

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Borough Administration Building  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

July 7, 1997

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Leona Oberts Mr. Paul Fisher  
Mr. Justin George Mrs. Barbara Vogel  
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:31 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  
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present  
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of June 9, 1997, were approved as  
printed.

KPESA: Mr. Justin George, KPESA representative read a letter from  
Mrs. Mahurin, KPESA President, dated June 27, 1997.  
Mrs. Mahurin asked the Board to reconsider their previous  
decision to remove \$750,000 from the Health Insurance  
Premium Account and to begin unauthorized payroll deductions  
of \$113 per employee. She stated that KPESA will be forced  
to choose binding grievance arbitration or court if the  
Board does not reverse their previous action. Mrs. Mahurin  
requested the Board honor Mr. Dorsey's arbitration award of  
paying employees \$650 in November and let the Health  
Insurance Committee continue to problem solve ways to keep  
health insurance costs at a minimum and then work with ,  
KPESA on a memorandum of agreement to agree to terms of  
insurance co-payment, if it appears one is necessary.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATION: Mrs. Gross presented a Plaque of Appreciation to retiring Superintendent/School Board Secretary, Barbara Jewell, and thanked her for her eighteen years of dedicated service to the Board of Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren introduced new staff members Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent Instruction; Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management; and Sally Tachick, Superintendent/School Board Secretary.

Mr. Dahlgren reported the Borough Assembly did not pass the technology bond issue at their last meeting. He stated he would be attending the next Borough Assembly meeting in Seldovia on July 15, 1997.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR MAINTENANCE NEEDS: Mr. Dahlgren presented proposed lists of school construction and major maintenance needs for the next six years. He explained that these lists will be included in the District Six-Year Plan which will be given to the Board at the August 4 board meeting as a report. It is scheduled for approval at the August 18 board meeting. Mr. Dahlgren suggested a work session prior to approval of the document so that the items can be prioritized by the Board.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending May 30, 1997.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Annual Agenda, Extended Field Trip Requests, 1997-98 Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignments, 1997-98 Tentative Teacher Assignments, Resignations, 1997-98 Teacher Assignments, Lease Agreements/People Count/Boys and Girls Club/Kachemak Selo, Lease Agreement/Aurora Borealis Charter School, and Furniture and Equipment List

ANNUAL AGENDA: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the 1997-98 Annual Agenda. The Annual Agenda consists of dates on which routine items are presented to the school board for approval.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 10-12 Soldotna High School students to participate in the Baron's Optimist Basketball Tournament in San Diego, California, on December 26, 1997 through January 2, 1998; for 65 Kenai Central High School students to travel to Ireland, Wales, and Scotland to perform in cathedrals and concert halls, and to learn about foreign countries and currency on March 18-31, 1998; and for 100 Homer High students to participate in the 1998 International Music Festival in Honolulu, Hawaii, on April 7-14, 1998.

1997-98 TENTATIVE NON-  
TENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a listing of tentative non-tenure teaching assignments for 1997-98.

1997-98 TENTATIVE TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve tentative tenure teaching assignments for the 1997-98 school year for Dianne Spence-Chorman, Homer High; and Holly Zwink, Kenai Middle.

RESIGNATIONS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Carl Kittrell, Music Counselor, Chapman Elementary; and Colleen Wright, Special Education/Resource, Nikiski Elementary.

1997-98 TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for the 1997-98 school year for Barbara Anderson, Math/Science, Kenai Central High; Richard Bartolowits, Computer, Kenai Central High; Laura Beck, Middle School, Seward Middle/Sr. High; Joel Burns, Grade 8 Science, Soldotna Middle; Jennifer Chapple, Elementary Grades, Susan B. English Elem/High; Shona DeVolld, English, Kenai Central High; Daniel Dillon, Math, Nikiski Middle/Sr. High (Temporary); Robert Dimick, P.E./Social Studies, Soldotna High (Temporary); George Harbeson, Language Arts, Chapman Elementary; Carol Huntington, District Wide Special Education Resource, West Homer Elementary; April Kaufman, Elementary Grades, Susan B. English Elem/High; Daniela Martian, Math, Kenai Central High; Bradford Nyquist, Math/Language Arts, Kenai Middle; Christopher Perk, P.E., Homer Middle; Jennifer Platt, Grade 4/5, Nikiski Elementary (Temporary); Roy Shapley, Grade 4, Nikiski Elementary; Jamilyn Shurts, District Wide Special Ed/Resource, Sterling Elementary; Richard Smith, District Wide Special Education/Resource, Kenai Central High; Amy Utecht, Grades 3/4, Redoubt Elementary; Ann Wilson, Art/Drama, Kenai Middle; William Withrow, P.E. (half-time), Sterling

