

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Homer High School
Homer, AK 99603

April 3, 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. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning, Operations, and Technology
- Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
- Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
- Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Hal Spence | Mr. Ken Satre |
| Mr. Mark Bergemann | Mrs. Mildred Martin |
| Mr. and Mrs. Mike Chitty | Mrs. Wanda Bonillas |
| Mr. Joe Gallager | Mr. Rick Matiya |
| Mr. Bryan Epley | Mr. Mark Leal |
| Mr. Lincoln Saito | Mr. Frank Garrity |
| Mr. Steve Gibson | Mr. Ron Drathman |
| Dr. Richard Krieger | Mrs. Diane Borgman |
| Mr. Lewis McLin | Ms. Annie Whitney |
| Ms. Diane Griechen | Mr. Don Heckert |
| Mr. Paul Sayan | Mrs. Deb Germano |
| Mr. and Mrs. Rick Ladd | Mr. James Simeroth |
| Mr. Mike Bundy | Mrs. Angela McKinney |
| Mrs. Anne Bayes | |
| 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 | Absent - Excused |
| Mr. Joe Arness | Present |
| Mrs. Susan Larned | Present |
| Mr. Michael Tauriainen | Absent - Excused |
| Mr. Emery Thibodeau | Absent - Excused |
| Miss Mandy Baldwin | Absent - Excused |

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed, with the addition of 2c, Homer Intermediate School Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 20, 1995, were approved as written.

SUSAN B. ENGLISH ELEM/HIGH SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Mark Bergemann, Principal, Susan B. English Elem/High, reported the school's two goals that have been accomplished. These goals included: 1) cross curricular planning, where four units have been completed and have been enhanced by a master schedule, and 2) technology, where lap top computers have been purchased and CD ROM inservice for teachers and staff has been conducted. He noted the school has accumulated \$17,000 over the past 15-20 years and the technology committee is researching ways to prepare Susan B. English School for the future. He noted the district's selection for the AASA Sallie Mae nomination was Kenneth Streater from Susan B. English School. He also reported on outstanding student athletic championships and student projects at the school. He noted the senior trip was an excellent experience for the students. He presented a request to the Board from the SBDM Committee and community for their consideration of allowing sixth grade student participation in interschool athletics. He stated small schools often do not have enough students to participate in some activities, and the request would be for home games only and an end of the year invitational. He presented a packet of information to the Board related to the request.

HOMER FLEX SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Lincoln Saito, Bilingual Coordinator and Supervisor of Homer Flex School, welcomed the Board to Homer and introduced the school's staff, who reported on the areas of academics, social services and employment. Diane Griechen spoke on the academic portion of the Flex School. She noted the school has new textbooks and computers after last year's fire. She noted the school follows the district's graduation requirements, the students attend school three hours each day before going to their jobs, and they have flexible hours for mothers. Annie Whitney reported the Flex School was established in January, 1990 and has served 158 students. She noted most students graduate or receive their GED. There is a low drop out rate and many students have gone on to post secondary, vocational training or the military. She also noted the school is considered a model within the state. Homer Flex requires students to hold a job or attend school five hours a day. On-the-job training can be obtained through the Homer Incentive Trust, a private

HOMER FLEX SCHOOL REPORT
(continued):

scholarship foundation, or the JTPA Program. Don Hekert reported on the Job Training Partnership Act Program which is funded through grants. He noted to date the school has received \$327,000 of which 42% goes to student wages and benefits. He noted the school has a driver training program, an excellent CD ROM computer program, and the prototype of the first PC approved simulator in the United States. Two students who will graduate this spring spoke on their experiences and the benefits they have received from attendance at the Flex School.

HOMER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
REPORT:

Mr. Rick Ladd, Principal, Homer Intermediate School, reviewed their goals which have been completed in technology, their intermural program, the geography program and a successful mathematics program. Shirly Gribble, mathematics teacher, explained the International Continental Mathematics League which her class participated in. Two students, Kathy Reinhart and Clayton Smith, were selected as National Leaders of the Year and received their medals from Mrs. Obendorf. Mr. Ladd noted Homer Intermediate students took first place in Knowledge Master competition this year. The school report concluded with a presentation on the Civil War which included a student narrated slide program, musical numbers and students reciting in unison the Gettysburg Address. The students were attired in costumes of the Civil War era.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Molly McNalley, Chairperson of the Sterling Elementary SBDM Council, requested the Board review their suggestions to the proposed boundary changes and how they affect Sterling Elementary School. Sterling Elementary School's advisory groups did not feel the proposed changes are good for the community, and requested the Board give them further consideration.

