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

February 20, 1995

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President  
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Vice President  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk  
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Member  
Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Member  
Mr. Emery Thibodeau, Member  
Miss Mandy Baldwin, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent  
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Interim Assistant Superintendent,  
Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel  
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Robin Courson  
Mr. Don Glaze  
Mr. Jim Simeroth  
Mr. Rick Matiya  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Mallett  
Ms. Lori Manion  
Ms. Patti Taber  
Mr. Gene Palm  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Riley  
Mr. David Carey  
Mr. Wayne Mize  
Mrs. Karen Mahurin  
Mr. Lee Stalker  
Mrs. Rosie Reeder  
Mrs. Pam Lazenby  
Mr. Scott Christian  
Mr. Tom Moore  
Mrs. Peggy McGary  
Mr. Dave Ungrue  
Mr. Jim Lewis  
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Obendorf called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Obendorf invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Betty Obendorf Present  
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
Mr. Michael Tauriainen Present  
Mr. Emery Thibodeau Present  
Miss Mandy Baldwin Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed with the deletion of Item 10c, Approval of Expulsion #2.

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of February 6, 1995, were approved as written.
- NIKISKI JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Don Glaze, Assistant Principal, and eighth grade core team members, Lori Manion, Scott Christian and Patti Taber explained the steps taken to develop and implement the middle school concept at their school. They credited the success of the program to team work, communications and a special success program which benefits the students. The group presented Lori Manion with a floral bouquet for her dedication and hard work towards this effort.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Obendorf read a letter from Seldovia Mayor, Tim Baldstad, written on behalf of the city council in support of the Susan B. English School senior class trips. He noted the community fully supports such trips as being an enriching and positive part of the students' lives.
- Mrs. Obendorf commented a letter had been received from Angela McKinney, Chapman School PTA Chairperson, expressing concern on the overcrowded situation at Chapman Elementary School. She noted the PTA felt it was important to keep the junior high school students at the Anchor Point school.
- KPESA: Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, expressed concern on proposals made to eliminate various support employee positions and other items on the reduction list for the 1995-96 budget. It was a concern of both the budget committee and KPESA to keep the PTR as low as possible in grades K-6. She also expressed concern that not all support staff, teachers and PTAs were surveyed on their opinions related to budget reductions. She also felt the committee was a little "Soldotna heavy."
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Bromenschenkel reported the district is currently seeking applications for administrator vacancies within the district. The deadline for applications is mid-March which will be followed by screening of applications, the interview process and hiring.
- Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a brief summary on the new state school board members recently appointed by Governor Knowles. Those members are Abbe Hensley, Robert Gottstein, Marilyn Webb, Mike Williams, R. Weaver Ivanoff, Mary Ann Eininger and Stowell Johnstone.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
(continued):

Dr. Bromenschenkel reported the district has concluded the OSHA settlement case and penalties have been reduced from \$210,000 to approximately \$5,000. The violations will be abated by March 31, 1995, and the district will be required to provide a districtwide safety program for all employees.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ended January 31, 1995.

HONEYWELL PRESENTATION:

Due to inclement weather the Honeywell representatives were unable to attend the meeting. This presentation will be rescheduled for a later date.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Tustumena Elementary School Addition Furniture and Equipment List, and Substitute Teacher Contracts.

TUSTUMENA FURNITURE AND  
EQUIPMENT LIST:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for the Tustumena Elementary School addition in the amount of \$7,162.37.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Wade Marcuson, QUEST/Grades 6-8, Chapman Elementary; Mary Bailey, Grade 1, Sears Elementary; and Pam Hershberger, Grade 6, Kenai Middle School.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT EXPULSION #1

Mrs. Obendorf reported a student expulsion hearing had been conducted prior to the school board meeting.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the hearing results as follows:

The principal at Soldotna High School has requested expulsion of SV, a ninth grade student for violation of Policy 007.12 regarding alcohol. The events are not in dispute. On February 11, 1995, SV attended the school Valentine's Dance, left the dance and returned at about 10:45 p.m. Mark Norgren, the Assistant Principal, and another person observed her approaching the door exhibiting signs of drinking. SV's parents and police were contacted

