

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

December 5, 1994

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: Mrs. Mary Toutonghi Mr. James Simeroth
Mr. Mark Leal Mr. Glen Szymoniak
Mr. John Kistler Ms. Martine Dikes
Mr. Josh Weatherman Mr. Joel Kopp
Mr. James Cannava Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. Don Oberg Mr. Paul Epperson
Mrs. Diane Borgman Mr. Lee Stalker
Mr. Jay Sauer Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Obendorf called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Obendorf invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by James Cannava, Student Body President at Soldotna High School. The pledge was followed by the Star Spangled Banner sung by Josh Weatherman of Kenai Central High School.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item 9c, Audit Report.

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- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of November 7, 1994, were approved as written.
- HOMER MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Mark Leal, Homer Middle School Principal, updated the Board on happenings at his school since the inclusion of the middle school concept. He spoke on the project oriented instruction taking place, writer's and reader's workshops, extracurricular classes, student-led conferences, transition approach for students, and the importance of team planning time. He praised the support of parents and community to the school.
- MCNEIL CANYON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT: In keeping with the School Based Decision Making approach, Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Principal of McNeil Canyon Elementary School, was assisted by five students who reported to the Board on events occurring at their school. The students, Jennifer Bolsinger, Mathew Beaumont-Gay, Arinda Brooks, Bonnie Brudie, and Shenoah Perry, reported on their student council, school goals, projects to help their community, methods used to raise funds for their school, the school's critical incident plan, technology and computer networking, school activities, the intervention program, and the excellent staff who assist the students.
- WELCOME: Mrs. Obendorf acknowledged the presence of students from Mr. Sauer's Government Class at Soldotna High School.
- GREENSTAR PROGRAM: Mr. Joel Kopp, Coordinator for the GreenStar Program, apprised the Board of the program and encouraged their support through adoption of a districtwide environmental policy as a guide to the schools, and establishment of a GreenStar Committee with representatives from interested schools. He invited the Board to attend a workshop on Friday, December 9 at Kenai Peninsula College which would further explain ways schools can be involved in saving money and energy through recycling and reducing waste. He noted six KPBSD schools have expressed interest in the program.
- COMMUNICATION AND PETITIONS: Dr. Bromenschenkel announced School Board President Betty Obendorf received the Outstanding School Board Member Award from the Association of Alaska School Boards at their annual meeting in November. Mrs. Obendorf was recognized for her exemplary service to education within the state of Alaska and, particularly, the Kenai Peninsula.

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- K.P.E.A: Mr. Jim Simeroth, KPEA President, introduced Mrs. Mary Toutonghi, who spoke at length on the need for the district to work in a proactive manner to address the needs of medically fragile students, particularly those with respiratory and feeding problems. She encouraged the Board to establish a committee to include school and community representatives which would address these needs. The committee would work towards policy development prescribing the manner in which staff and parents should receive proper training and appropriate IEP program development.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a written report on his analysis of the district policy manual. He noted the district policy manual contains 305 policies and regulations, which according to policy, require Board of Education review during a three year period. He felt this was an inordinate number of policies for the Board to review, and recommended the Board consider a policy maintenance service which is available through the Association of Alaska School Boards. A representative from this organization will present information to the Board in a worksession prior to their February 6 meeting.
- FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ended October 31, 1994.
- TESTING REPORT: Mr. Epperson presented the test scores for the 1993-94 school year for the state mandated ITBS tests, and the district's Curriculum Referenced Tests and Analytic Writing Assessment.
- RECESS: At 9:07 p.m., Mrs. Obendorf called a recess.
- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 9:20 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Extended Field Trip Requests, 1994-95 Teacher Assignments, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Resignation, Early Graduation Requests, and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

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EXTENDED FIELD TRIP
REQUESTS:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 45 Homer High School choir students to travel to Los Angeles, California, to participate in the Educational Field Studies, Inc. Performing Arts Tour, April 19-24, 1995; for 15 jazz band students from Nikiski Jr/Sr High School to travel to Anaheim, California, April 17-23, 1995, to participate in the Heritage National Music Festival and Competition; and for 28 Nikiski Jr/Sr High School choir students to participate in the Heritage National Music Festival and Competition and perform at Disneyland at Anaheim, California, April 17-23, 1995.

