urged that administrators send the student handbooks to the parents after students are tested, thus, making certain parents are aware of the rules of the school. Mr. Arness noted the revisions to the policy spoke to that issue.

Mrs. Germano questioned whether the revisions conflicted with state responsibilities imposed on the district. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded that he did not see any conflicts with regulations and statutes.

RECONSIDERATION/POLICY  
REVISION AR 5030/STUDENT  
HANDBOOK (continued):

Mrs. Fischer stated felt that eliminating parents/guardian responsibility about the student handbooks was not in the best interest of the school district.

Mrs. Corazza expressed concern that parents should know the contents of the handbooks.

Dr. Anderson commented the policy does state that the handbooks will be provided to students and parents/guardians and that they are encouraged to read the contents.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Mullins

NO - Fischer, Germano, Gross

Advisory Vote - NO

Motion carried.

RECONSIDERATION/POLICY  
REVISION BP 6162.71/INTERNET  
USE:  
ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board reconsider Policy 6162.71. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Policy 6161.72, Internet Use. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

At the request of Board Member Germano, Mr. Biggs, Director of Instructional Technology, explained only personal items about a student would be placed on the internet upon receipt of parental permission. Parents could also refuse to have student work published on the internet if they desired this.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT OFFICE SALARY  
SCHEDULE:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a five-year salary schedule for central office administrators beginning the 1997-98 school year.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, questioned whether the salary schedule included reductions similar to the two-tier salary schedule the teachers and support personnel agreed upon. Dr. Anderson responded the salaries are the same proposed in 1993 at the top range, and smaller steps were created; new personnel would start at the bottom range with a smaller top end and an extra step within them.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the salary schedule for assistant superintendents and directors. Mr. Arness seconded.

DISTRICT OFFICE SALARY  
SCHEDULE (continued):

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

KPAA AGREEMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the KPAA Negotiated Agreement, 1996-1999. Items changed in the contract were the salary schedule and related items, compensatory days, and personal leave.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the KPAA Negotiated Agreement. Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO REQUEST  
FUNDING OUTSIDE THE CAP:

Dr. Bromenschenkel noted this would be a topic of discussion if the Board meets with the Borough Assembly. He requested it be removed from the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve a contract which they have negotiated with John Dahlgren, who will become the Superintendent of Schools on July 1, 1997. The three-year contract hires the superintendent at \$97,000 with \$1,500 increases for the following two years. Other items in the contract included term, duties, contract continuation, rules and regulations, evaluation, travel expenses, automobile expense, physical examination, insurance, leave, other benefits, contract termination, and professional dues and professional development.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Superintendent's contract as outlined. Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Kistler commented that although much of the district's computer technology has been converted, it appeared that Mr. Biggs' computer equipment used at the meeting was a combination of systems.

Mrs. Sandy Udelhoven told the Board she was appreciative for the positive outcome from the Board related to home schooling children. The parents were pleased there will be more options available to them.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Corazza stated that at a recent meeting of the Alaska student councils, a resolution was passed to recommend raising the minimum GPA for athletic involvement to 2.0 from 1.0. She urged the Board to keep in mind that when reducing the budget and raising class sizes or cutting co-curricular activities, these will not help student achievement.

Mrs. Mullins questioned whether parents are surveyed after their children leave the school district, whether they are moving, unsatisfied with district schools, etc. Mrs. Germano echoed Mrs. Mullin's comments, but understood there was some follow-up. Mr. Thorpe responded that letters are sent to parents who disenroll their students. The letter includes statements that the district is aware the student is not enrolled and lists options for available educational programs. However, if the parents tell the district they are going elsewhere, the district does not badger them for additional information. If the district feels parents are in violation of attendance laws, the social services department also receives a copy of the letter. He noted many responses are received as a result of these letters.

Mrs. Fischer commented that the district was not getting the gist of what the Board would like to have done. She stated she would like to have questions directed about the schools, what we have done, and what can be done to improve the schools and services. Mr. Thorpe stated the district does not do an "Alaska Airlines Survey" on how well we do, but the district does provide for part-time participation of home schoolers in a good manner, and through this, some of these students return to school.

ADJOURN:

At 11:08 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

as written.