

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

February 17, 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:

Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Leona Oberts	Mrs. Margaret Seelye
Mrs. Virginia Espenshade	Mrs. Kathryn Kennedy
Mr. Gene Palm	Mr. Elmer Schetzl
Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Waldsmith	Mrs. Nadine Russo
Mrs. Marlene Byerly	Ms. Shana Loshbaugh
Dr. Donna Peterson	Mr. Mike Wiley
Mr. Rob Robson	Mr. Todd Syverson
Mrs. Penny Vadla	Mrs. Debra Horne
Mr. Richard Stables	Mr. Wade Marcuson
Mr. Darren Jones	Mrs. Lynn Hohl
Mr. Doug Lowthian	Mr. Fred Wemark
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	Absent - Excused
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Miss Megan Corazza	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed with the addition of Item 10h, Approval of Memorandum of Agreement/KPAA, and Item 10i, Approval of Memorandum of Agreement/KPESA.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of February 3, 1997, were approved with a correction.

SKYVIEW HIGH SCHOOL REPORT: Mrs. Marlene Byerly, Principal, Skyview High School, and teachers, Wade Marcuson and Darren Jones, reported to the Board on the ninth grade block program at their school. They reported this is the second year of this program and it is successful in integrating regular academic classes with computer classes. They spoke of the advantages to the block program as it relates to improving organizational skills, assuring calendar scheduling, learning proper reporting formats, reinforcing the comfort level with peers in specific groups, and is excellent for student-teacher interactions and the teacher team approach for student success. They noted the topics of the units vary in the blocks which allows time for concentrated study units without interruptions. In addition, the team teachers work on intervention where needed. In a recent survey, 89% of parents indicated they are extremely supportive of the block program, and feel this adds relevance to the school's learning activities.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Leona Oberts requested parents to stand in support of the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

Mr. Peter Ehrhardt, Kenai resident, spoke in support of soccer for students on the Peninsula. He noted approximately 500 students play soccer in the elementary schools in the Central Peninsula area, 60 girls play soccer at Soldotna Middle school, and teams play each other through boroughwide competitions. He stated there is no varsity high school soccer in the district. He commented soccer is a relatively inexpensive program to institute, and currently 200 students play soccer through the Central Peninsula Soccer Club, and during the summer 650 students participate in soccer through the Boys' and Girls' Club. He encouraged the Board to look at soccer as a viable sport within the district.

Mr. Troy Wise, Soldotna resident, told the Board his soccer experience began in Colorado where soccer started as a small sport and grew into a very active program in the high schools with college scholarships eventually resulting. He felt there was a need for this sport on the Kenai Peninsula. He stated he is a volunteer at the Boys' and Girls' Club which is committed to this activity. He noted the first soccer referees certification clinic will be held this weekend. He concluded that continued support remains on the Peninsula for a soccer program.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mr. Mike Swan, President of the Central Peninsula Soccer Club, told the Board this is the club's third year of involvement with student soccer. He noted the students are interested in soccer, particularly after they have completed other sports such as cross country skiing. Soccer activities are scheduled so as not to conflict with other sports training and activities. He encouraged the Board to consider soccer as a varsity sport since it is popular with the students. He was particularly interested in seeking recognition of the sport in an effort to gain competition with students in the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage.

Mr. Todd Syverson, Principal, Soldotna Middle School, thanked the Board for their support of middle school curriculum needs and staffing involved. He noted that 90% of students need middle school, and the social, emotional, and educational safety nets set up in middle school serve these students. He noted that it appeared funding will not be available for a new middle school to serve Soldotna area students, and he requested the Board consider an eight-room addition with a small multi-purpose room for the Soldotna Middle School facility. He noted the eight portables are not safe and are only adequate for short-term use. He suggested the Board consider a two-story addition with a multi-purpose room, and expansion of the commons area to accommodate the 600 students attending the school.

Miss Brett Ellis, Kenai student, spoke in support of soccer as a sport in the schools. She noted the student body of Kenai supports this as a sport, and she was certain other schools supported this same effort.