1997-98 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS (continued): Elementary (Temporary); Dena Pettijohn, Grade 6, Soldotna Elementary; Tammy Woffinden, English, Kenai Central High; Warren Starr, English, Soldotna High; Shelli Church, Social Studies, Soldotna Middle; Ann McLain, Science/Health/Reading, Kenai Middle; Sharon Thompson, Science, Chapman Elementary; and Greg Zorbas, Generalist, Skyview High.

LEASE AGREEMENTS/PEOPLE COUNT/BOYS & GIRLS CLUB/KACHEMAK SELO: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve lease agreements for People Count, Boys and Girls Club, and Kachemak Selo. The agreements for People Count and Boys and Girls Club are renewals of last year's agreements for space at Kenai Elementary School. The amended lease agreement for facilities in Kachemak Selo is for additional space in the amount of \$1,850 monthly.

LEASE AGREEMENT/AURORA BOREALIS CHARTER SCHOOL: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a lease agreement between the District and Grace Brethren Church for space to house the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$18,061.02.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 through #9. Mrs. Germano seconded.  
  
Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION HANDBOOK: By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke presented a revised administrator evaluation handbook for Board approval. Mr. Dahlgren explained the main component of the evaluation is the School Development Plans which are geared toward the improvement of instruction. The mid-year evaluation assesses the school administrator in a variety of areas: General Functions, Certified and Support Staff, Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment, Physical Plant, Pupils, Communications, Goal Setting and Leadership. A final evaluation is conducted at the end of the year based on their school development plan.

Mr. Dahlgren noted many development plans were tied to the Analytical Writing Assessment for the 1996-97 year. He pointed out that the principal is considered the instructional leader of the school and that is their first priority. Secondly, they are the manager of their facility which includes many of the other duties listed in the handbook.

He reported that between 40 and 50 administrators are evaluated each year by the central office administration with principals evaluating assistant principals. He added that the evaluation proposal complies with HB 465.

ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION  
HANDBOOK (continued):

In response to a question from Dr. Anderson, Mr. Dahlgren pointed out those items specific to the improvement of instruction are contained within the evaluation handbook.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action until the August 4 meeting. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Germano asked to have a work session with Mrs. Radtke prior to the August 4 meeting to answer questions pertaining to the Administrator Evaluation Handbook.

1997-98 BOARD GOALS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve five new goals and eight other activities to be accomplished by reports and work sessions during the school year. The recommended new goals were 1) To develop criteria for KPBSD diploma certification through the expansion of the assessment program, the establishment of benchmark targets, and the development of remediation procedures; 2) To establish positive relationships with employee groups and the public; 3) To establish a budgeting process which will involve the borough administration, assembly and the public; 4) To explore and monitor alternative methods for the implementation of the art curriculum; and 5) To support the successful passage of the technology referendum.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the 1997-98 School Board Goals. Mr. Arness seconded.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board amend the 1997-98 School Board Goal Item #4 to add after implementation, "elementary visual arts section." Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Arness, Fischer, Germano

Amendment carried.

Mrs. Germano expressed concern for the music program that would be excluded by amending Item #4.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board amend the 1997-98 School Board goals to add Item #6, "To Explore and monitor alternative methods for the implementation of the elementary arts curriculum." Mrs. Fischer seconded.

1997-98 BOARD GOALS  
(continued):

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer, Germano, Larned  
NO - Anderson, Arness, Mullins, Gross

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Gross  
NO - Fischer

Amended motion carried.

