

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

January 19, 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

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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 Excused

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:31 p.m. Mr. Arness moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough, specifically KPESA negotiations. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Arness moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Dave Spence Mr. Bill Rolph
Mr. Ken Meacham Mrs. Jeanna Carver
Mrs. Lynn Kennedy Mr. Buck George
Mrs. Debbie Griffin Mr. Mick Galic
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mrs. Susan Liebner
Mrs. Ann McLain Mrs. Melody Douglas
Miss Kelly McLain Mr. Mick Wykis
Mr. Jim Robb Mr. Tony Oliver
Mrs. Chris Robb Mr. Patrick O'Brien
Miss Mallory Robb Mrs. Grace Merkes
Mr. Lawrence Colston Ms. Cindy Romberg
Mrs. Nan Spooner Miss Marie Johnson
Mr. Cody Beus Mr. Kurt Romberg
Others present not identified.

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 January 5, 1997, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Ken Meacham, principal, Redoubt Elementary, reported on their reading program through the Title I program and introduced Carol VanDerWedge, Patty Lawyer, and Tammy Hanley as part of the school reading team. He also introduced the president of the site council, Mr. Mick Galic, manager of Safeway, and credited him with being an extremely important partner in their reading program.

Carol VanDerWedge explained that the school celebrated National Children's Book week in November. They began with an opening assembly created and performed by the 8th grade drama class at Soldotna Middle School, they celebrated with theme day where people dressed as story characters and community members were invited to read to the students. She noted that Mr. Dahlgren, Mayor Navarre, the Soldotna fire chief, police chief and several officers, Mick Galic and Cindy Dexter came into the school and read to students. Mrs. VanDerWedge explained that throughout the year each classroom will choose an outstanding reader. Mr. Galic presented awards to those students selected to date: Mallory Robb, Cody Beus, Kurt Romberg, Kelly McLain, Marie Johnson and John Junkert (absent). She noted that the students will receive a free book and video from Safeway.

Mr. Meacham explained that he is norming the entire school for reading and when completed, he will be able to determine at what grade level the students are reading in grades second through sixth.

Mrs. Griffin's third grade students sang a Hawaiian song accompanied with a hand game.

SCHOOL REPORTS (Continued):

Mr. Bill Rolph gave a technology presentation highlighting the use of technology at Redoubt Elementary. He stated that the school is making an effort to give every student equal access to technology. He reviewed the school technology plan and referred those present to the school web page for a more complete description. Mr. Rolph reported that Redoubt Elementary has made optimum utilization of existing computer equipment to provide all students with the opportunity to learn in a technological environment. He reviewed the technology equipment and computer labs and described how Redoubt Elementary is doing more for students with the technology equipment they have available to them. He explained that one of the school goals was to improve student writing. In order to accomplish that goal, he provided a classroom writing lab for grades four through sixth from discarded Macintosh Plus computers. Mr. Rolph stated that with the help of Jared Verba, he was able to rewrite the operating system to operate the computers from a fileserver.

Mr. Rolph noted that Redoubt Elementary was fortunate to participate in two pilot programs; Title I reading specialists are integrating multi-media software into the reading curriculum and Lightspan Partnership provided interactive adventures operated from a Sony Playstation. Once the adventures are completed, the student has learned and fulfilled all of the goals and objectives of the national standards.

Mr. Meacham thanked the Board for the support received for the upcoming work on their bus turn around and playground equipment. Two students distributed Redoubt Elementary drink cups to Board members.

Dr. Anderson asked Mr. Meacham to explain his concerns about the elementary math curriculum. Mr. Meacham stated that he felt that the District needs a comprehensive K-6 program which has sequential programming from one grade level to the next.

Mr. Arness questioned the use of Sony Playstations in place of computers. Mr. Meacham invited him to visit the school to see a demonstration. Mr. Rolph stated that, unfortunately, Lightspan is only selling their program to school districts.

Mr. Meacham responded to a question from Ms. Germano by stating that he felt elementary schools use their technology better than high schools.

Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Fischer expressed their gratitude to Redoubt Elementary for doing the best they can with limited technology equipment.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Elaine Frazee, Sterling parent, spoke to the Board concerning the bus route on Scotsman, Aspen and Leaf roads. She asked the District for bus service last year and was told that buses could not pass other traffic because the roads were too narrow. She stated that it is hazardous for students to walk to the bus stop on Feuding Lane and asked the Board to consider extending bus service to those fourteen students.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:**

Mrs. Gross read a resolution from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe encouraging the Board not to reduce nurses during the upcoming budget process.

Mrs. Gross read a letter from Keaton Walker, a Skyview High school student, who summarized the results of a survey he conducted on nursing services as a school assignment. He encouraged the Board to increase the nursing services, if possible. It was noted that the letter was not signed since the student is blind.

Mrs. Gross noted that a thank you card was received from Mrs. Larned for flowers sent by the Board after the death of her mother.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that January is School Board appreciation month and distributed certificates of appreciation to each Board member. He commended the Board on the number of hours spent on behalf of District students.

He reported that the Board conducted a budget worksession prior to the Board meeting and now has a balanced budget for FY 99. He announced that budget hearings will be conducted in Kenai, Homer, Seward, Soldotna, and Nikiski to solicit input from the public.

Mrs. Gross thanked the Board for their hard work and dedication to District students.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending November 30, 1997, and December 31, 1997.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:

Mr. Hickey reported on budget transfers Numbers 97 through 211 for various schools and departments within the District.

Mrs. Fischer asked whether a budget transfer of \$100,000 to Ninilchik School was a duplication of the amount being requested in the redirection of bond funds. Mr. Hickey replied that it was not a duplicate amount and that the District received funds from West Homer Elementary that were in excess of the building and opening costs.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked why a Homer school is transferring \$1,400 for technology instruction. Mr. Hickey stated the he would investigate the issue and report back to the Board.

COCURRICULAR REPORT:

Mr. Dave Spence, Executive Secretary, Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association, stated that cocurricular activities are an integral part of the educational program. He reported that the primary goal of all elementary cocurricular programs is the involvement of the maximum number of participants. At the middle level the primary goals are to encourage student participation and to afford individual students the opportunity to further develop the skills required to participate in their chosen activities. High school cocurricular programs involve students in District-sponsored activities that refine their interests and talents.

Mr. Spence provided a listing of academic cocurricular programs offered districtwide and at the individual building level this past school year. He reported that while high school enrollment has shown an increase of approximately 8% since the 1992-93 school year, participation in cocurricular programs has grown by approximately 45% overall; a 43% increase for boys, and a 48% increase for girls.

Mrs. Grace Merkes responded to Ms. Germano's question that there are approximately 12 students in seventh and eighth grade gymnastics. She explained that the ages of the participants in the Polar Gymnastics Club range from 2 and up with more than 100 members. She added that next year ten more members at the club will be in junior high school.

Mr. Spence stated that the District is in a dilemma over being able to continue supporting these cocurricular offerings in light of increased demands on diminishing resources. Heavier burdens have been placed on schools and programs to finance travel, students are required to pay higher fees to participate, parents and booster clubs spend an inordinate amount of time raising funds to purchase equipment and assist with facility rentals, and school districts need to cope with increasingly complex compliance issues and regulations at both the state and federal levels that seem to change almost on a daily basis. In summary, Mr. Spence stated that these problems do not outweigh the benefits students receive from cocurricular programs. Students who might not have been successful in school are being given a chance by the extra effort and time of a concerned coach, sponsor or advisor, or the motivation provided by their involvement in a cocurricular activity of some kind.

COCURRICULAR REPORT
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked how academic programs are funded and how many students participate. Mr. Spence responded that the figures available to him are included in the Board packet report. He noted that figures fluctuate considerably in the academic programs. He reported that some of the academic programs, such as Mind Amazes and Future Problem Solving, are supported through the Special Services QUEST Program and are available to all students. No cocurricular money is used to fund academic competition.