Ms. Shelly Mahoney, Homer High School junior, stated she has seen soccer grow to an exciting sport, and encouraged the Board to approve soccer as a varsity sport. She noted many students are interested in playing soccer and want to receive scholarships for their efforts. She noted students rely on scholarships to attend college, and since it is a worldwide sport she felt this should be introduced in the school district.

Ms. Alexis Cannack, Homer High School junior, spoke in support of soccer in the local schools. She commented she played soccer in the lower '48 where soccer is popular. She stated students must drive to Anchorage for competition, and she would like to see this sport instituted in the schools where there would be more competition as well as having paid coaches. She felt the transportation issue should also be addressed for this activity.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mrs. Jane Espenshade, volunteer for the Youth Court program, told the Board that Youth Court students took their bar exams last week and will be sworn in on Saturday, February 22. Kenai's swearing in will be held at 10 a.m., and Homer's will be held at 3:00 p.m.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS:

Mrs. Margaret Seelye, Homer Committee for High School Soccer representative, requested girls' soccer be added as a varsity sport in all of the Kenai Peninsula high schools. The committee also requested the continued study and consideration of a boys' varsity soccer program. She noted the reason for requesting girls' soccer was that the committee felt there was an unacceptable, inequitable distribution of funds and resources within the current high school athletic departments. She went on to say that soccer is very popular in other states and is gaining popularity in Alaska and on the Kenai Peninsula. This is an activity which is a healthy, inexpensive lifetime sport. She also requested the Board review Title IX legislation and she felt the OCR guidelines have not been followed in the school district. She requested a fair, objective evaluation of each school be made to determine whether the district is in compliance with Title IX. The committee expected that girls' soccer be established this school year from outsourcing funding and that varsity soccer teams be included in next year's budget in the same manner as other sports are funded.

Mrs. Virginia Espenshade, Homer attorney, emphasized the legal issues of Title IX and found it disheartening to discuss Title IX since it is such an inherent part of policy making. She noted there must be misconceptions involved with Title IX in the district. She explained the three tests for Title IX are: 1) A straight numerical method with a substantial proportionality of activities between the sexes. There is a 8.5%-12% disparity in the district. 2) History and continued practice of expanding programs for the under represented genders, and 3) Justifying disparity by showing a lack of interest to that portion of the population. She requested a written legal opinion from the district's legal counsel determining whether the district is in compliance with Title IX.

Mrs. Linda Sayer, Homer resident, stated she was concerned about the issue of gender equity and felt that although Title IX has been on the books for many years it was lopsided years ago and remains the same today. She spoke in support of soccer for its value as a team sport and its benefits to the players for a lifetime.

RECESS:

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

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:43 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross acknowledged receipt of communications from Mr. Greg Encelewski supporting the building of a second story addition to the Ninilchik School; from the Homer High counselors speaking to the proposed reduction of extended contract days; from the SoHi PTA requesting that nursing services not be reduced in the budget; from Jamie Moore inviting the Board to attend a Character Counts presentation by the Drug Free Schools Program on February 20 in Conference Room C, Borough Administration Building, Soldotna; from Joanne Hagen requesting the school nurses not be reduced in the budget; from Kathy Gensel speaking to budget reductions at Soldotna Middle School; from Steven Homer speaking to school nurses; from the Sears SBDM Council addressing school nurses, special services and custodial staff; from Barbara Anderson writing about the school nurses; and from the Soldotna Elementary PTA addressing reductions at their school.

THIRD ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN
UPDATE:

Mr. Thorpe noted Dr. Bromenschenkel indicated in his memorandum that the third annual strategic plan update will be held on Saturday, April 19, 1997, at the Kenai Visitors and Convention Bureau, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The strategic planning meeting will be the basis for the Board's June 10 goal setting meeting.

Mrs. Germano requested the June 10 meeting be rescheduled for a Saturday rather than during the week. Mr. Thorpe requested the board president poll the board on another date for the goal setting session.

