



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assistant Superintendent

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Memorandum

To: Members, Board of Education

From: Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

Through: Donna Peterson, Superintendent

Date: April 6, 2009

RE: Request to ASAA for Bylaw Waiver

After our work session discussions concerning students from Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna playing on the Homer High School Hockey team, I was able to meet with Kim Duggar and several parents from the Russian villages to discuss the situation. This meeting brought to light some points not previously discussed that are relevant to this matter.

When I mentioned it would be difficult to ask ASAA for a waiver when the current Homer Hockey Captain was a Voznesenka student enrolled as a correspondence student with Connections, two of the mothers present provided relevant input. One mother said it was important to understand that not all students could be successful in a correspondence program. She shared that one of her sons had successfully graduated from Connections, but her second son did not have the self-discipline and learning style needed to be successful in a correspondence program. Another mother pointed out that fundamental Old Believers do not have radios, televisions or computers in their homes, and this makes it extremely difficult for a student to be successful in a correspondence program that is highly dependent on modern technology.

We also discussed the possibility of Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna forming a Cooperative School Program. During this discussion one of the mothers pointed out that not all of the boys signed up to play football at Voznesenka were hockey players, and that hockey skills took a longer period of development than football skills. A list of students from Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna who participate in the Homer Youth Hockey has been created, and those numbers do not provide a solid basis for the formation of a Cooperative School Program in current or future years.

One of the mothers also raised a concern about poor graduation rates for male students at Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna, and stated she felt that hockey would help to hold these students in school. A list of 16 and 17 year olds not graduating in approximately the last five years was created, and it includes 12 students from Voznesenka, 10 students from Kachemak-Selo, and 7 students from Razdolna.

In light of this new information, the Administration recommends the Board authorize a Waiver Request to ASAA Bylaw Article 7 Section 9 B Cooperative School Programs to pursue the ability for students in the Head of the Bay Schools being allowed to play for the Homer High School Hockey team. If it is the Board's wish and you vote to do so, I will prepare a Waiver Request to ASAA for their April 27, 2009 meeting. As requested by the ASAA Board of Directors, I will discuss options allowing students from Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna to play hockey within the current rules, and outline how these options either meet or fail to meet the needs of our students.

I look forward to discussing this matter at the Board meeting.