

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent

January 8, 2001

NEWS IN BRIEF

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Mike Wetherbee, Ninilchik Elementary/High School principal, highlighted activities at the K-12 school. He reported on the school's common reading hour and recent Division 2A first place finishes in wrestling and girls' basketball. He gave a Hyperstudio presentation created by two students that featured the book, *What Did I Find?* Mr. Wetherbee explained that the Hyperstudio project will be used to assist students in reading. Mr. Chris Hanson, teacher, explained a project involving the rearticulation of animal skeletons and displayed a porcupine skeleton that was assembled by Ninilchik students. He noted that he has a sea otter and a beluga whale for the students to work on in the future.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented golden apple awards to Ted Notter, Programmer Analyst and to David Henson, Programmer, for playing a major role in the advances the District has made in the area of technology and computer networking.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Peterson reported that the Technology Group will present the technology plan to the Borough Assembly on January 23 at 3:00 p.m. She stated that the Long Range Planning Session will be held on January 25-26 and that she expects over 60 people to attend. Dr. Peterson announced that Microsoft Tech World featured the District in a recent publication. She stated that she received a check from BP internal affairs for technology. Dr. Peterson stated that even though Project Impact has been scaled back, they will continue to retrofit District facilities with seismic bracing for light fixtures. She reported that the District is grieving the loss of Bob Pennington, borough electrician, who was recently killed in an accident.

Substitute Teacher Contracts: The Board unanimously approved substitute teacher contracts for Mary Bailey, speech therapist, Sears Elementary; Ann Fantz, math/social studies, Moose Pass School; Tanya Erwin, physical education, Soldotna Elementary; and Sharon Ganser, Grade 1/2, Seward Elementary.

New Teacher Assignments: The Board unanimously approved teaching contracts for Teresa Cowart, Grade 6 (temporary), K-Beach Elementary; Jennifer Jones, Title I reading (temporary), Tustumena Elementary; Karen Ruebsamen, middle school coordinator (temporary), Soldotna Middle; and Jill Wilson, generalist (temporary), Homer Flex School.

Budget Transfer: The Board unanimously approved budget transfer Number 140 which transfers \$16,872 to purchase a dual unit tape drive backup system for centralized services.

Homer Charter School Name Change: The Board unanimously approved the Homer Charter School Academic Policy Committee's request to change the name of Homer Charter School to Fireweed Academy. If approved, the administration will forward the request on behalf of the Board to the Borough Assembly.

Bartlett Elementary/High School Name Change: The Board unanimously approved the Tyonek community's request to change the name of E. L. Bartlett School to Tebughna School. If approved, the administration will forward the request on behalf of the board to the Borough Assembly.

AR 5111, Early Entrance: The Board unanimously approved revisions to AR 5111, Early Entrance, in an effort to address possible ambiguity in the process.

AR 5123, Promotion/Acceleration/Retention: The Board unanimously approved revisions to AR 5123, Promotion/

Acceleration/Retention, that would allow a student to attain sophomore class standing by passing four credits rather than five; allow more students the opportunity to take the HSGQE in their second year of high school; and allow more students to keep up with their cohort age group.

Resolution 00-01-9, Public Employee Retirement System: The Board unanimously approved Resolution Number 00-01-09 to amend KPBSD's PERS Participation Agreement to continue PERS participation for Board Members. In the past, compensated elected officials were statutorily included in PERS but that effective August 20, 2000, employers that wish to include elected officials in the PERS must amend their Participation Agreement to state that elected officials are an included classification.

Charter School Budget Adjustment: The Board unanimously approved general fund transfers to Aurora Borealis Charter School, which was under funded by \$72,457 and to Homer Charter School, which was under funded by \$953. The adjustments were made based upon their actual enrollments as determined at the conclusion of the count period.

FY 01 General Fund Budget Revision: The Board unanimously approved revisions to the FY01 budget to accommodate a revenue shortfall of \$462,964. Reductions were made in the categories of salary/fringe benefits, professional/technical services, equipment/technology, travel, and utilities. An increase was budgeted in the supplies and other expenses categories.

BP 5111, Admission: The Board unanimously approved revisions to BP 5111, Early Entrance, in an effort to address possible ambiguity in the process.

School Board Vacancy Replacement: During a public worksession, the Board interviewed Betsy A. Arbelovsky, Norm Brennan, Michael D. Dunn, Eugene L. Dyson, Chris Fischer, Barrett Fletcher, Margaret Gilman, Debra Holle, D. Roger Liebner, Holly Norwood, Sandra P. Wassilie, and James N. Wolverton, Jr., applicants for Seat C vacated by Mr. Chenault. The Board unanimously selected Sandra P. Wassilie to fill the vacancy. Ms. Wassilie will be sworn in on January 22, 2001, and serve until October 2001.

Administrator Appointment: The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Gary Whiteley as assistant superintendent of Instruction for the 2001-2002 school year.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS: The Board heard a first reading of BP 6146, Graduation Requirements and Standards of Proficiency; BP 4119.23, 4219.23, 4319.23, Unauthorized Release of Confidential Information; and BP 5137, Positive School Climate.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, January 22, 2001, 7:30 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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