

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Seward High School  
Seward, Alaska

May 1, 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. Emery Thibodeau, Member  
Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Member  
Miss Mandy Baldwin, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent  
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,  
Operations, and Technology  
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Interim Assistant Superintendent,  
Instruction  
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Paul Sayan Mr. Malcolm Fleming  
Mr. Jim Simmeroth Mr. Bob Boyle  
Mrs. Ann Bayes Ms. Jennifer Carr  
Mr. Jerry Dixon Mr. Mike Wiley  
Mr. Dennis Sweeney Mr. David Dieckgraeff  
Mr. John Tuttle Ms. Liesl Davenport-Wheeler  
Ms. Judy Ragland Ms. Cheryl Richardson  
Mr. Pat Reilly Mr. Pat Shields  
Mr. Rick Gifford Ms. D Etta Scarborough  
Mr. Ralph Steeves Mrs. Angela McKinney  
Ms. Elaine VonBorstel

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Obendorf called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Miss Baldwin introduced Mr. Cameron Reitmeier, Seward High Student Body President, who led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Miss Baldwin welcomed Mrs. Liesl Davenport-Wheeler, music teacher, Seward High, and the swing choir students who sang the National Anthem and Spring Returns.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item 10b. Approval of Expulsion.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of April 17, 1995, were approved as written.

SEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
REPORT:

Mr. Bob Boyle, Seward Elementary Principal, reported on student activities, including a sixth grade wax museum, student research on the Internet, DARE Program, participation in forensics, geography and spelling bees, and a student archaeological dig on the beach near Seward. Mr. Boyle also reported that the three school goals for the 1994-95 school year were in the areas of behavior, math and wellness.

Mrs. Jennifer Carr reported on "Sights on Success" (S.O.S.), a discipline program which emphasizes student respect towards other students, staff and school property. The S.O.S. program has been so successful that the staff decided to take it a step further by rewarding students for positive behavior or scholastic achievement.

Mrs. D Etta Scarborough reported that the staff wanted to improve on math scores. They began by increasing the use of manipulatives. They felt that students understand math easier when they can see it in front of them. They created a library of videos and an inventory of manipulatives, available throughout the school, that could be checked out by teachers. Each grade level gave monthly presentations during staff meetings where strategies and materials were shared with other teachers.

Mr. Boyle reported on Seward Elementary's wellness goal which was aimed at both students and staff, and stated that the entire school has been participating in wellness activities.

Mr. Boyle praised the Seward Parent/Teacher/Student Association for their sponsorship of many school activities such as the science fair and parent resource center. He also stated that their fund raising efforts have been critical to Seward Elementary by supporting the school with over \$10,000 during the past few years. He thanked the many parent and community volunteers who donate countless hours toward the success of Seward Elementary.

Mr. Boyle expressed his concern over the projected growth of the Seward community during the next few years with the SAMS Project, Spring Creek expansion, and an increase in All American Cruise Lines.

He concluded his report with a multimedia show created by the Seward Elementary Student Council and presented by Seward Elementary students and staff.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Michael Wiley, Moose Pass, stated that he had the opportunity to participate in the district Analytical Writing Assessment. He supports the assessment project 100% but felt that some schools had an advantage by using computers that correct spelling and grammar. He suggested that minimum standards be established throughout the entire district in the area of writing, and to recognize those who achieve those writing standards on their diplomas. He also felt that a recognition of excellence should be noted on diplomas for those who surpass the writing standards. He commented on the high quality of many of the papers, and that special notations were made for those who scored 54 and above.

Mr. John Tuttle, Seward parent, spoke in support of the Handicapped Preschool Program. He feels that his son has made significant progress since last August. He asked the Board to reconsider the budget cuts for the Special Services Department and reinstate the program. He feels that with one more year his son could attend kindergarten as a normal child. He read a note from his son's doctor requesting continuation of his special needs classes three times a week.

Elaine VonBorstel, Seward parent, asked the School Board to reconsider cuts to the Special Services Handicapped Preschool. Her four year old son has the level of speech of a two year old, and is just now beginning to speak clearly enough for others to understand. With another year in the program, she feels that he will be ready for kindergarten. She felt that enrollment is low in this program because not enough parents know about it, and because completing the testing process takes quite a long time.

