

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

December 7, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Ms. Deborah Germano, Treasurer

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Miss Charise Calvert, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human
Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Rick Ladd

Ms. Sharon Moock

Mrs. Beth Martin

Mr. Don Oberg

Ms. Trena Richardson

Ms. Sue Liebner

Mr. Tim Peterson

Mr. Dana Hallett

Mr. John Andrews

Mr. Roger Liebner

Ms. Teri Woodward

Mr. Pete Sprague

Ms. Dawn Daris

Miss Anne Pfitzner

Mr. Don Glaze

Mrs. Sheryl Sotelo

Mr. Mark Norgren

Mr. Ed Sotelo

Ms. Jane Porter

Mr. Phil Biggs

Mr. Dave Carey

Mr. Granite Christopher

Ms. Sara Moore

Ms. Diane Bundy

Mr. Justin George

Mr. Dan Walker

Ms. Barb Vogel

Mrs. Carolyn Cannava

Mr. Sam Stewart

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. Arness announced that the Board reserved 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. to receive public input regarding the Kenai Peninsula Educational Support Association (KPESA), Kenai Peninsula Education Association (KPEA) or Kenai Peninsula Administrator Association (KPAA) negotiated agreements and invited those present to speak.

Mr. Norman Edeleman stated that he felt that the time teachers are out of the classroom excessive and asked the Board to address the issue during the negotiation process.

Mr. Gene Dyson asked the Board whether the administration is paid on a two-tier salary scale, whether there was an entry level salary for administrators and whether the administration had a negotiated agreement.

PUBLIC HEARING
(continued):

Mr. Dahlgren responded that the school principals have an association to negotiate for them. He stated that the directors are paid on a two-tiered salary schedule, and that the central office is paid from a separate salary schedule. He stated that there is no negotiated agreement for central office personnel, although they follow the confines of the principals' association agreement. He stated that the principals' salary schedule has an entry level and is also based on the size of their building and the number of employees they supervise. Mr. Dahlgren explained that principals receive tenure rights as a teacher not as an administrator.

Ms. Sara Moore, counselor, Soldotna High School, stated that because of the two-tiered salary schedule she is not as willing to chaperone student activities, as in the past. She stated that she makes \$2,000 less than her previous job in another district.

Mr. Dave Carey, commended Dr. Anderson for his assistance with weight physicals for wrestlers. He asked the Board not to put him in the position of considering a strike by approving a two-tiered salary schedule.

RECESS:

At 6:30 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER

At 6:50 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

RECESS:

Mr. Arness extended another invitation to those present to comment on the upcoming negotiated agreements.

RECESS:

At 6:55 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER

At 7:30 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

RECESS:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Joe Arness	Present
	Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
	Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
	Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
	Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
	Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
	Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Absent/Excused
	Miss Charise Calvert	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the minutes of November 16, 1998, as printed. Ms. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Rick Ladd, West Homer Elementary principal, presented a computer-generated tour of West Homer Elementary School. The tour showed pictures of the library, gymnasium, and classrooms. The presentation also included pictures of parents volunteering in the classroom, students participating in the recently held forensics meet, a school play and various other student activities.

Mr. Ladd presented test scores confirming student improvement in reading comprehension, which is his school's primary goal. He explained the three-tiered developmental reading program that is used by West Homer Elementary to provide instruction, correction, intervention and remediation.

Mr. thanked the Board for the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to accept the 1998 Alaska Elementary Principal of the Year award.

