

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

January 5, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member
Miss Danielle Meacham, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lawrence Colston Ms. Barbara Vogel
Mr. Sam Strange Mrs. Traci Davis
Mr. Fabian Castilleja Mr. Paul Fischer
Ms. Beth Martin Mr. Justin George
Mr. Buck George
Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mrs. Nancy MacVie

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:33 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
Ms. Deborah Germano Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of December 1, 1997, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Fabian Castilleja, principal, Susan B. English Elem/High School reported that there are 95 students and fourteen staff members; one principal, eight certified and five classified staff. He reported that test scores are slightly above the District average in some areas and slightly below in other areas. He explained that the school offers a full range of elementary, middle school and high school courses. Support staff has been converted to certificated staff in order to continue providing all the classes that have been previously offered. He stated that, as a result, the staff have assumed duties normally performed by support staff as well as rely on volunteer assistance. He reported both the pool and library have been staffed by volunteers in order to provide a quality education for their students.

Mr. Castilleja disseminated an informational brochure listing the mission statement, statement of beliefs, parent questionnaire results, student activities and history of Susan B. English School. He reported that one senior graduated last year and five more will graduate this year. He reported that Susan B. English School has a band, middle school sports, elementary intramurals and high school interscholastic sports. He reported that students not only placed, but received the sportsmanship award for their participation in the Borough small schools basketball program. Their volleyball team went to regional. He stated that teachers are extremely overloaded and are sometimes teaching two subjects at the same time.

Mr. Castilleja thanked the School Board and Seldovia community for their support of the annual senior class trip. Students begin working in 7th grade to earn money to fund the trip and approximately \$18,000 has been earned towards this year's trip to Europe. Mr. Castilleja stated that he felt that the senior trips are worthwhile and provide experiences for students that last a lifetime. He reported that during a ten-day fund raising event the school collected \$5,000 to purchase a computer. He added that the problem is that the school is asking for more and more and the community is becoming reluctant.

Mr. Castilleja assured the Board that his school is not over staffed, or pampered. He reported that his staff has been required to make many sacrifices and that much of the school equipment is 15 or 20 years old. He added that the school is grateful for what the District provides them and will make the most of the situation. He concluded by presenting a video tape showing the school facility, student activities, staff, and last year's senior trip to Cancun, Mexico.

SCHOOL REPORTS (Continued):

When questioned, Mr. Castilleja responded that the band students are being taught by a noncertified person during the forty-minute study hall period. He added that the spouse of one of the teachers is a certified music teacher and assisted with this year's Christmas program.

Mr. Arness stated that he attended the basketball tournament at ACS and reported that the Susan B. English School team presented themselves very well.

Mr. Castilleja reported that the Seldovia population has been fairly constant and did not expect any significant changes.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Lawrence Colston reported that the long-standing dispute between the District and KPEA concerning the \$650 payment has been settled. He extended a special thank you to Don Oberg and John Dahlgren for the tremendous amount of work involved in resolving this issue.

Mr. Colston stated that he hoped the nurse staffing would remain the same as this year. He stated that there is a feeling from society that public education is not a satisfactory way to educate their children.

Dr. Anderson thanked Mr. Colston and KPEA for their work on the agreement and expressed hope that this signaled a new era of cooperation.

Mr. Colston reported that comments from building representatives were that, although they would like to protect the health insurance program, they would like to get on with the business of educating children.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reported on the terms of the settlement between the District and KPEA of the \$650 payment grievance.

Mr. Dahlgren highlighted points of the agreement:

- The District agreed to pay the \$650 payment and will remit the amount deducted thus far.
- The \$650 payment will be terminated for the 1998-99 school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
(Continued):

- The parties mutually agreed that at the end of the 1997-98 school year, the following paragraph of Article 210, Health Insurance, shall become null and void:

Bargaining unit employees shall be paid \$650.00 each year during the duration of this contract. The total amount of District obligated dollars may be subtracted from the balance of the health fund.

- The District agreed that if KPEA requests release time for its president for the 1998-99 school year, the release time will be granted by the District. The Association shall pay the full salary and benefits for the president to the District to fully reimburse the District for the salary and benefit costs of the president of the Association.