MEETING/HOME SCHOOL
PARENTS:

Mr. Thorpe stated Dr. Bromenschenkel has scheduled a meeting with the Home School Association, parents, and School Board on March 20, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers, Soldotna.

LOCAL JOB FAIR REPORT:

Mrs. Radtke reported the district will not be conducting a local job fair and will, instead, be participating in the Alaska Teacher Placement Program in April and during the summer. The Personnel Department will complete applicant assessments in an effort to provide job opportunities and feedback for qualified applicants. The assessment process will take place in April and the hiring process will begin

LOCAL JOB FAIR REPORT
(continued):

earlier this year. She noted current data indicates the local applicant pool outnumbers outside applicants. Additionally, applicants will be charged for the assessments, similar to those in Anchorage and other Alaskan school districts.

OUTSOURCING SOCCER:

Mr. Thorpe read a memorandum from Mr. Dahlgren who reported the KPSAA Board will be conducting a survey this spring, which is necessary to be in compliance with state regulations. It was noted the KPSAA Board is aware there is an interest in soccer as a high school varsity sport; however, costs associated with a new program will affect current programs and there is a need to find other funding sources for the soccer program. The Board will be informed of the survey responses later this year.

Mrs. Germano inquired when the attorney's opinion would be ready related to Title IX. Mr. Thorpe responded the report should be presented at the March 3 school board meeting since a preliminary report has been completed.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending January 31, 1997.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Larned reported she attended the art curriculum committee meeting last week. She noted committee members inquired why the art curriculum now includes the four disciplines of drama, dance, visual arts and music, whereas visual arts and music were formerly separate. Mr. Thorpe responded that as part of the strategic plan, a six-year curriculum cycle was developed. The fine arts were grouped together to include these four disciplines.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda included Approval of Furniture and Equipment List, 19-Day Substitute Teacher Contracts, and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT
LIST:

By memorandum, Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$74,473.75.

19-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Christine Abrahamson, Special Education/Resource, Homer High; Pat Lukin, Grade 3, Paul Banks Elementary; Debra Schmidt, Grade 3, Paul Banks Elementary; and Sherri Hanson, Grades 3-4, Susan B. English Elem/High School.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/
SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 1997-98 school year for Nina Strahmann, Title I Tutor, Nikiski Elementary.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1, #2, and #3. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AURORA BOREALIS CHARTER
SCHOOL:

Mr. Thorpe presented the Aurora Borealis Charter School proposal for Board consideration. This charter school could be included for implementation in the fall of 1997. He noted should the Board approve the charter school application, the administration will prepare appropriate documentation and forward it to the Alaska Department of Education.

Mrs. Leona Oberts, Director of the Aurora Borealis School, told the Board she and the committee received a positive response from Dr. Bromenschenkel and central office administration in reviewing their proposal. She outlined changes in the proposal as a result of that meeting, and she was awaiting additional information from the Department of Education related to the preferential clause for organizers for placement of their children in the charter school. Word from the Department of Education indicated this would probably be acceptable, but a legal opinion is expected by the end of February. Mrs. Oberts noted a revision might be needed to the admissions policy where a weighted lottery would be used for selection to allow families to enroll as a unit if the school is oversubscribed. Accommodations would be made to include additional students, if necessary, as resources allow.

School board members posed questions related to participation in regular school sports programs, integration of a visual arts program, teacher/director title change to head teacher, weighted lottery for admissions, commitment to a 5-year lease which should be on an annual basis, clarification on transportation via school district buses, start up funds released by July 1, use of vendors and procedures for budget transfers, carryover balances, consideration of the 5-year contract duration, the goal setting process, and discipline procedures for drug and alcohol abuse. Upon question by the Board on approving the proposal, even though it did not comply in some areas with school district policy, Mr. Thorpe responded the board had two options available to them: 1) approve the proposal as

AURORA BOREALIS CHARTER
SCHOOL (continued):

presented and waive the policy, or 2) turn the proposal back to the charter school proposers and have them resubmit it with appropriate changes.