AWARDS AND
PRESENTATIONS:

Dr. Anderson and Mr. Arness presented plaques of appreciation to Anne Pfitzner, Grade 3, Soldotna Elementary and Mrs. Sheryl Sotelo, Grade 6, Tustumena Elementary, for being selected as awardees for the 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Mr. Arness also presented a plaque of appreciation to Dan Walker, Seward Middle/Sr. High, for being selected as the 1999 Alaska Teacher of the Year. Mr. Phil Biggs introduced Ms. Diane Bundy, parent, and her son Granite Christopher, who presented a check to Kenai Central High School for \$5,500. Mr. Biggs announced that Granite and his team placed first in the ThinkQuest contest. Ms. Bundy explained that ThinkQuest is an international contest that included 64 countries, 18 of which were selected as finalists. She stated that students aged 12-19 put together a team consisting of distant partners. The partners collaborate via the internet to create an educational website that can be used by teachers, students and schools across the world. She stated that the students had 8 months to complete their web site. She stated that she and Granite were invited to Los Angeles, California, for the final judging and awards ceremony. She stated that Granite and his teammates were presented with a \$25,000 scholarship for "Best of Contest," a cash prize of \$2,500 for second place "Java Script" award; and because Granite nominated his school, KCHS receives a cash award of \$5,500. Ms. Bundy encouraged interested teachers and students to participate in the ThinkQuest contests and stated that there is no entry fee.

AWARDS AND
PRESENTATIONS (continued):

Mr. Stewart, Kenai Central High School principal, accepted the check on behalf of the school and thanked Granite for his efforts and contribution. He noted that the money will be used to further technology at the high school.

Granite explained that his website relates to sound and sound waves. He invited those present to view his web page at <http://library.advanced.org/19537//>.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Sheryl Sotelo is a semi-finalist for Science Teacher of the Year (an award sponsored by Shell Oil Company) and that Mr. Don Glaze has been selected as the assistant principal of the Year.

Mr. Dahlgren thanked Mr. Ladd for his technology presentation and commended his school for its commitment to student learning.

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board of the Legislative worksession with the Assembly, Borough and School District Administration on December 8, at 10:00 a.m. He stated that the discussion would center on funding.

**LEASE AGREEMENTS
REPORT:**

Mr. Dahlgren presented a report, prepared by Mr. Hickey, of leases or agreements currently in effect for the District. The report includes agreements between the City of Soldotna, Homer and Seward for the Community Schools Program; a lease for equipment and facilities with the North Peninsula Recreation Service area; facility leases for Kachemak Selo, Razdolna, Homer High Flex, Aurora Borealis Charter and Voznesenka Schools; and a lease to the Boys and Girls Club for space in the Kenai Elementary School.

Ms. Germano asked for an explanation of the North Peninsula Recreation Service area lease. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the lease is for students to use the pool and ice arena and, in turn, the North Peninsula Recreation Service area operates a community school program that includes the use of the school gymnasiums. He stated that the lease is a reciprocal agreement and that no money is involved.

BOARD REPORTS:

Dr. Anderson reported that he attended the Certified Diploma Committee meeting. He reported that the Committee discussed lowering pupil-teacher ratios at the elementary level and noted that the consensus was that it might be more beneficial to provide a directed use of the same number of teachers instead. He stated that Dr. Roland Good would be here in February to provide the Board with valuable information concerning the use of elementary teachers. He encouraged the Board to consider alternatives to the use of elementary teachers rather than straight pupil-teacher ratio reductions. Dr. Anderson stated that he would like to express his concern to area legislators during the upcoming worksession regarding proposed regulations that specifically excludes reimbursement for students who return to school to complete their high school diploma. He stated that the Department of Education is writing administrative regulations to that effect.

Mrs. Larned reported that she attended the Vocational Education Curriculum Committee meeting. She stated that the Committee should be ready to report to the Board in January. She stated that the committee discussed the possibility of offering correspondence program courses through individual high schools via the use of technology.

Mrs. Gross reported that she spent three days attending the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) Board of Directors meeting. She stated that the Board of Directors discussed the possibility of eliminating the coaches' box for basketball. She stated that the National Federation of Student Activities has instituted a coaches' training program, which has been considered a good idea. She stated that ASAA is collaborating with the University of Alaska to offer summer classes or distance delivery courses for coaches to take for credit. She stated that win/loss records may determine who is awarded the third berth for the Region III basketball state tournament for next year.