STUDENT EXPULSION #1  
(continued):

and SV proved to have a 0.127% blood alcohol level. The student has had no other disciplinary interaction at the school, has maintained her grades and does not show a pattern of disrupting programs or the authority of school officials other than this incident. However, the student did admit a problem with controlling use of alcohol which was borne out by a previous incident not related to school and the incident at the dance. The issue presented is whether this event warrants expulsion given the circumstances. The Board finds expulsion not warranted at this time, but any further occurrence would be strongly indicative of a problem that would warrant expulsion. Given this, the Board will impose a suspension of 10 class days followed by readmission under probation. Any similar occurrence in this school year would be grounds to terminate the probation and institute expulsion steps as set forth in this decision.

The probation conditions are that the student be precluded from participating in extracurricular activities for the remainder of the current school year; she participate in and complete a substance abuse counseling program; no further possession, use or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol in the school setting; and that she refrain from such behavior outside school. These conditions continue for the remainder of the school year. The last condition is imposed since such behavior would indicate a problem that affects her role in the school and impacts the District program and the ability of other students to learn. Violation of any of these conditions will be grounds for immediate suspension and bringing this matter back to the Board to consider expulsion; however, violation of Policy 007.12 during this probationary period will result in immediate expulsion. In the event of such immediate expulsion the student or parents may request reconsideration of this decision.

The Board considered this matter very carefully and is not unmindful of the needs of the administrators to maintain order in the schools and to be able to focus their attention on the objective of educating students without unnecessary disruption. In this case however, we see a student with no prior disciplinary problem with the school who is of a relatively young age. The facts do not indicate a high probability of further problems that disrupt the school program. The student desires to be in school and has not caused other disruption of the programs. Further, the facts do not indicate this student was involved with bringing alcohol into the school grounds. We also ascertained that

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STUDENT EXPULSION #1  
(continued):

SV wants to continue in school and has demonstrated from her past actions that she does not flaunt authority and does her school work. Given these factors we do not find the circumstances demonstrate the necessary factors to warrant expulsion at this time. However, this is in no way excuses SV's conduct or diminishes the fact that alcohol violations may well warrant expulsion for the first offense. Consideration must be given to the magnitude of the acts, any aggravating factors, and the potential for disruptions of the school programs. The Board considers it appropriate to consider probationary conditions to insure that disruption does not develop in cases where expulsion may not be warranted.

This decision is rendered by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board on February 20, 1995. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Obendorf excused the student representative from voting since this person does not sit on expulsion hearings.

Motion carried unanimously.

TITLE IX INDIAN EDUCATION  
GRANT APPLICATION:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve a Title IX Indian Education Grant Application in the amount of \$240,916. The grant application would seek funding for a tutorial/instructional aide program for Native/Indian students. A public hearing was conducted with no members of the audience desiring to speak to this issue.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the Title IX Indian Education Grant application. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
ATTENDANCE AREAS/SCHOOL  
SIZE PHILOSOPHY:

Dr. Bromenschenkel noted Mr. Dahlgren had worked with the Facilities Committee and their recommendation is for maximum size elementary schools at 500 students, maximum size for middle schools at 500 students and maximum size for high schools at 1,000 students. In addition, they recommended the boundary change for Skyview High School and Soldotna High School be changed for students living on Funny River Road to attend Soldotna High School beginning in the fall semester of 1995. Information on the rationale for these items was provided to the Board.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
ATTENDANCE AREAS/SCHOOL  
SIZE PHILOSOPHY (cont.):

Mr. Arness questioned the reasoning for bringing the school size recommendations to the Board. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded this related to long-range planning, particularly as it relates to expanding current facilities when needed. This was an issue which was determined at the Board planning session last July needing to be addressed.

Mrs. Obendorf asked where school size information would be placed where it is accessible to the public. Superintendent Bromenschenkel responded it would be appropriate to place this information in the policy manual.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve school size for elementary schools at 500, middle schools at 800 and high schools at 1500. Motion died for lack of a second.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board accept the recommendations of the Facilities Committee as presented. Mrs. Gross seconded.