Mrs. Debra Horne, Borough Assembly member, encouraged the Board move forward to pioneer this new area in education. She felt charter schools provide an opportunity for some students whose needs are not served in the school district. She felt there was a niche of students who would benefit from the charter schools. She requested if a waiver could be granted by the Board, that they do so in an effort to go forth with this effort.

Mrs. Michele McLaughlin, Nikiski resident, expressed concern with the large class sizes in public school system as opposed to those in the charter school proposal. She questioned, with the budget reductions and elimination of teachers, how the district could be approving a charter school for such a small student-teacher ratio. She also questioned how the district could fund a specific curriculum instead of spending money on the districtwide curriculum.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Aurora Borealis Charter School proposal. Mrs. Germano seconded.

The Board determined numerous items needed to be addressed in the proposal which were beyond the responsibility of the Board. In response to a question from Mrs. Mullins related to timeline for submission of the proposal to the Department of Education, Mr. Thorpe responded the application needed to be approved within 60 days of receipt of the application.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved to table the motion until the March 3 meeting with the understanding the group will review the concerns. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion to table carried unanimously.

RECESS: At 9:48 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 10:04 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

1997-98 SCHOOL CALENDAR/QUARTER AND SEMESTER DATES/IN-SERVICE DAYS: Mr. Thorpe presented Mr. Dahlgren's recommendation from the Calendar Committee that the first semester of the 1997-98 school year end prior to Christmas Break. The second semester would end on May 28. Inservice days were included in the calendar, and the Calendar Committee will re-survey staff and parents next year regarding the semester end before the Christmas break.

Miss Corazza commented students she talked to supported the semester ending before the Christmas Break. She noted this included students from Voznesenka who would be preparing for religious holidays.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the 1997-98 school calendar. Mrs. Germano seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Anderson

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

PHASE II NINILCHIK SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: Mr. Thorpe reported design documents have been completed and Mr. Rob Robson would present cost estimates for the replacement for the elementary school wing of the Ninilchik School which burned on December 9, 1996. Mr. Robson outlined costs for a first story and second story to the Ninilchik School. He reported the first story replacement estimated cost was \$2,676,070, and the second story cost estimate was \$1,193,009. He noted negotiations with Cigna Insurance Company are not complete, and the base bid estimates increased due to code requirements for a two-hour fire wall between the replaced wing and existing structure. He noted the Borough Assembly will consider Ordinance 97-05 on February 18, regarding appropriating funds from the insurance and litigation fund for the base bid of the project.

Mr. Robson clarified that bid documents are out that include both the base bid for the first story replacement as well as the additive alternative of the second story. These bids are due February 28 at 2:00 p.m.

PHASE II NINILCHIK SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION (continued):

Mrs. Debra Horne, Borough Assembly member, requested the school board forward a recommendation to the borough assembly to spend funds in this manner in order for the building process to advance forward in a timely manner. She noted there was discussion last week in Juneau with legislators regarding the Ninilchik School project, that this is an emergency priority, and could receive 70-30 money if the school board and assembly send correspondence to them changing this project to a priority. She requested the school board take this up as soon as possible.

Dr. Anderson commented everyone would like a second story, but this was dependent on the bid award, and if over \$1 million would have to be a bonded project. Mr. Arness expressed concern the Board would change the project to a priority on their listing of projects for the district. He noted it is a priority only because of the fire, whereas, the district has a listing of other projects which are the needs of the district. Mrs. Horne responded she did not want the district to compromise their priority listings, but to indicate whether the school district felt a second story was a good direction for the needs of Ninilchik School.

Miss Katie Schetzle, Ninilchik School Council secretary, spoke on behalf of 16 people attending the meeting who did not want to speak due to the lateness of the evening. She stated everyone was requesting the second story be built at the Ninilchik School. She requested the parking lot be extended to the back of the building by moving the portables, and a second story be built to alleviate overcrowding at the school.

Mrs. Penny Vadla, Ninilchik School teacher, told the Board it was important that they approve going to bid on the project for both the base bid and second story. She felt the timing was important to receive competitive bids at the current time. In the best interest of education at Ninilchik School, she urged the Board to move forward and consider building a second story to their school. She noted cost savings could result from the bid openings at this time.