- The District also agreed to grant a leave time request for the president of KPEA for the 1997-98 school year, if requested. The president's release time for the 1997-98 school year shall be granted by the District, provided that the following conditions are met: (a) KPEA shall pay the full salary and benefits costs for the released president; (b) release time for the president for the 1997-98 school year shall not start prior to January 18, 1998; (c) the president shall not be released until the District has found an acceptable substitute who can perform the president's professional duties and responsibilities.

- The District agreed to release any claim for reimbursement from KPEA for the salary and fringe benefits of the Association's president during the 1996-97 school year.

- The superintendent and the president of the Association shall issue a joint press release publicizing the settlement of this grievance.

- Both parties agreed to jointly notify the arbitrator that the grievance submitted to arbitration has been settled by mutual agreement.

Mr. Dahlgren expressed hope that this issue can be put behind both the District and KPEA and that they can get on with the task of educating students.

LEASE AGREEMENTS:

Mr. Patrick Hickey presented a report of leases or agreements entered into as of July 1, 1997. Leases were issued to Bay Realty, Inc. for Homer Flex School; to the Village of Kachemak Selo for the school facility; and to Peninsula Grace Brethren Church for the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

- NIKISKI BUS PURCHASE: Mr. Hickey reported that the District had the unique opportunity to purchase a 1995 Bluebird bus in the amount of \$30,000. Nikiski High School expressed an immediate interest in the bus and subsequently purchased it. Mr. Hickey stated that the value of the bus was approximately \$70,000 and prior to purchase, asked Borough maintenance to evaluate the condition of the bus.
- BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS: Mr. Hickey reported that the 1997-98 budget will be amended to reflect a decrease in revenue and commensurate balancing expenditure adjustments will be made.
- BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Gross stated that she attended the first meeting of AASA in early December. She reported that the group discussed how the third berth would be awarded for the state basketball tournament and she suspected that it will have to be competed for in the future.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Extended Field Trip Requests, 1997-98 Teacher Appointment and Early Graduation Request.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS: Mr. Ed McLain recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 15-25 Kenai Middle School students to travel to Washington, D.C., March 22-27, 1998, to participate in the Lakeland Tours Program; for 16 Soldotna High School students to travel to Branson, Missouri, April 24-28, 1998, to participate in the Branson Jubilee National Music Festival competition; and for 5 Susan B. English School students to travel to Spain and France, May 25-June 5, 1998, to experience the different languages, cultures, and economies.
- 1997-98 TEACHER APPOINTMENT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1997-98 school year for Barbara Spence, temporary (half-time), Special Services/ Resource at Skyview High.
- EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST: Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Ninilchik High School student.
- ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Dr. Anderson seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- K.P.A.A. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the District and KPAA. She recommended the following language be added as an addendum to the current negotiated agreement.

K.P.A.A. MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT (Continued):

The deadline for administrators to announce their intention to retire will be January 16, 1998. This announcement will be in the form of a "letter of intent written by the administrator who is retiring to the superintendent of schools. This date is a change from the previous deadline of November 15.

The agreement would take effect immediately and will be effective for only the 1997-98 school year.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and KPAA. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1998-99 HEALTH SERVICES
PROGRAM:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a specified dollar amount of \$831,957.68 for the Health Services Program which allows for continued RN/BSN coverage of all District schools similar to the coverage for 1997-98. A new formula would be developed based on the School Health Acuity Formula. Mrs. Radtke reported that 18.13 FTE would be needed.

Mrs. Radtke presented other options which included a decrease in RN/BSNs and an incorporation into the program of LPNs (licensed) or a discontinuation of nursing services in the KPBSD.

Mrs. Martin, secretary at Soldotna High told the Board that she had attended to 328 nursing incidents between the months of September and December and asked the Board to consider more nursing time. She explained that when the nurse is not there she provides health services that range from administering long-term medication, applying bandages, caring for injuries, providing medical supplies to students and more. She stated that her secretarial duties are being neglected and when she adds nursing duties she feels overwhelmed. Mrs. Martin stated that she does not envy the difficult decisions that the Board had to make to balance the budget. She stated that even though she is indemnified against liability issues, she could not live with herself if a student should have a medical need that she could not help with and the student's life was permanently altered as a result.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the administrative recommendation as outlined. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

1998-99 HEALTH SERVICES
PROGRAM (Continued):

Mrs. Radtke clarified that the 1998-99 health services formula recommendation is contingent on the budget preparation process and is to be used as a guideline for the purpose of staffing. Mrs. Mullins explained to those present that nursing staff could be changed based on the results of the budget process.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that research from other districts indicated that they are using specialized centers for medically fragile students and that this concept would not be practical for KPBSD.