BAY VIEW CHARTER SCHOOL  
PROPOSAL MODIFICATION:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve an addendum to the Bayview Charter School proposal that would increase the number of students served from 20 to 22.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve an addendum to the Bayview Charter School proposal to allow an increase to the number of students served to 22. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTS:

Mr. Dahlgren presented contracts for approval for three charter schools: Aurora Borealis Charter School, Central Peninsula area; Bay View Charter School, Seward; and Homer Charter School, Homer.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve contracts for three charter schools: Aurora Borealis Charter School, Central Peninsula area; Bay View Charter School, Seward; and Homer Charter School, Homer. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren clarified a question from the Board that the charter school contract takes precedent over the proposal. He explained that the binding document is the contract between the Board and the Charter school.

Mrs. Fischer questioned whether the Charter School contracts included variances that govern purchasing procedures, etc. Mr. Dahlgren responded the contracts refer to the proposals which outline the specific waivers that had been requested. He added that the contracts have been reviewed by district attorneys to make sure they include items that were in the proposals.

Mrs. Leona Oberts stated that there was a waiver that allowed charter schools to purchase outside of the District Warehouse. She also pointed out that Item #16 in each of the contracts addresses anything that is included in the proposals.

CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACTS  
(continued):

Mr. Dahlgren added that the District does purchase from vendors other than what is stocked at the warehouse. Charter schools could purchase specific items such as Calvert curricula, Dell computers, etc. He explained that these items are purchased through the bid process.

Motion carried unanimously.

INCLUSION OF \$650 IN HEALTH  
INSURANCE PAYMENT:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended authorization to commence co-payments in the amount of \$650 for those employees who are receiving a \$650 wellness payment.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board authorize the administration to commence co-payments in the amount of \$650 for those employees who are receiving a \$650 wellness payment. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that the Board has not initiated any action allowing the administration to commence the co-payments other than directing the administration to send out a letter to the employees which was not an action of the Board.

Mr. Hickey stated if the Board does not approve the co-payment and proceeds with the \$650 payment, the health reserve would be depleted totally. Mr. Hickey estimated that the employees would still be faced with a co-payment of approximately \$58/per employee per month to balance \$430 in expected expenses to the District's health care, which is in excess of the \$395 amount contained in the negotiated agreement. There would be no reserve account for health insurance.

Mrs. Fisher asked where the funds would come from for the \$650 if the arbitrator's decision did not rule in favor of the Board. Mr. Dahlgren explained that during the budget process the funds were included in the salary accounts of each employee.

Mr. Hickey explained that a total of \$113 would be deducted from each employee; \$54 for the \$650 payment and \$59 co-payment to offset the anticipated level of expenditures for health coverage.

Mrs. Gross expressed concern over deducting \$113 per month immediately and that the money will come from some of the lowest paid employees.

Mr. Arness pointed out that the District will be spending \$713,000 each year indefinitely. He stated if this issue is not clarified prior to negotiations it will be assumed that the payment will be a bonus in addition to their regular salary.

INCLUSION OF \$650 IN HEALTH  
INSURANCE PAYMENT  
(continued):

Mrs. Fischer reminded the Board that there will be a cost to the public whether it is settled through legal channels, negotiations, or arbitration. She urged the Board to get on with business and find other solutions to the problem.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned  
NO - Fischer, Mullins, Gross

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. George stated that KPESA is more that willing to take the co-payment issue to the arbitrator.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer expressed her disappointment that the Fourth of July parade did not include a school band.

Mrs. Mullins welcomed Mr. John Dahlgren, Mr. Patrick Hickey, Mr. Ed McLain and Mrs. Sally Tachick, and wished Ms. Barbara Jewell well on her retirement.

Mrs. Larned extended a welcome to the newcomers and thanked Ms. Jewell for all of the help she had provided and wished her luck in her future endeavors.

Mr. Arness expressed his appreciation for Ms. Jewell and felt that she ranked as one of only a few women who have had the most impact on this local government.

Mrs. Gross reported that the Board will host a barbecue dinner for the Association of Alaska School Boards on July 26, 1997. She urged Board members to attend.

Mrs. Gross thanked Ms. Jewell for her help and stated that her professionalism is exemplary to everyone.

ADJOURN:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of July 7, 1997,  
were approved on August 4, 1997,  
as written.