Cheryl Richardson, Anchor Point parent, spoke in opposition to the move of Chapman 7th and 8th grade students to Homer Jr. High. This move will greatly reduce her volunteer time at the schools. She stated that she specifically moved to Anchor Point because it was a small community and she could be more involved in her children's education.

Judy Ragland, Anchor Point parent, expressed her concern for the real reason behind the Chapman Elementary move. Originally she was told that Chapman students were being moved for budgetary reasons, and then later was told the reason was due to overcrowding. She stated that parents want to work effectively to resolve this issue, but can not if they do not know what the issues are.

Ann Bayes, Anchor Point parent, asked the Board to give the Chapman Elementary parents one year to work on future space needs, and weigh all the options available before deciding to move the Chapman students.

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**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**  
 (Continued):

Pat Shields, Anchor Point, stated that he is troubled by the adversarial relationship that seems to be developing between citizens of Anchor Point and the Board of Education and Administration. He asked the Board to consider a one year moratorium on the proposed Chapman move, and offered his cooperation and assistance during the summer to work on mutually acceptable solutions.

Pat Reilly, Seward, expressed his unhappiness towards the elimination of the Handicapped Preschool Program and feels that politics played a part in the decision.

Dr. Anderson explained that during the last few years the Special Services Program has grown dramatically in comparison with the regular education teachers. During the budget cutting period the Board felt that they could absorb five out of the 165 Special Services positions. With the help of the Special Education Director, a formula was developed that they felt would impact the least amount of students.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND  
 PETITIONS:**

Mrs. Obendorf announced she received letters from Micheal Wetherbee thanking Mrs. Gross for visiting Port Graham Elementary/High School and extending an invitation to the rest of the Board to visit; Mr. Waltraud Stockwell, for his concerns over the busing situation in Cooper Landing; Ila Dillon expressing concerns over Special Services budget cuts at Susan B. English Elem/High; Rick Ladd, Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association President, concerning the \$10,000 budget cut to the music festival program; Pam Lazenby expressing her support for the request to rescind teacher and administrator resignations; and Fran Butler expressing her support for the selection of Mr. Tom Thorpe as Assistant Superintendent, Instruction. Mrs. Obendorf stated that she received a fax from the Association of Alaska School Boards informing the Board that there are two Board of Director seats open and they are soliciting nominations. Interested Board members must submit their applications by June 1, with the approval of their Board of Education.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
 P.T.A., K.P.A.A.,  
 K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.:**

Ms. Angela McKinney, Anchor Point P.T.A. President, distributed a budget analysis of the proposal to move the Chapman Elementary 7th and 8th grade students to Homer Jr. High, and a resolution from the Chapman Elem Parent Teacher Association. She stated that Mrs. Obendorf met with the Chapman Elementary parents since the last Board meeting and asked for a proposal from the parents. She reviewed the budget analysis and the Chapman Proposal, and asked the Board to give the parents one year to work on finding a solution to this issue. During that time they propose to conduct surveys, solicit public input, provide community education, and gather information.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR  
 P.T.A., K.P.A.A.,  
 K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.  
 (Continued):

Mr. David Dieckgraeff, Seward P.A.C. President, reported that the new SAMS Project will be hiring 80-100 people by the time it is completed. The cruise lines are bringing in more ships which will increase tourism. He advised the Board to think about future facility plans for the additional students. Mr. Dieckgraeff also spoke in favor of keeping the Handicapped Preschool Program in Seward. He stated that his daughter benefited from the program and that he did not think this type of program could be delivered in a daycare setting. Mr. Dieckgraeff expressed his concerns over School Based Decision Making and what will be expected of the schools by the School Board. He stated that Seward is a unique community and he doesn't want to see all schools being forced into doing things only one way.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a report listing 1994-95 student accomplishments in the areas of extracurricular and academic. He congratulated all district winners and listed several students who placed first in the state competitions. He commented that, during the Alaska State Future Problem Solvers competition, every division was won by students from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. He felt this was a strong statement for district staff, students and programs.