Mrs. Fisher asked the nurses' assistance in lobbying the legislature to remove funding of school nursing services from the Department of Education budget and include it with the Department of Health and Social Services budget.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION TO OPEN
NEGOTIATIONS WITH KPESA:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board appoint a District negotiation team and prepare to open negotiations with the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association. She recommended that the first meeting of the negotiation team be no later than February 15, 1998.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the recommendation to open negotiations with the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Radtke explained that the negotiation team and a spokesperson must be appointed by the Board to represent the District. She stated that traditionally someone from Human Resources and someone from the Business Office are appointed to the team. Ms. Germano asked what method is used to negotiate. Mrs. Radtke replied that in the recent history of the District the Board has appointed an in-house team and the negotiations have been fairly straightforward. Mrs. Radtke stated that she has served on the negotiating team each year both as a resource and a spokesperson. She recommended the Board plan an executive session with the negotiating team before or after the next meeting so the team can begin work.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL VAN PURCHASE:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of a fifteen-passenger van from Seekins Ford in the amount of \$29,826 for Skyview High School. Seekins Ford was not the low bidder but was within the 5% local preference of being equal.

SCHOOL VAN PURCHASE
(Continued):
ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the purchase of a fifteen-passenger van from Seekins Ford in the amount of \$29,826. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Hickey responded to a question from Mrs. Mullins that Seekins Ford holds the new car dealership franchise authorized by Ford Motor Company for the Kenai Peninsula area and that Cal Worthington is not sanctioned by Ford Motor Company for new car sales.

Dr. Anderson stated he did not feel that it was in the District's best interest to purchase the van from Seekins Ford.

Mrs. Fischer thanked Mr. Hickey for presenting the purchase to the Board but expressed concern for the use of vans to transport students. She noted that during her attendance at many holiday events, she did not notice the unsuccessful bidders as sponsors of these events. She felt that even though it may cost more to award to the local bidder the District more than recoups the money in many other ways. She clarified that she was not in favor of the motion but that she was in support of the 5% local bid preference.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Fischer, Anderson

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

XEROX COPIER LEASES:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a modification to an existing lease agreement with Xerox Corporation to provide copier services to the District by document outsourcing rather than selling copier hardware. The District will be required to supply paper and be charged a flat fee of \$.017 per copy and Xerox Business Services would buy out existing lease agreements from Xerox Corporation. Mr. Hickey stated that Xerox Business Services, by using their in-house financing rates, can buy out District leases, convert our rates to a more favorable one, and stabilize our copy costs over the term of the lease allowing the District the opportunity to replace aging hardware. He assured the Board that if the District is unhappy with this arrangement at any time, it is in writing that they are willing to convert back to the original lease plan. When asked where the savings will come from, Mr. Hickey responded that it would be realized by not using the copiers over the summer or by closely monitoring the amount of copies being made.

XEROX COPIER LEASES
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked if costs will be broken out by school. Mr. Hickey explained that currently the money is allocated into accounts that the schools cannot spend to ensure that the bills will be paid. Under the new agreement the money would be allocated into a supply account. The lease includes the cost of toner supplies and maintenance. Mr. Hickey stated that Xerox Business Service has dedicated a full-time staff person to handle the District's account. Mr. Castilleja stated that by allowing administrators the freedom to monitor the number of copies being made, they can control their copy costs.

Mrs. Fischer confirmed with Mr. Hickey that site visits include all District sites. She asked what the cost would be if the District was dissatisfied and converted back to the old lease program. Mr. Hickey stated he could not provide those figures, but he felt that Xerox was a reputable firm and felt comfortable in his dealings with them and did not anticipate any problem. Mrs. Fischer expressed concerns about down time and asked whether the District investigated other copier companies. Mr. Hickey responded that he was more concerned with the service provided after the agreement is signed than the cost of the machines and would prefer to deal with a company the size of Xerox when considering the geographical layout and size of the District.