1994-95 TEACHER ASSIGN-
MENTS:

Mrs. Radkte recommended the Board approve 1994-95 teacher assignments for Johanna Idzerda, Generalist, Voznesenka School (Temporary); and Lorrel Ludy, Special Education/Severe Education (half-time), Soldotna Middle School (Temporary).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/
CERTIFIED:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 1995-96 school year for Carolyn Maslow, Grades 5-6, Homer Intermediate.

RESIGNATION:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of Susan Hatch, Vision Impaired Specialist, Districtwide, effective November 28, 1994.

EARLY GRADUATION REQUESTS:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve two early graduation requests for juniors at Seward High School. Both students plan to graduate in May, 1995.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/
SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for Lorrel Ludy, Special Education Assistant, Kenai Middle School, effective November 28, 1994 through May 26, 1995.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY 006.32, ASSESSMENT:

Mr. Thorpe presented the revised Policy 006.32, Assessment, which defines the focus and purpose of the assessment program within the district. Guidelines for the policy will be completed by spring, 1995.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Policy 006.32, Assessment. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Mr. Kistler asked for a clarification on the numbering of the policy, and encouraged that the policy be approved.

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ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved the Board insert after "foundation skills" the words "(reading, etc.)." Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL CALENDARS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the 1995-96 calendar and give tentative approval to the 1996-97 and 1997-98 calendars. The calendar for 1995-96 would have students beginning on August 23, 1995 and end May 23, 1996. Teacher inservice days begin on August 16, 1995 with the last teacher work day on May 24, 1996. The winter break would be December 16 through January 1 followed by spring break March 16 through March 24. He noted there was general consensus that school should begin before Labor Day and end prior to Memorial Day. He noted discussion was made related to ending the semester prior to the winter break, however, this change was not made for the 1995-96 calendar.

In response to questions from Mr. Tauriainen, Mr. Dahlgren commented the three inservice days at the beginning of the school year are counted as student contact days, which receive approval from the Department of Education.

Mr. John Kistler commented he felt the school calendar was driven by the negotiated agreements where the Board needed to think of the students first, and put the contracts behind the students.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the 1995-96 calendar. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Dr. Anderson stated he would vote against the calendar because it did not accommodate the requests on the surveys where some parents felt school should start after Labor Day and have a long Christmas break. He felt the calendar was built to accommodate high school sports.

Mr. Tauriainen commented he felt school should begin after Labor Day. He also felt the Board should consider lengthening the school day to shorten the calendar. He felt starting in the middle of August was unfair to students.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

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ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board tentatively approve the tentative calendars for 1996-97 and 1997-98. Mr. Arness seconded.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

MAJOR MAINTENANCE CAPITAL
PROJECTS/1995:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a listing of major maintenance capital projects for 1995 which would be forwarded to the Borough Assembly where they would become part of their legislative list. He noted the list was not prioritized, but was segmented by legislative districts. On question from Dr. Anderson on whether the borough or legislature would fund items on the list, Mr. Dahlgren responded if some of the projects are not funded by the state he would request the borough to fund them due to the necessity of the projects.

Mr. John Kistler commented a long term plan was needed to keep the school facilities functioning. He noted wishing for funding was not realistic, but long term planning should take place.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved the Board approve the Major Maintenance Capital Project Legislative List 1995. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING/POLICY
REVISIONS:

Mr. Thorpe presented the first reading to Policies 002.23, Beliefs and Mission Statement; 006.3, Instructional Program, and Regulation 006.3R, Instructional Program. Dr. Bromenschenkel commented the revisions were presented to the Board as requested previously by them as the policies fit into the policy manual.

The Board offered suggestions to make grammatical changes, include "parents and students" in 006.3R, and omit the phrase "which are free of sex bias" (in the context of all biases). Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended that the phrase be restated "which are free of bias." The administration would review federal regulations related to language on non-bias. Dr. Anderson commented that the objectives in Policy 006.3,

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FIRST READING/POLICY
REVISIONS (cont.):

are not measurable, and expressed concern for artificially dividing the curriculum in Regulation 006.3R. He felt language should be placed in the regulation to unify the curriculum areas as needed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. John Kistler extended holiday greetings to the Board and administration.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Thibodeau expressed appreciation to Dr. Bromenschenkel for his work on the policy review process within the school district. He felt the policies are the foundation of the school district.

