

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Seward High School
Seward, Alaska 99664

May 4, 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 Mr. Jerry Dixon
Mr. Malcolm Fleming Ms. Merry Zogas
Mr. Bob Boyle Mr. Patrick O'Brien
Mr. Pat Dye Mrs. DeEtta Scarborough

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Mrs. Liesl Davenport-Wheeler presented the Seward Vocal Ensemble who sang the National Anthem.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Absent/Excused
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 April 20, 1998, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Ms. Zogas, teacher, Hope Elementary School, introduced Elena Yoter, teacher, and ten students. She stated that while she and her students were visiting Seward for two days they would be touring the Seward Phoenix Log, AVTEC, library and many other areas of interest. She reported that the students are learning desktop publishing skills and producing their own school newspaper.

SCHOOL REPORTS (Continued): Ms. Zogas explained that funds from the Alaska 2000 grant paid for an artist-in-residence to spend two weeks teaching students about the art of clowning. The students presented two humorous skits and a juggling act. She added that the students learned about the history of clowning, mime, makeup, juggling, writing scripts, stilt walking and unicycle riding.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS: Mr. Jerry Dixon introduced students, Eric Amberg, Shannon Hohl, and Kenny Faust, who explained about the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship grant. Mr. Dixon stated that the grant purchased ten computers for the QUEST program and phones for every Special Services teacher. The students reported that the computers were used to create web pages for the Seward SeaLife Center. They stated that the pages provide a spring and fall tour of the Center and are the most popular sites on the SeaLife Center's home page. They explained that teachers can also log on and obtain lesson plans designed specifically for visits to the SeaLife Center. The students presented a two-minute video concerning water and marine ecosystems. The students reported that 12 students participated in an extended field trip to Texas as part of the SeaNet project; and during the trip, they compared the Gulf Coast to Resurrection Bay.

Mr. Dixon expressed his appreciation for being able to participate in the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship and being able to work with students and stated that he hoped he made a difference.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.: Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA president, expressed concern that when hiring teachers, the District seek applicants with excellent classroom skills first and consider other skills such as extracurricular coaching as secondary.

Mr. Colston stated that he was also asked to share a concern over the lack of materials needed to meet the curriculum goals of the District.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Arness presented awards of appreciation to DeEtta Scarborough, Seward Elementary teacher, and Pat Dye, Cooper Landing Elementary lead teacher, for their outstanding contributions to education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren announced that the Strategic Planning Update session will be held at Skyview High School, May 9, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and that the District retirement ceremony honoring all retiring employees will be held at Soldotna High School, May 18, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Dahlgren reported that two Board members and members of the central office administration developed guidelines to be used for soliciting school photography and graduation paraphernalia bids. Mr. Dahlgren referred to a memorandum contained in the Board information packet explaining that vendors will bid on a basic package developed for each contract.

Dr. Anderson asked if the photography bid guidelines would be used for future contracts. Mr. Dahlgren responded that he felt that the administration understands the feelings of the Board and stated that after a lengthy discussion the group outlined a basic photography package which reflects the desires of most parents. Mr. Dahlgren stated that a basic package was also developed for graduation paraphernalia. Dr. Anderson expressed concern over the requirement to return 20% of the sales to the District.

BOARD REPORTS: Ms. Germano reported that four Board members recently attended the Juneau AASB Fly-In and stated that the experience was very frustrating. Ms. Germano stated that she had discussions with other board members across the state and felt that, in comparison, the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District was in the worst financial shape.

Mrs. Larned stated that the visit to Juneau was intense. Mrs. Larned reported that Mr. Derek Peterson would be returning to the Kenai Peninsula on May 15 to teach a session on how to advocate for children. His presentation will be held at the Kenai Middle School.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Early Graduation Request, Leave of Absence Requests/Certified, Resignations and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST: Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request from a Soldotna High School student to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 1998-99 school year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/CERTIFIED: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 1998-99 school year for Paula O'Connell, Special Services/resource, Sears Elementary and Sherri Burt, math/physical education, Susan B. English Elementary/High.

- RESIGNATIONS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year from Elizabeth Hull, deaf education teacher, Districtwide Special Services and Dory Munder, English/social studies, Susan B. English Elementary/High.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/SUPPORT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence for the 1998-99 school year for Elena Chernichoff, Bilingual Instructor/Migrant Tutor, Voznesenka School.
- ACTION Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.
- 1998-99 NONTENURE TEACHERS FOR TENURE: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of 18 nontenure teachers for tenure beginning with the 1998-99 school year.
- ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the nontenure teachers for tenure beginning with the 1998-99 school year. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.
- 1998-99 TENTATIVE NONTENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of 88 tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 1998-99 school year.

Mrs. Mullins asked about a Nikiski teacher who is certified in agriculture. Mrs. Radtke explained that the teacher's endorsement is in agriculture, but he is teaching vocational education.

Ms. Germano thanked Mrs. Radtke for ensuring that teachers are being hired to teach in their area of certification.
- ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the tentative nontenure teacher assignments for the 1998-99 school year. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.
- 1999 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIST: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a revised listing of six capital projects totaling \$986,892 to be forwarded to the Borough Assembly for funding in their FY99 budget. The projects were for areawide asbestos abatement and lead and copper removal; North Star and Mt. View Elementary walkway safety awning installation; Kenai Middle victaulics abatement and replacement; and Seward High remaining pool renovation and portable relocation.