Ms. Julie Tertezini commented that good books are valuable and should be reused by other students through deposits or other means. She noted the Anchor Point parents and students had expressed valid concerns, and she felt the Board should be creative in providing the basic needs for those students, possibly through a school tax or other means.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mrs. Nancy Chambers, Anchor Point parent, commented she was a parent involved in the boycott during the day. She reported 160 students were absent from school. The purpose of the boycott was to let the Board know how strong parents feel about the issue of sending the 7th and 8th grade students to Homer next year. She noted this would be harmful to the students because of the length of time on the bus as well as limiting their involvement in extracurricular activities.

Mrs. Mildred Martin, Homer resident and former school board member, stated she realized the decisions of the school board were not easy ones, but felt the budget reduction to move Anchor Point students to Homer affected a small community more than any other reduction in the budget. She noted Anchor Point has always been committed to its students and education which produces more leaders percentage wise than any other schools because of its small school atmosphere. She requested the Board reconsider its action and give the community another year to work together on this.

Mr. Pat Shields told the Board he spoke at the meeting two weeks ago to state he did not want the Anchor Point students moved to Homer. He commented this was the only public testimony allowed on the proposed budget which made reductions that affected students in many ways. He felt representative government took a hit at the last meeting, but the issues are not dead as indicated by the boycott and number of people in attendance at the meeting. He asked that the Board keep an eye on the public process and keep the students in Anchor Point.

Mrs. Debra Germano, Homer parent, expressed concern related to changes in the hazardous bus routes in Homer, especially in areas where there are no sidewalks. She felt students were worth more than the \$10,000 savings proposed, and hoped the changes would not be adopted until sidewalks are installed. She noted that district committees should include more parents, although she felt there was a good balance of parents on the Site Based Decision Making Committee. She hoped that other committees would have the same portion of parent representation. She concluded by expressing concern on student fees and questioned the number of students that would be lost due to the cost of purchasing books.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mrs. Anne Bayes, Anchor Point parent, told the Board she was disappointed in the Board's decision to move the 7th and 8th grade students to Homer. She noted with Site Based Decision Making there is a two-way street with long range planning for the schools. She expressed concern on the savings, stating there would be no savings to the taxpayers. She asked the Board to work with the community regardless of the budget outcome because Anchor Point is a community that cares about its children.

Mr. Dale Wunderlich, Happy Valley Resident, commented he felt the Board's decision was done behind closed doors and in violation of the Open Meetings Act which leaves the board open to recall. He noted the students coming to Homer would give Homer 90% matching funds. He stated he would prove the allegations and if the Board cannot reconsider its decision he would advise the people of Anchor Point to go to recall.

McNEIL CANYON ELEMENTARY
PTA:

Mrs. Debra Germano, McNeil Canyon Elementary PTA/Community Council Chairperson, told the Board it had been a good year at the school and she expressed appreciation to Principal Glen Szymoniak for his energy and efforts to improve the school. She noted the staff had been reorganized to best serve the students through the elimination of a physical education teacher. She requested the Board review the staffing and policy 001.15, PTR, to assist the school next year.

CHAPMAN ELEMENTARY PTA:

Mrs. Angela McKinnery, Chapman Elementary PTA Chairperson, told the Board their largest concern was \$80,000 and this would not be a savings with added teacher positions from information she presented. She read a resolution from the Chapman PTA which requested the School Board reconsider their decision to move the Chapman School 7th and 8th grades to Homer Middle School for the 1995-96 school year. The resolutions also charged Anchor Point residents with the responsibility of working with the Board to plan for the continued growth and maximum utilization of facilities on the Lower Peninsula. She requested this be placed on the agenda to be resolved.

RECESS:

At 8:53 p.m., Mrs. Obendorf called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:06 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

AASB ACADEMY AWARD
CERTIFICATES:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented an AASB Academy Award Certificate to Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross for her participation in training with the Association of Alaska School Boards. The second recipient of the award was Mr. Tauriainen who was absent from the meeting.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a report on the Hazardous Bus Route Study Committee. The committee reviewed all hazardous bus routes in the district. Their recommendations included changes to winter only applications to three routes in Homer (routes 60, 62, 70), winter only application for two Mt. View Elementary routes (routes 11A, 32A), elimination of the Redoubt Elementary hazardous routes, elimination of three Soldotna Elementary routes (routes 31A, part of 36A, 39A), and winter only application for Seward Elementary route 4.