Ms. Germano stated that she was annoyed that cocurricular monies are funding athletics and not academic programs. She expressed her frustration that academic competition opportunities are not a priority.

CERTIFIED DIPLOMA INTERIM
REPORT:

Mr. Ed McLain presented a three-part interim report on certified diplomas. He explained that Part I is an overview of the process and action plan that the Certified Diploma Steering Committee has developed and is following; Part II is an overview of Committee comments and considerations in key areas under review; and Part III is a list of key questions contained in the initial statement of charge for the Committee.

Mr. McLain stated that there will be a full report in April. The Committee wanted to offer an overview on what has been accomplished. Mr. McLain thanked the committee members for their hard work and introduced committee member, Mr. Tony Oliver, who was present in the audience.

Mr. Oliver stated that this was his first time serving on a District committee. He admitted that it seemed like an impossible task to develop a certified diploma but in the past six to eight meetings the group has accomplished much of the work. He credited Mr. McLain for keeping the committee on task and felt that overall it has been a good process. He complimented Mrs. Nan Spooner for her excellent help with the "behind the scenes" work.

Mr. McLain called the Board's attention to the Statement of Intent and Focus on page 4 of the report. He explained that one of the primary tasks of the Committee is to clarify the definition of a certified diploma. Mr. McLain noted that comments are included under each of the subsections, and they are meant to provide the Board with a sense of Committee direction. He explained the committee will be dividing into smaller subgroups and soliciting additional membership from primary, elementary and middle level schools.

CERTIFIED DIPLOMA INTERIM
REPORT (Continued):

Mrs. Gross extended her appreciation for the committee's hard work and asked Mr. McLain to solicit as many parents and students as possible to serve on the subgroups. Mr. McLain assured the Board he would solicit additional membership through the local news media. He also thanked Mrs. Spooner for her efforts coordinating the Committee work.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Substitute Teacher Contracts, 1997-98 Teacher Appointment, and Resignations.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve nineteen-day substitute teaching contracts for Colleen Jones, Special Education/EH, Soldotna High School; and Ann Heimbuch, Grade 6, West Homer Elementary.

TEACHER APPOINTMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1997-98 school year for Sharon Stevens-Ganser, Temporary (half-time) Kindergarten, Seward Elementary.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year for Jolee Ellis, Grade 1, McNeil Canyon Elementary; David Lewis, Special Ed/Severe, West Homer Elementary; Sheryl McMichael, Grade 6, Sterling Elementary; and Lawrence Moore, Photography/Vocational Ed, Skyview High.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 3. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

REDIRECTION OF BOND FUNDS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a request to redirect remaining funds from the West Homer Elementary and Tustumena Elementary projects for use toward the purchase and installation of a replacement boiler at Ninilchik Elementary/High School in the amount of \$12,000; purchase of furniture and equipment for the new second story addition at Ninilchik Elementary/High School in the amount of \$100,000; and apply remaining funds towards the Seward High School swimming pool renovation.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a request to redirect remaining funds from the West Homer Elementary and Tustumena Elementary projects for use as outlined. Ms. Germano seconded.

REDIRECTION OF BOND FUNDS
(Continued):

Mr. Arness asked how much money is remaining. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the Assembly and Borough Administration have received approval through their Bond Council to use interest money from the original bonding from West Homer Elementary. Approval was received from the state to use those remaining monies for the Ninilchik school. Mr. Dahlgren stated that there is approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000 remaining. Mr. Dahlgren stated that a boiler is in need of replacement at Ninilchik School in the amount of \$12,000, and if the state approves the expenditure of remaining funds, the Seward pool needs to be replaced. Mr. Dahlgren explained that once the identified needs are approved by the Board, the Borough will consider the Board request.

Mr. Arness asked what the \$100,000 for Ninilchik school will purchase. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the money would furnish the computer lab and six classrooms. He noted that in the budget request book, the Ninilchik principal asked for \$120,000 to complete the project but felt that it could be accomplished for under \$100,000.