Mr. Hickey stated that he had not investigated other vendors, because he is not interested in replacing every copy machine throughout the District.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that the District went out to bid three years ago, the lowest bidder was Xerox, and that a maintenance response time of 24 hours was included in the bid.

Mr. Paul Fischer suggested that the Board consider requiring a performance bond that would outline what needs to be provided.

Karen Mahurin, secretary at Sears Elementary, expressed concern for those schools that use teacher generated materials and use the copier to reproduce them. She explained that few textbooks are purchased at Sears Elementary. She stated that Sears Elementary purchased a copier machine for their volunteer work room that has been successful. She expressed concern about more supply monies coming out of instructional supplies and that teachers are receiving less and less money for supplies. She also expressed concern that her school could not do without a copier for more than 24 hours and that maintenance response is vital.

XEROX COPIER LEASES
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked what happens to schools that own their own machines under the proposed lease? Mr. Hickey stated that those schools have been asked whether they would like to be converted but no final decisions have been made until the proposed lease is approved. He added that those schools already have the benefit of paying for the paper charges and toner supplies and didn't know how closely the toner usage would equal the \$.017 charge.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve a modification to an existing lease agreement with Xerox to provide copier services to the District with the final contract to be returned for Board approval. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BP 1321 SOLICITATION OF FUNDS
FROM AND BY STUDENTS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve revisions to policy BP 1321 Solicitation of Funds From and By Students. Revisions to BP 1321 will allow fund raising activities to occur with "for profit" companies or organizations.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve revisions to policy BP 1321 Solicitation of Funds From and By Students. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AR 5123 PROMOTION/
ACCELERATION/RETENTION:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve revisions to regulation AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention. Revisions to AR 5123 will require monthly meetings monitoring the intervention strategies selected for the current year and documentation of discussions related to next year's placement alternatives. The timeline for submitting the retention or acceleration list to the superintendent or designee was extended to not later than three weeks prior to the end of the school year. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the instructional team had reviewed the proposed revisions to the regulation.

Dr. Anderson referred his two requests noted in the Board minutes of December 1 on pages 10 and 11. He stated that he did not object to the changes that were made but felt that a process that clarifies retention is needed. He suggested that the recommendations made at the December 1 meeting be incorporated into the policy and regulation and postpone action until the next meeting. Dr. Anderson expressed concern that the District is not allowed to retain students and that parents have absolute veto power.

AR 5123 PROMOTION/
ACCELERATION/RETENTION
(Continued):
ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action on regulation AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention until the next Board meeting. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Jay Hakkinen, a former graduate of Skyview High School, was selected as a member of the U.S. Olympic Biathlon Team and will compete in Japan this winter.

Mrs. Larned stated she was pleased with the settlement between the District and KPEA and felt that there was a vital need to be proactive for public schools.

Ms. Germano echoed comments by Mrs. Larned. She asked to have more of the curriculum meeting dates posted on the Board calendar. She expressed her displeasure over football trivia published on the school lunch menu.

Mrs. Mullins thanked those in the audience for attending and invited them to come to the budget committee meeting on January 8 and 12. She expressed her appreciation for the spirit in which the settlement was achieved and looked forward to a better working relationship and a time when both parties can lobby the state legislature with a unified voice.

Mrs. Fischer reemphasized to the nurses the need to lobby the legislators about changing the formula for funding through the Health and Social Services budget. She stated that she had contacted Senator Torgerson who was receptive to the idea and Representative Hodgins who expressed concern that the money would be used elsewhere. She stated that if he could be assured that the money would go to nursing services he might look favorably on the idea.

Mrs. Gross announced that two legislative fly-ins are scheduled for February 21-24 and April 26-28, 1998. She stated that she will be attending and would like at least one more member to be present. Ms Germano, Mrs. Larned and Mrs. Mullins expressed an interest. Mrs. Gross stated she was looking forward to a positive relationship with the Association.

ADJOURN:

At 9:27 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned.
Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of January 5, 1997,
were approved on January 19, 1998,
as written.