RETIREMENT RECOGNITIONS:

Dr. Bromenschenkel announced there would be a retirement recognition reception on the evening of May 19 at the Kenai Merit Inn from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Retiring teachers, their principals, district administration, and school board members are invited to attend.

RECESS:

At 9:12 p.m. Mrs. Obendorf called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:26 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Extended Field Trip Requests, Furniture and Equipment List, Sponsor of Gaming Permit, Substitute Teacher Contract, Leave of Absence Requests/Certified, Resignation, and 1994-95 Teacher Appointments

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
 REQUESTS:

Mr. Thorpe recommended approval of extended field trip requests for Kevin Dougherty, Soldotna High teacher, to take the DECA students to St. Louis, Missouri, to participate in the National Career Development Conference; Sara Jones, Melody Schwartz and Teresa Toller to take Future Problem Solving state winners to participate in the international competition in Providence, Rhode Island; and Michael Boyle, Nikiski High teacher, to take the VICA students to Kansas City, Missouri to participate in their national conference.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT  
 LIST:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve the furniture and equipment list for the new Tustumena Elementary School Addition in the amount of \$83,753.

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**SPONSOR OF GAMING PERMIT:** Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve Resolution 94-95-5 which is a listing of 18 schools with their designated primary member in charge of gaming.

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT:** Mrs. Radtke recommended approval of a substitute teacher contract for Bev Welborn, Grade 5, North Star Elementary.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/CERTIFIED:** Mrs. Radtke recommended approval of unpaid leave of absence requests for Debbie Burnham, Grade 1, Sears Elementary; and Ann Dahl, Grade 3, K-Beach Elementary.

**RESIGNATION:** Mrs. Radtke recommended approval of a resignation for Lorri Heneveld, Grades K-3, Moose Pass Elementary.

**1994-95 TEACHER APPOINTMENTS:** Mrs. Radtke recommended approval of temporary teacher appointments for the 1994-95 school year for Vince Wagner, District Wide Speech Pathologist; and Paul Lakin, Math/Science/PE at Susan B. English Elementary.

**ACTION** Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SUSPEND POLICY 007.423, STUDENT TRANSFERS AND REGULATION 007.423R:** Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve to suspend Policy 007.423, Student Transfers; and Regulation 007.423R, Out-of-Area Attendance for the 1995-96 school year. This policy and regulation would be replaced by procedures that would continue to allow students to attend schools out of their boundary on a space-available basis.

The new procedures would be:

- A. Out of area students currently attending any high school shall be allowed to continue their enrollment in the school until they graduate
- B. Current eighth grade students shall be required to register in their school of assignment, and, if they wish to transfer, shall complete the Out-of-Area Attendance Request form at the time of their registration and submit it to the principal of each school.
- C. Transfers will be approved on a space-available basis, no later than ten days after the first day of school, or ten days after the request is made, whichever is earlier.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that the major concerns with the existing regulation are that it requires the annual approval of both sending and receiving principals and that all students wishing to transfer must register in their normal school of attendance and enroll in their regular school of attendance for at least the first ten (10) days of the school year.

SUSPEND POLICY 007.423,  
 STUDENT TRANSFERS AND  
 REGULATION 007.423R  
 (Continued):

Mrs. Bayes expressed concern for the students attending Homer High School who should be attending Nikolaevsk Elem/High, and Chapman Elementary eighth grade students who will be required to attend Homer Jr. High and then later attend Ninilchik High.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board suspend Policy 007.423, Student Transfers; and Regulation 007.423R, Out-of-Area Attendance for the 1995-96 school year and follow the new procedures as presented. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

After general discussion Mrs. Obendorf clarified that this policy and regulation suspension would be effective for the 1995-96 school year only, and that next year the Board will work on the boundary issue as one of their goals.

Dr. Bromenschenkel explained that principals would ultimately decide whether to take out-of-area students or not.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that the same Out-of-Area Forms will be used as in the past.

Motion carried unanimously.

REQUESTS TO RESCIND  
 RESIGNATIONS/TEACHERS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a request to rescind the resignations of Sherry Nauta, Sterling Elementary; Dawn Thorpe, Kenai Central; and Kathy Heus, Kenai Middle School.

ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve a request to rescind the resignations of Sherry Nauta, Sterling Elementary; Dawn Thorpe, Kenai Central; and Kathy Heus, Kenai Middle School. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Dr. Anderson stated that he was against this action in light of all the reductions already made to next year's budget.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Gross, Larned, Thibodeau, Obendorf

NO - Anderson

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

REQUEST TO RESCIND  
 RESIGNATIONS/  
 ADMINISTRATORS:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve a request to rescind resignations of Bob Macaulay, Assistant Principal, Homer High; and Tom Thorpe, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a request to rescind the resignations of Bob Macaulay, Assistant Principal, Homer High; and Tom Thorpe, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

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APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT  
 SUPERINTENDENT OF  
 INSTRUCTION:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve the appointment of Tom Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, effective July 1, 1995. Mr. Thorpe has been serving in this position in an interim capacity during the 1994-95 school year.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the appointment of Tom Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF HOMER HIGH  
 SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve the appointment of Richard Patton to the position of Homer High School Principal. Mr. Patton is currently principal of Garden City High School in Garden City, Kansas, a school of approximately 1,700 students. In addition to Mr. Patton's eight years of work as a high school principal, he served for eight years as an assistant principal at Columbus High, in Columbus, Nebraska.

Dr. Bromenschenkel remarked that he had a considerable amount of involvement from the Homer community during the entire hiring process. Members of the advisory committee appointed community members, teachers, support staff, and non-parent community members to participate in the interviews.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the appointment of Richard Patton to the position of Homer High School Principal.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING/POLICY AND  
 REGULATION:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented the first reading to Regulation 007.2, Due Process; Policy 007.12, Substance Abuse; Policy 006.76, Student Access; and Regulation 007.5, Student Fees.

The Board suggested adding the word "hearing" in place of the word "meeting" in the first paragraph of policy 007.2, and change the fee waiver wording and draft "fee collection" language in regulation 007.5R. This regulation would receive another reading at the next Board meeting.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Rick Gifford, Seward parent, expressed his concern for how the textbook/materials fee will be used, and what will happen if parents do not pay it.

Mrs. Bayes asked if the materials money that is collected would stay with the school.

Mr. Dennis Sewn, Seward High School, asked the Board how the \$30 fee was decided upon and what the money would be used for. He also questioned what would happen if fees were not collected. Mr. Sewn asked if money could not be collected, will the Board issue a voucher to use to replace lost revenue.



## BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson reported on his recent visit to San Francisco to attend the National School Board Conference. He stated that the Charlotte Mecklenburg School District publishes an extensive report card to the public listing each school individually by race, age, grade, and how many students passed their specific curriculum requirements. The parents also grade the schools and those results are published.

Mrs. Gross reported on the Legislative Fly-In held in Juneau early this week. She stated that it looks as though education will receive a \$61,000 unit value, and additional funding for additional students.

Miss Baldwin stated that a \$30 materials fee did not sound like a big investment when she has already paid approximately \$500 for the activities in which she participated this year. She stated that she would survey other students concerning the proposed fee and report back at the next Board meeting.

Mrs. Larned expressed her appreciation for the Seward Elementary School report, and especially enjoyed the foreign languages demonstration.

Mr. Arness expressed his frustration over being questioned at the podium by the public. He suggested that those persons with questions catch him during a break.

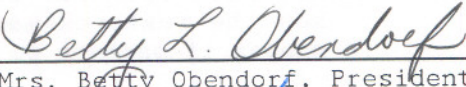
Mrs. Obendorf thanked Mr. Boyle for the fine presentation. She called the Board's attention to the graduation schedule and asked them to mark their calendars for the ones they are scheduled to attend. She stated that the next School Board meeting will be May 15 at the Borough Assembly Building in Soldotna.

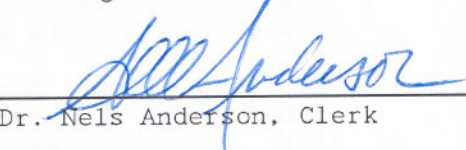
## ADJOURN:

At 10:35 p.m. Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

  
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Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of May 1, 1995,  
were approved on May 15, 1995,  
as written.