Miss Baldwin thanked Mrs. Obendorf, Dr. Bromenschenkel and Mr. Thorpe for attending the recent KCHS presentation.

She noted her dissenting vote on the calendar was because students wanted the semester to end before the Christmas break. Students did not like to return from the holiday and take their final exams.

Mr. Tauriainen requested the Board seriously consider extending the length of the day by 5 to 15 minutes per day. He asked that the administration prepare a report on this. Dr. Bromenschenkel suggested the administrative council review the issue and prepare a report for the next meeting. He cautioned the Board about expanding the expectations of the administration since they are heavily involved in the strategic plan and the ten strategies approved by the Board.

Mr. Tauriainen commented he favored Mr. Kistler's suggestion that the district consider long term planning for the school facilities.

He commented there were many policies and suggested they be combined, simplified or deleted.

Dr. Anderson commented that due to necessity the district may have to unify the secondary school schedules in order to allow some efficiencies. This might possibly be considered during the budget process.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Dr. Anderson suggested the Board write a column in conjunction with the three peninsula newspapers on a regular basis. He felt it was important that school information be known by the public. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded that he is working on a key communicators list where he would be supplying information to the public. His plan was to provide information periodically on various topics important to the school district such as the strategic plan, financial circumstances and the budget, etc.

Mrs. Gross commented she was pleased to attend the AASB Conference and was impressed with the speakers. She noted concern had been expressed about requirements placed on the alternative schools. She requested a future worksession on alternative schools.

She commented that she visited the Polar Theater which has been converted to a K-12, no frills school. She noted it appeared it was functioning well.

Mrs. Gross requested the Board review the extracurricular program in the district and consider the idea of allocating funds to schools on a per student basis.

Mrs. Obendorf complimented the KCHS students on the program they presented.

She asked for a volunteer to attend the December 13 Borough Assembly meeting. Mr. Thibodeau volunteered to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Obendorf suggested the Board consider ceasing business at their meetings at 11:30 p.m., similar to action of the Borough Assembly.

Mrs. Obendorf announced the Board will hold a worksession on Monday, December 19 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to review items for the budget.

Mrs. Obendorf questioned how the three snow days would be made up. Mr. Thorpe responded the administration will request "forgiveness" from the Commissioner of Education for the November 10 and 17 closures. The November 21 snow day will be made up on Good Friday in April.

Mrs. Obendorf reminded the Board of the mid-year goal review session on January 12.

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BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mrs. Obendorf announced committee appointments for school board members: Mari-Anne Gross - Facilities, Instructional Technology, Legislative Liaison; Emery Thibodeau - Policy Review, Calendar, Tech. Prep/Vocational Advisory; Nels Anderson - Budget, Curriculum, Hazardous Bus Routes; Joe Arness - Materials Reconsideration, KPSAA, Teacher Evaluation; Susan Larned - Facilities, Budget; Mike Tauriainen - Awards & Presentations, Site Based Decision Making; and Betty Obendorf - Assessment.

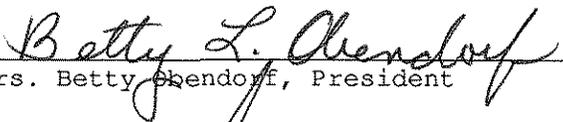
Mrs. Obendorf announced the next Board Meeting would be held on January 9, 1995.

ADJOURN:

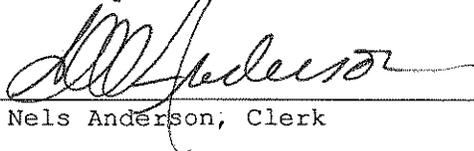
At 10:43 p.m., Mr. Tauriainen moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



 Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President



 Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of December 5, 1994,
 were approved January 9, 1995,
 with a correction.