ACTION

Mr. Arness requested the items be separated beginning with the boundary changes.

Mr. Thibodeau commented he felt the recommendation did not solve the overcrowding at Skyview High School, and asked for a meeting with the Facilities Committee to further discuss the situation. Dr. Anderson stated he felt the recommendation was more of a way to avoid solving the problem than solving the problem. He felt a change of boundaries at St. Thesesa's Road would be more equitable to move more students to Soldotna High School.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to postpone the motion until the first meeting in March. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Dr. Anderson commented he would vote against the postponing motion because a specific action and recommendation needs to be sent to the committee, or the administration would say it is too late to do anything because schedules would have been made.

VOTE:

- YES - Arness, Gross, Larned
- NO - Anderson, Tauriainen, Thibodeau, Obendorf
- Advisory Vote - NO

Motion to postpone failed.

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FACILITIES COMMITTEE  
 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
 ATTENDANCE AREAS/SCHOOL  
 SIZE PHILOSOPHY (cont.):

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

YES - Arness, Gross, Obendorf  
 NO - Anderson, Larned, Tauriainen, Thibodeau  
 Advisory Vote - NO

Motion failed.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve sending back the recommendation to the Facilities Committee for them to prepare a proposal to the Board where at least 30 or more students per year would transfer from Skyview High School to the Soldotna High School. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Gross, Larned, Tauriainen, Thibodeau  
 NO - Obendorf  
 Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the motion to change the middle school size from 500 to 750 students. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Mr. Arness commented it would be appropriate to receive information on the effective school size for the middle school. Mr. Jim Lewis, member of the Facilities Committee, commented research shows when dealing with core teams, student assistance programs and teaming activities that 500 students is an effective number. It would be appropriate to have this school size where this age level students need more individual attention. Dr. Anderson commented he had read the Facilities Committee information and did not see this from them, that high schools would be more financially effective at 1,500 to 1,800 students. He noted the KPSBD spends approximately \$2,000 per student more than Anchorage at the high school level and \$1,000 per student more at the junior high level. He felt it would be important that the committee provide additional information to the Board in a worksession.

## ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to table the whole motion.  
Dr. Anderson seconded.

YES - Anderson, Arness, Gross, Larned, Tauriainen, Thibodeau  
NO - Obendorf  
Advisory Vote - YES

Motion to table carried.

## RECESS:

At 8:50 p.m., Mrs. Obendorf called a recess.

## RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:03 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

## KPSAA ELIGIBILITY:

Mrs. Obendorf commented that public hearings had been conducted on the KPSAA eligibility guidelines and a motion to approve the guidelines had been postponed from the January 9, 1995 meeting. Mrs. Gross requested that public hearings be opened on the KPSAA eligibility guidelines. No members of the Board objected to the request.

Mr. David Carey told the Board they should not discriminate against home school students. He stated that where schools are supported by foundation funding and home schooled students are excluded, then the Board needed to close school gymnasiums to adult basketball programs, swimming programs, ski trails, etc. being used by people not covered by the foundation funding program. He noted all residents of the peninsula pay taxes for the schools, yet are discriminated by the state when the state does not provide supplemental money by the foundation formula. He felt home school parents do not agree with the morality and mediocre standards of the schools and, therefore, pay more than what is expected. He felt approval of the policy change would be wrong.

Mr. Wayne Mallett told the Board he and his wife home schooled their children. He commented he did not understand why a student was required to take three classes from a school when their children already meet all the requirements of the curriculum required set by the government. He felt this was discriminatory against students who could be an asset to the schools and their teams. He urged the Board to vote against the motion.

Mrs. Dawn Mallett addressed a question from Mr. Thibodeau regarding representation of school if they did not attend the school. She noted their son plays for Cook Inlet Academy and feels a part of the school. She stated he has a pride and excitement for that school and is just as capable as any other student in academic and social areas.



