

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent

February 4, 2002

NEWS IN BRIEF

SCHOOL REPORTS: Students from Mrs. Furlong's class at Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School demonstrated their sign language skills by signing the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Trena Richardson, principal, reported that the Title I Program is providing extra assistance to those students in grades 3-6 who are struggling in reading. She reported that the school purchased the Scholastic Reading Counts Program and the Scholastic Reading Inventory program to increase comprehension of students who are reading. She reported that the school uses curriculum-based measurement reading fluency tests to all students as well as DIBBLES for kindergarten students. She recounted a success story of a sixth grade student whose reading comprehension was increased from a second grade level to a fifth grade level. She reported that the school had six student teachers this year and added that they were highly appreciated, especially by teachers who have large class sizes. She stated that the school has an unwritten goal to improve writing skills; an area that receives low assessment scores. She reported that Dorothy Gray provided training in writing as a review of Analytical Writing Assessment and the Six Traits. She reported that Ms. Gray conducted a training session to help parents assist their children with writing at home. She reported that every class is conducting daily oral language and that editing is being taught at all grade levels. She announced that the Alaska State Standards are posted in the school hallways and are included in each teacher's weekly journal. She reported that K-Beach Elementary is participating in the Adopt-A-Stream Program, a historical preservation project, the Artists-in-Residence Program, and the Senior Buddies Program. Several students presented information they researched about space, constellations, and lightening. Two groups of students reported on the Kenai River and the salmon cycle, and the preservation of antiques and artifacts from a homesteader's cabin and the creation of a webpage documenting the information.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Peterson reminded the Board that the Long Range Planning Update meeting scheduled for March 7, 2002 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a more convenient date.

AR 5141.4 (Students – Child Abuse and Neglect): The Board unanimously approved revisions to AR 5141.4, Students – Child Abuse and Neglect, in order to clarify the reporting and filing procedures for suspected child abuse or neglect.

New Teacher Assignments: The Board unanimously approved teacher assignments for the 2001-2002 school year for Matthew Neagley, (temporary) generalist, Nanwalek Elementary/High; and David Little, (temporary) special education/assistive/technology, Pupil Services, Districtwide.

Request for Leave of Absence – Certified: The Board unanimously approved an unpaid leave of absence for the 2002-2003 school year for Patricia A. Cruz, Grade 2/3, Ninilchik School.

HEALTH CURRICULUM: The Board unanimously approved the Health Curriculum as presented by the Health Curriculum Committee.

AURORA BOREALIS CHARTER SCHOOL: The Board unanimously approved a five-year charter for Aurora Borealis Charter School.

FIREWEED CHARTER SCHOOL: The Board unanimously approved a charter for Fireweed Charter School. The Board unanimously approved an amendment to approve a five-year charter that requires administrative review for solvency and recommendation to the Board and that a financial report be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer on October 1, 2002; January 6, 2003; and April 1, 2003.

MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL: The Board approved a five-year charter for the Soldotna Montessori Charter School on the condition that the school is able to enroll a minimum of 40 students and that teachers hired have an Alaskan Type A certificate and Montessori certification.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS: The Board heard a reading of E 6162.71, Internet Safety Policy Guidelines/Internet Use Terms and Conditions. Dr. Whiteley explained that revisions to the exhibit will bring the District in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and that the update is also necessary for the District to be eligible to receive E Rate funding after July 1, 2002. This exhibit revision does not require Board approval.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, February 18, 2002, 7:30 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

* * * * *