Ms. Germano stated that she attended the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association (KPSAA) meeting and that the Association discussed a change to bring the District into compliance with ASAA requirements. She stated that students must be enrolled in four classes in the district that they represent.

Mrs. Gross stated that all students may participate in cocurricular activities with district permission. She stated she believes that Commissioner Holloway would like to see extracurricular activities be offered to any student regardless of whether they are enrolled in public school. Mrs. Gross reported that Commissioner Holloway stated she is receiving mixed messages from teachers, administrators and school boards concerning extracurricular participation and asked for a unified voice. Mrs. Gross stated that she expects to see legislation this session requiring districts to allow all students to participate in extracurricular activities regardless of where they are enrolled.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Substitute Teacher Contract, Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment, Resignation and 1998-99 Teacher Assignment.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a substitute teaching contract for Ann Frantz, special education/resource, Seward Middle/Sr. High.

TENTATIVE TENURE ASSIGNMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative tenure teaching appointment for the 1998-99 school year for Wendy Todd, special education/districtwide.

RESIGNATION:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board deny a resignation request from Chris VanBuskirk, Nikiski Middle/Sr. High School.

1998-99 TEACHER ASSIGNMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teaching appointment for the 1998-99 school year for Heather Lentz, occupational therapist, districtwide.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1999-2000 SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFIED STAFFING FORMULA:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the staffing formula for special education/certified employees that will be used to calculate the 1999-2000 budget.

ACTION

Ms. Germano recommended the Board approve the 1999-2000 special education/certified staffing formula as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

1999-2000 SPECIAL
EDUCATION CERTIFIED
STAFFING FORMULA
(Continued):

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to the special education/certified staffing formula to change the small elementary schools to coincide with the K-8 elementary schools, which would change the resource staffing ratio to 1:12. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

ACTION

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

1999-2000 SPECIAL
EDUCATION SUPPORT
STAFFING FORMULA:
ACTION

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the staffing formula for special education/support employees that will be used to calculate the 1999-2000 budget.

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the 1999-2000 special education/support staffing formula as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL CALENDAR/
INSERVICE DATES:

Mr. Ed McLain recommended the Board approve the 1999–2000 school calendar and tentatively approve school calendars for 2000–2001 and 2001-2002. Mr. McLain reported that the Calendar Committee met on October 13 and reviewed the current school year calendar and solicited input. He reported that they met again on November 10 to finalize their work. Mr. McLain noted that on the proposed calendar, the districtwide inservice is scheduled for August 18, followed by two teacher work days and a site inservice day on August 23 with school beginning for students on August 24. He stated that the entire first quarter would proceed uninterrupted through October. Mr. McLain explained that parent/teacher conferences would be scheduled on minimum days so that instructional days will not be used. He stated that bus and lunch schedules would be standardized to save on transportation costs. Mr. McLain stated that schools can set afternoons and evening hours for parent/teacher conferences and that the schedule would allow for 25 conferences per teacher. He added that this schedule would accommodate parents with children in several schools. Mr. McLain stated that the proposed schedule separates parent/teacher conferences from inservice days. He stated that principals have commented that they would like more time to focus inservice days on individual site inservice needs. Mr. McLain noted that October 29, November 11 and November 12 are inservice days, February 7 through 10 are parent/teacher conferences, May 15 is the final inservice day and May 24 is the last day for students. Mr. McLain thanked the Calendar Committee members for their hard work.

SCHOOL CALENDAR/
INSERVICE DATES
(Continued):

Dr. Anderson asked for an explanation of a minimum day. Mr. McLain stated that Alaska state law requires that students receive five hours of instruction in order to be considered a minimum day. Mr. McLain explained that the proposed calendar would require students to attend school for 5 hours and that 2 hours would be used for parent/teacher conferences, including one-half hour for lunch. He stated that the schedule would continue for all four days and that conference times could be flexible and conferences could be held in the evening. Ms. Germano asked whether enough time was scheduled for elementary schools to conduct parent/teacher conferences. Mr. McLain explained that 2.5 conferences could be held per hour allowing for 25 conferences per teacher. He stated that he would work with larger elementary schools to accommodate their parent/teacher conference needs. He stated that the state is not in favor of using instructional time for parent/teacher conferences. Ms. Germano expressed concern that 20 minutes for a student-led conference was not enough time.