KPSAA ELIGIBILITY (cont.):

Mr. Tom Moore stated that as a tax payer and home schooling parent he felt this action of the Board was harassing and discriminatory. He noted that home school children interact with public school students on a weekly basis through the Boy's and Girl's Club, church functions, home visits, Little League, the Hockey Association, Boy and Girl Scouts, etc. He felt the home schooled student represented the school by participation in the extracurricular activities, not by being educated on the school grounds. He added that not all school children have the same particular characteristics and school spirit or attitude of a particular school, and the same is true for home schooled children. He felt the requirements to exclude home schooled students from extracurricular activities are unjustifiable.

Mr. Gene Palm requested the Board to open doors, not close them to other groups of people in the district. He noted the link should be open between home school families through as many activities as possible. He commented there was no reason that school and home schoolers couldn't benefit from the best of both worlds by working together.

Mr. Wayne Mize commented his family had benefited from a good working relationship with Sterling Elementary School and his home schooled children. He noted the current policy seemed to be working very well, and questioned if there was a problem he was unaware of. Dr. Bromenschenkel commented the recommendation was from KPSAA and intended to place definition in requirements currently in place by the Alaska School Activities Association. These requirements specify that students representing the school team must be enrolled in four courses leading to graduation and the student has passed four courses during the last semester. He noted the Board does not have the authority to change those rules, and the state does not allow home schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities. He noted teams do in fact represent the individual schools and the schools must comply with the requirements of ASAA in order to participate in games and state tournaments. However, ASAA requirements do not stipulate that the required courses are taken at the school in which the student attends, and KPSAA is attempting to clarify this eligibility requirement through the change. He added there is no attempt to discriminate against anyone who chooses another type of format for education other than the public school format. The intent is to have definition for those people who administer those programs. He added that ASAA governs programs at the high school level only.

KPSAA ELIGIBILITY (cont.): Mrs. Maggie Riley questioned where district correspondence students fit into this issue. She noted her students currently participate in Skyview High School wrestling and football, and have been awarded honors on their teams. She felt education is a right and everything after that is a privilege. If children of taxpayers are being offered the privilege, the privilege should be offered to all children of tax paying parents.

Mrs. Pam Lazenby, KPSAA parent representative, reported she had visited with approximately 100 parents and staff members on the issue. In addition, a flyer was sent to 425 parents and news articles have been written on the eligibility requirements. She had one teacher speak to her about the issue and one parent called on it. She spoke in support of the motion noting that we all make choices and with choice come privileges. One of the privileges is the opportunity to represent their school in extracurricular team activities. She did not feel these activities should be open to everyone in the district.

Mr. Mark Riley stated his two sons are on district correspondence and have participated in school extracurricular activities. When the eligibility issues came up this year, his children complied. He stated the district would be missing a lot of good students if they are excluded. He noted their students have been accepted at Skyview and they do have the school spirit. He added the arrangement is not best for everyone, but has been a good arrangement for his family. He did not see there was any reason to exclude home schoolers and there has been no real way taken to define eligibility.

Mrs. Peggy McGary stated most home schooled children take hard academic classes and this requirement would be an additional hardship to the students. She noted it did not appear that having the home schooled children in the classes would be an extra burden. She noted most home school parents set high academic standards for their children and would not allow the students to participate in extracurricular activities. She noted other states offer home school students to participate in public school programs.

Mr. Dave Ungrue stated he and his wife do not want to have their children excluded from high school sports because they teach their children at home. He noted they pay their fair share of taxes and do not want them excluded because they are not in the public curriculum.

KPSAA ELIGIBILITY (cont.):

Dr. Anderson clarified that the district cannot change ASAA rulings from participation and that district and state home schooled students qualify under the current regulations. Dr. Anderson stated if the students meet the eligibility requirements they should not be discriminated against.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved to amend the motion to read, "In order to represent a school in a co-curricular activity, a student must meet all district and ASAA eligibility requirements and live in the school's geographic confines." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Mr. Tauriainen commented that he felt the school district should be as inclusive as possible and should have as few barriers as possible for participation by the children within the district. He was supportive of Dr. Anderson's amendment.

Miss Baldwin stated she talked to many students within the district and had taken a poll of the students. The students' general consensus was that these students should be included in activities. Only Seward High school indicated that students should not come into the school for activities. The feeling was that kids like kids and did not want to discriminate against other groups for whatever reasons.