1999 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
LIST (Continued):

Ms. Germano asked which portables would be moved next year. Mr. Hickey explained that a portable is scheduled to be moved to Voznesenka, and a portable in Ninilchik is scheduled to be moved to an undetermined location.

Mr. Malcolm Fleming thanked the Board for the swimming pool renovation. Mr. Hickey reported that the pool project will be completed in two phases beginning with the mechanical needs first so that the swim season can be salvaged.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the capital improvement project list for 1999 for \$986,892. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE
ANCHOR POINT BEACH-
COMMUNITY SAFETY TRAIL:
ACTION

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve language to be used in a letter of support for the Anchor Point Beach-Community Safety Trail.

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the letter of support for the Anchor Point Beach-Community Safety Trail. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that he could not support the letter because he felt uneasy supporting the trail project without knowing what the other options are.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she originally shared Mr. Arness' concerns, but the letter presents legitimate reasons to support the ABC'S trail. Ms. Germano concurred with Mrs. Fischer.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Mullins

NO - Arness

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR
APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointments of R. Lee Young, assistant principal, Soldotna Middle and Norma Holmgaard, coordinator, grants/parent involvement Districtwide.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that Ms. Holmgaard's background is mostly administrative. Mrs. Radtke stated that Ms. Holmgaard has been trained in Mega Skills and felt that she will be able to work into the position. She added that coordinator, grants/parent involvement Districtwide, was a difficult position to fill.

ADMINISTRATOR
APPOINTMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Fischer expressed concern that Mr. Young's credentials do not reflect any middle school training or expertise. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the school where Mr. Young is currently serving as the assistant principal is operating a middle school program. Mr. Dahlgren reported that Mr. Young interviewed very well in the areas of block scheduling and course integration and is familiar with using core teams.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the appointments of R. Lee Young, assistant principal, Soldotna Middle and Norma Holmgaard, coordinator, grants/parent involvement Districtwide. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
RESIGNATION:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Mrs. Gross received a letter of resignation from Board member Mrs. Joyce Fischer effective June 30, 1998. Mr. Dahlgren stated he would like to advertise the Board vacancy during the next week so that letters of interest can be received by May 22. Mr. Dahlgren stated that Mrs. Gross would like to have the Board screen and then interview candidates during a special Board meeting on June 1, choose a replacement during the June 8 regular Board meeting, and swear in the new member during the July 6 Board meeting. He stated that an application will be developed and advertised on the District web page. Mr. Dahlgren provided a list of questions for the Board to review and offered to lead them through a screening process if a large number of people apply.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board accept the resignation of Mrs. Joyce Fischer from the Board of Education. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano encouraged interested persons from the Seward community to apply.

Mrs. Joyce Fischer stated that she would like to be a part of the planning session in June and that she will serve completely until June 30. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the intent of expediting the selection process was to include the new member in the planning session prior to adopting the Board goals in July.

Ms. Germano stated that she felt that it was very important to have the replacement Board member involved in the Board planning process.

Mr. Arness stated that he would like the Board to keep the schedule as outlined.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
RESIGNATION (Continued):

Dr. Anderson suggested that questions 1, 6, 8, 14, 21 and 22 from the proposed list be used in the application form.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Patrick O'Brien thanked the Board for coming to Seward for the Board meeting. He thanked the Board and administration for their support of the Seward High pool renovation project. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Seward community would try to submit a quality candidate to be considered for the upcoming Board vacancy.

Mr. Lawrence, KPEA, stated that it will be sad to lose Mrs. Fischer as a Board member and stated that the word "character" describes her best.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fisher thanked Mr. Colston for his kind comments. Mrs. Fischer suggested that the application questions include a statement about what he or she would do for constituents. She thanked the students from Hope Elementary School for their presentations and the students from Seward who sang the National Anthem.

Mrs. Mullins expressed her appreciation for the Hope Elementary School clowning presentation, the SeaLife Center presentation and the singing of the National Anthem. Mrs. Mullins stated that she had the opportunity to attend the Juneau AASB Fly-in and is saddened that the legislation has pitted students against students. She stated that the Board told the legislature that they want all students to be educated and added that she is unhappy to see school funding become a rural versus urban issue.

Ms. Germano extended her thanks to the Hope Elementary students for their presentation and to the students who gave the SeaLife Center presentation. Ms. Germano stated that she had brochures to leave entitled, "Fifty Ways to Show Kids You Care." Ms. Germano stated her objections to the Board planning session scheduled for Tuesday, June 9.

Mrs. Larned expressed her thanks to the students who participated in the School Board meeting and to the Seward community for hosting the meeting. She announced that staff development courses will be offered for teachers during the week of June 8-12 in the areas of art, dance, drama, literary art, music and visual art and encouraged teachers to take advantage of the opportunity.

Dr. Anderson stated that he was impressed by the student presentations. He stated that he recently attended the Soldotna High School band concert and was amazed at the quality of music and artistic abilities of District students.

ADJOURN:

At 8:55 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of May 4, 1998,
were approved on May 18, 1998,
as written.