PHASE II NINILCHIK SCHOOL
CONSTRUCTION (cont.):

Mr. Mike Wiley, Borough Assembly member, told the Board he felt the Board should move forward planning for a second story to the Ninilchik School. He noted the Borough Assembly would need support from the school board to continue planning for this project. He stated some funds remain from the Tustumena and West Homer Elementary school projects, which could possibly be used for Ninilchik. He noted the Board's decision was important to continue the Ninilchik project.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board recommend to the Borough Assembly the construction of a second story as a priority at Ninilchik. This is to alleviate the overcrowding and to adequately house the Ninilchik students. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTIVITY VAN PURCHASES:

Mr. Thorpe noted Mr. Dahlgren recommended purchase of two activity vans from Seekins Ford, one for Nikiski Jr/Sr High and one for Soldotna High. The cost of the vans is \$29,826 per van, excluding the trade-in value of the old vans, which is \$1,500 and \$3,000 respectively.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the purchase of two vans from Seekins Ford, one for Nikiski Jr/Sr High and one for Soldotna High. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECONSIDERATION OF 1997-98
ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACTS:
ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to reconsider the 1997-98 administrator contracts. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to amend the listing revised on February 17 to reflect Frontier School changes of Principal Teachers at Voznesenka and Kachemak Selo. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1997-98 ADMINISTRATOR
ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve administrator assignments for the 1997-98 school year for Patrick Hickey, Associate Superintendent, District Operations and Business Management; Ed McLin, Associate Superintendent, Instructional Services; Melody Douglas, Director, Business and Finance; and Dave Spence, Director, Planning and Operations.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the 1997-98 administrator assignments as outlined. Mr. Arness seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Germano

Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried.

MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT/KPAA:

Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the Kenai Peninsula Administrators Association concerning co-payment for health insurance. The co-payment deductions would begin with the employees February, 1997 paychecks and be effective through June 30, 1997. Any funds remaining in the medical insurance account on June 30 will be reimbursed to employees on a per capita basis by August 31, 1997.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement with KPAA. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT/KPESA:

Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement with the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association concerning co-payment for health insurance. The co-payment deductions would begin with the employees February, 1997 paychecks and be effective through June 30, 1997. Any remaining funds in the medical insurance account on June 30 will be reimbursed to employees on a per capita basis by August 31, 1997.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Fred Wemark, representative of the Bay View Charter School, expressed concern related to the State Board of Education deadline for reviewing charter school applications. He noted the next meeting of the State Board of Education would be April 7, and in order to receive, review and disseminate this information to its members, the applications need to be received in their offices by March 3. This places a tight timeline for approval by the local school board, preparing additional information from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, and mailing by March 4, at the very latest. He urged the Board to act on the proposals at the March 3 meeting since the next State Board of Education meeting will be held in June, which will cause considerable delay to the charter school proposers.

The Board requested afternoon worksessions on March 3 with the charter school proposers. They requested the worksessions be one hour in length for each charter school, and asked that the administration work with the proposers to expedite the process.

Mr. Doug Lowthian, Bay View Charter School Academic Policy Committee member, told the Board he was pleased a worksession had been set to review the applications prior to the next meeting. He noted they were working against a deadline and the worksession would be helpful.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Corazza expressed appreciation to the soccer supporters and their presentations. She hoped this would be addressed on the next agenda or a Title IX report would be ready.

Mrs. Larned congratulated students who passed their exams for the Youth Court.

Mrs. Larned commented on a situation where a student was suspended from school for 30 days; however, only one teacher made contact with the student to follow up on the student. She questioned whether this was a common practice in the district, and the parent did not feel the teachers were concerned about the student.

Mr. Arness commented the KPBSD teams in the State Tournament all won academic awards in their divisions, these being Skyview High girls, Soldotna High boys, and Nikiski High girls.

ADJOURN:

At 10:56 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of February 17, 1997,
were approved on March 3, 1997,
as written.