Mr. Arness, the Board's KPSAA representative, noted that the word "represent" opened the door for students to participate in activities, and that ASAA rules regulate whether students participate in school activities. He noted with the amendment this would eliminate schools from picking students who do not live within school's geographic area. He commented if the amendment is passed there would be a different requirement for home schooled students participation in the school within their area, whereas, students within the district can participate in activities outside of their geographic area if they meet all the eligibility requirements.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

- KPSAA ELIGIBILITY (cont.): Dr. Bromenschenkel noted there are a number of students attending schools which are not in the confines of their school area. Dr. Anderson commented the motion was intended for those people who are not enrolled in the usual fashion. Dr. Bromenschenkel asked that the Board rescind their action and direct the KPSAA Board to create a policy. Dr. Anderson disagreed stating the Board had asked KPSAA to do this and they had not done so.
- ACTION Mr. Arness served notice for reconsideration at the next meeting.
- BELUGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURE: Dr. Bromenschenkel requested the Board authorize the administration to begin the process to close the Beluga Elementary School at the end of the 1994-95 school year. He noted this has been a topic of discussion with the parents in Beluga for two years due to the declining enrollment. Educational options for the students would be district correspondence study, state correspondence study, private correspondence study programs and the school district boarding home program or for high school students attendance at Mt. Edgecombe High School or the Chemowah High School BIA in Oregon. All parents would be presented information on the educational options available.
- ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the Closure of Beluga Elementary School. Mrs. Gross seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR POLICY SERVICES: Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve contracting with the Association of Alaska School Boards for the purpose of revising and updating the district policy manual. He noted the cost for these contract services would be \$6,000 in addition to travel and related costs to be paid for facilitators.
- ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve authorization to contract for policy services. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- FIRST READING/POLICY 002.43R: Dr. Bromenschenkel presented the first reading on revisions to Policy 002.43R, Policy Manual Review. He noted the change has been reviewed by the Policy Review Committee on two occasions and appropriate changes have been made to make for a more manageable process and policy review services.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Arness stated he was disgusted with the comments made about the KPSAA Board, and felt the Board should get back to the business of doing what they are supposed to do. He did not feel it was appropriate to send things to committees with the intent of getting back only that which the Board desired in the way of recommendations.

Dr. Anderson extended an apology if his comments were out of line. He did not intend that his thoughts were any better than anyone else's. It was his feeling that some members of the committees have agendas which are entirely different from what the Board sends for in their recommendations.

Dr. Anderson encouraged the Board to attend SoHi's swing choir performance and dinner on Tuesday, February 21. He congratulated Ian Tracey on being the Northern Lights Conference's Most Valuable Hockey Player and Pat Nolden as Outstanding Coach.

He noted he would like the school board to consider a subscription to the California Textbook League Review, which evaluated textbooks.

Miss Baldwin commented she would be unable to attend the budget worksession on Tuesday because she would be playing volleyball in Homer.

Mrs. Obendorf announced the Board Budget Worksession would continue at the City of Soldotna chambers at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 21. The public is invited to attend as observers.

Mrs. Obendorf felt the Board should informally discuss their expectations of the committees they assign with various tasks.

Mrs. Obendorf extended best wishes to Miss Baldwin as a Junior Miss contestant.

Mrs. Obendorf inquired about the sponsorship of the textbook review service. Dr. Anderson responded that it was a private service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:30 p.m., Mrs. Gross moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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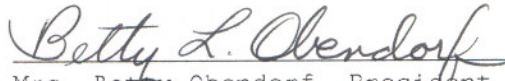
ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 11:02 p.m., Mrs. Gross moved the Board reconvene in regular session. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

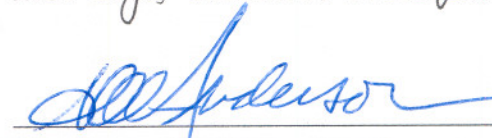
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 11:03 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of February 20, 1995,  
were approved on March 6, 1995,  
with a correction.