Mr. Dahlgren assured the Board that new construction purchases would be brought to the Board for approval.

Mrs. Fischer asked if the money expended for the swimming pool renovation would come before the Board for approval also. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the administration estimates the Seward pool renovation to cost approximately \$900,000. He stated that money to accomplish that is not available. Last year \$75,000 was set aside to do design development for the Seward facility. Mr. Dahlgren explained that any capital improvement must receive Assembly approval.

Mr. Spence explained that the ball park figures provided by Mr. Dahlgren are the best available at this time.

Motion carried unanimously.

KPESA NEGOTIATION TEAM:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointment of Sharon Radtke as spokesperson and Patrick Hickey and Melody Douglas as members to the District negotiating team.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the appointment of Sharon Radtke as spokesperson, and Patrick Hickey, Melody Douglas and two members of the Board of Education to the District negotiating team. Mrs. Fischer seconded

Motion carried unanimously.

KPESA NEGOTIATION TEAM
(Continued):

Mrs. Gross appointed Debra Mullins and Joe Arness to serve as Board representatives.

POLICY REVISIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve changes to BP and AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention. Mr. McLain explained that changes to the policy and regulation support strong parental involvement; require a specific form and a process to be used by all students; broaden the range of options for students; mandate a monthly monitoring and review; remove the current blanket restriction limiting the consideration of alternative placement; and extend the time allowed for intervention, discussion and consideration.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve changes to BP and AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention. Mrs. Larned seconded.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board amend AR 5123 Promotion/Acceleration/Retention to include the wording "or acceleration" after retention in the first sentence; delete the sixth paragraph and add the wording, "A parent may appeal any decision under the provisions of the district's due process policy.", after the third sentence of the seventh paragraph. Mr. Arness seconded.

Dr. Anderson reported that the Certified Diploma Committee discussed the promotion/acceleration/ retention issue, and the general consensus was that the proposed wording was superior to the earlier language. He reported that a concern was expressed regarding AR 5123 by Mrs. Byerly that parents occasionally wish to retain their child for various reasons ranging from extracurricular participation to academic failure. Dr. Anderson stated that the parents should be afforded an appeal process if an agreement cannot be reached.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Mahurin expressed appreciation that two Board members will serve on the District negotiating team.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer expressed her appreciation to Redoubt Elementary for a fine presentation. She asked how much of Feuding Lane is considered state maintained.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren explained that all of Feuding Lane is on state maintained road. He added that the request for bus service deals with a development off of Feuding Lane that will be upgraded over the summer. With the Board's concurrence, the administration will report on the situation.

Mrs. Fischer echoed Mrs. Mahurin's comments concerning Board Members serving on the negotiating team.

Dr. Anderson extended his gratitude to Mr. Druce, Soldotna High teacher, for giving up his prep period to tutor two students, one of which failed a math class and wasn't allowed to return.

Miss Meacham extended her thanks to Mr. Druce also.

Mrs. Mullins extended her thanks to Safeway. She stated that she was pleased that Board members will be serving on the negotiating team and that it helps the negotiation process. She stated that she looked forward to the process and expected that it would be a positive experience. Mrs. Mullins thanked the District for the School Board appreciation certificates.

Mrs. Larned expressed her appreciation for the Redoubt Elementary School report. She stated she especially liked hearing about the emphasis on reading and the community participation. She stated she was impressed with the recycling of old computers.

Mr. Arness concurred with the Feuding Lane bus route investigation but felt hesitant because of the hundreds of miles of Borough roads where parents would like to have bus service. He stated that he would agree to extend bus service if it is legitimate and can be done safely. He added that he does not want to set a precedent for approving bus service in places where it shouldn't be.

Mrs. Gross thanked the Budget Committee and Certified Diploma Committee for their hard work. She thanked Mr. McLain for his work coordinating the Certified Diploma Committee.

ADJOURN:

At 9:12 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 19, 1998,
were approved on February 2, 1998,
as written.