Mrs. Mullins asked whether the August 23 inservice date is a districtwide inservice. Mr. McLain stated that August 23 is a site inservice and that August 18 is the districtwide inservice. Mr. McLain stated that the Department of Education is considering a review of each inservice request because they feel that such days are turning into teacher work days. Mrs. Mullins stated that Commissioner Holloway has referred to districtwide inservice days as "drive-bys" and was not in favor of them.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the proposed school calendars and inservice dates. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 98-99-3, Acceptance
of Amendments to the Bylaws
of the Alaska Municipal League
Joint Insurance Association, Inc.
(AML/JIA):

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a resolution accepting amendments to the bylaws of the Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association, Inc. (AML/JIA) expanding the board of trustees to nine members. Mr. Dahlgren explained that last year, after bids were accepted, the Borough changed the insurance carrier to the AML/JIA group.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve Resolution 98–99–3.
Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 98-99-4, Support for Participation in the Alaska ReForm in the Classroom Through Technology Integration and Collaboration (ARCTIC) Project:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a resolution supporting the involvement of the District in the ARCTIC technology intern program developed and offered by the Tri-Rivers Educational Computer Association (TRECA) consortium of school districts in Ohio. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the project allows a District teacher to travel to Ohio and train in the area of technology. He stated that over the five-year period, the intent is to train 10 Alaskan teachers each semester or 20 per year. He stated that the grant would pay for the teacher's expenses while in Ohio and substitute costs. He added that the teacher would also receive mentor support throughout the following year. Mr. Dahlgren suggested that ARCTIC grant applications circulate through Central Office so that there is not a concentration of teachers applying from one area. He stated that Mr. Darren Jones, the District's applicant, has not heard whether he has been awarded a grant. Dr. Anderson asked how the grant is funded. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the \$4.5 million is a part of a federally funded competitive grant that was written by a consortium of districts from Ohio.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Resolution 98–99–4.
Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Calvert congratulated Mr. Walker on his award and stated that she had the opportunity to hear him speak at the AASB student leadership conference and was impressed with his outlook on teaching. She thanked Mr. Ladd for his school presentation. Mrs. Gross congratulated Mr. Walker for being selected as Alaska's Teacher of the Year. She stated that she is proud of the quality of teachers in the District. She wished those present a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Larned extended congratulations to District employee award winners. She stated that she hoped the Board will think about the idea of offering correspondence programs via technology and asked the members for their input. She stated that she would like to see students return to the District. She wished those present a Happy Holiday.

BOARD COMMENTS (continued):

Mrs. Mullins thanked Mr. Ladd for his presentation and stated that she recently had an enjoyable visit at West Homer Elementary. She expressed her congratulations to District employee award winners and stated that she appreciated their hard work. She congratulated Mr. Glaze for being selected as the Assistant Principal of the year and stated that it was an outstanding honor. She wished those

present a
Happy
Holiday.

Ms. Germano
echoed
congratulations
made by
previous
Board
members and
thanked
Mr. McLain
for his work
on the
Calendar
Committee.

Dr. Anderson
expressed his
appreciation
for all of the
work the
District staff
is doing.

The Board
concurred that
Mr. Arness
will write a
letter
requesting that
the Board be
allowed input
in the
Borough
maintenance
budget.

Mr. Arness
apologized to
Miss Calvert
for
overlooking
her during the
voting of
business items
on the agenda.

ADJOURN: At 8:45 p.m.,
Ms. Germano
moved the
School Board
Meeting be
adjourned.
Mrs. Mullins
seconded.

Motion
carried
unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of December 7, 1998,
were approved on January 4, 1999,
as written.