Superintendent Bromenschenkel presented information to the Board related to HB 230 which, if approved, would reduce the foundation formula and result in additional reductions of \$600,000 for the 1995-96 year and \$1.3 million for the 1996-97 year. He urged the Board and constituents to contact the legislators about this detrimental action to education.

BOUNDARY CHANGE REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reported the Facilities Committee worked on the premise that schools should not be overcrowded, should be close to equal in population and should offer similar programs. From that criteria and projected enrollment for the central peninsula high schools, the committee felt adjustments needed to be made to Skyview High School boundaries since that high school will be over its rated capacity. A boundary change will move Funny River Road and St. Theresa Road students to Soldotna High School. In addition, elementary students from the St. Theresa Road would be transferred to Soldotna Elementary to alleviate crowding at Sterling Elementary.

He presented an additional report to the Board related to other bus routes with numbers of students on those routes. He noted the principal of Sterling Elementary had been informed of the boundary change report.

**ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES
REPORT:**

Mr. Thorpe presented recommendations from the Districtwide Assessment Guidelines Committee. Included in those recommendations were a review of current report card/grade practices, that kindergarten should be open-ended in terms of enrollment with an assessment tool being adopted to determine first grade entry readiness, and that a senior course entitled "Senior Seminar", which would be project based, should be added.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda consisted of Approval of Extended Field Trip Request.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP
REQUEST:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for two Ninilchik High School students to attend the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, May 2-8, 1995.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECONSIDERATION OF
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Mr. Thorpe reported the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee met on March 9, 1995 to review the book "Jumper" by Stephen Gould as requested by a parent of a Skyview High School student. The committee recommended this book remain in high school libraries as a literary selection of choice but not as required reading for a curricular class.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the recommendations of the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1995-95 ADMINISTRATOR
ASSIGNMENTS:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve 1995-96 administrator assignments as follows: John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning and Operations; Unknown, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction; Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management; Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel; Rick Matiya, Director, Alternative Schooling/Bilingual Program; Jim White, Director, Data Processing; *Diane Borgman, Director, Elementary Education; *Paul Epperson, Director, Secondary Education; Don Boehmer, Director, Special Services; Unknown, Director, Technology; and Roy Anderson, Coordinator, Special Services. *Position titles, job description to be redefined which has resulted in the elimination of one FTE position within the Instruction Department.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the 1995-96 administrator assignments as recommended. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING/POLICY 007.5
STUDENT FEES:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented the first reading on Policy 007.5, Student Fees. He noted the policy, when approved, will enable the administration to institute textbook/materials fees as proposed in the formulation of the 1995-96 budget. The policy had received legal review and it was the attorney's opinion that such fees could be legally charged to students within the district.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Mike Bundy, Homer High School teacher, requested the Board carefully review the student fee policy. He told the Board that under compulsory attendance laws he did not think fees could be charged for supplies/materials/textbooks for required classes, but could for extracurricular classes. He noted that many elective courses already require fees for materials. He questioned where the fees would go when collected. Would the funds stay in the school or go to other schools? He felt the funds should remain in the originating schools.

Miss Joy Epley, Anchor Point student, told the Board she supported the Chapman School PTA resolution related to not sending the Anchor Point students to Homer.

Mrs. Debra Germano told the Board she supported the Anchor Point parents and asked that the Board consider a compromise and delay the transfer for a year.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Gross reported she had very good visits to Port Graham and Seldovia last week. She encouraged that other school board members visit those schools "across the Bay."

Mrs. Gross requested an excused absence from the April 17 School Board Meeting.

Mrs. Gross encouraged parents to write to the legislators related to educational funding. She noted she would be attending the Legislative Fly-in on April 23 in Juneau.

Mrs. Obendorf corrected comments made earlier in the school board meeting. She noted the School Board does not hold meetings in secret; all budget meetings were advertised in November. She noted public hearings and worksessions on the budget were open to the public. In addition, a meeting was held in Anchor Point to address the issue. Comments were erroneous that the meeting on April 3 was the first opportunity to speak to the Anchor Point issue.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mrs. Obendorf requested the administration prepare a brief report on how \$80,000 would be saved by the move of students from Anchor Point to Homer. She noted she would also be attending the Legislative Fly-in later in April to talk to legislators about funding and other educational issues.


Mrs. Obendorf announced the next school board meeting would be held on Monday, April 17, 1995, 7:30 p.m., in the Borough Assembly Room, Soldotna.

ADJOURN:

At 9:50 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President


Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of April 3, 1995,
were approved on April 17, 1995,
as written.