

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

June 7, 1999

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Ms. Deborah Germano, Treasurer

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Miss Charise Calvert, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management

Dr. Donna Peterson, Director, Curriculum and Staff Development

Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Gene Dyson

Mrs. Karen Mahurin

Mr. Todd Syverson

Mr. Pete Sprague

Mr. Don Glaze

Mr. Mick Wykis

Mr. Justin George

Mr. Don Oberg

Ms. Terri Woodward

Mr. Dave Spence

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Debra Mullins, Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Mr. Joe Arness, Mrs. Susan Larned, Ms. Deb Germano, Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross and Dr. Nels Anderson, were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 1:33 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Specifically, the executive session was to conduct a non-retention hearing, two Level III grievance hearings and a student expulsion hearing. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:32 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Joe Arness	Present
	Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
	Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
	Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
	Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
	Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
	Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
	Miss Charise Calvert	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with revisions to Items 10a.(3), 10a.(4), 10a.(6), 10a.(7) and 10h. Item 10g.(1) Approval of Budget Transfer Number 685 was added, and Item 10c. Approval of KPESA Negotiated Agreement was deleted from the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of May 17, 1999, were approved as printed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Ms. Pamela Hershberger, parent, noted that the state and region basketball tournaments for 3AA and 4AA schools are scheduled during the District 1999-2000 spring break. She expressed concern that students and parents would be forced to choose between basketball and family spring break activities. She asked the Board to consider moving spring break to allow basketball teams that qualify the opportunity to participate in the tournaments.

Mr. Arness stated that the Alaska Association of School Activities (AASA) chose to change the dates for the basketball tournaments, and at this point, there is nothing that can be done. He explained that the District calendar has already been published, and many activities have been scheduled for next year.

Ms. Germano responded that spring break has been placed where it is because it was coordinated with the sports programs. She stated that there is never a good date for spring break when considering activities at the high school level.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that if spring break were a week earlier, students would choose to stay home for basketball practice because they would want to participate.

Mr. Arness stated that the Board will be aware of the basketball schedule when considering the calendar for the following year.

Ms. Ingram, parent, expressed her unhappiness about not receiving a response regarding the information distributed to the administration at a prior Board meeting detailing her dealings with Soldotna High. Ms. Ingram summarized issues concerning her son and requested a response.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he has asked Mr. McLain to investigate the points in Ms. Ingram's letter. Mr. Dahlgren stated that Mr. McLain has been in contact with Mrs. Reynolds and she will respond.

Mr. Arness told Ms. Ingram that someone would contact her before the end of the week.

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

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA president, reported that the KPESA negotiated agreement has not yet been ratified but from the favorable response, she did not expect any problems. She stated that a letter should be submitted within the next ten days.

Mrs. Mahurin stated that she was not able to attend the retirement ceremony for Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke but wanted to publicly thank them for their many years of service to the District. She stated that she first met Mr. Dahlgren when he was the principal of KCHS and her child was a student there. She stated that her daughter's high school experience was positive and she thanked Mr. Dahlgren for his patience. She commended the Board for hiring Mr. Dahlgren as superintendent of schools. Mrs. Mahurin stated that she worked more closely with Mrs. Radtke and feels that there is a great respect and a liking for each other. Mrs. Mahurin stated that Mrs. Radtke does the work of more than two full-time positions. She suggested the Board take that into consideration during budget preparation time. She extended her thanks to Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke and wished them a long and happy retirement.

Mr. Don Glaze, KPAA president, stated that the association is anxious to have the KPAA negotiated agreement approved. He announced that he is the outgoing president and that the new president is Mr. Hank Overturf. He stated that the KPAA treasurer is Ms. Trena Richardson.

Mr. Glaze thanked Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke and other central office administrators for their hard work. He stated that moral in schools is high this year and gave credit, in part, to the relationship between the central office and school administrations. He stated that he appreciated the hard work by the Board on behalf of the teachers, administrators and students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that the goal setting session will be held at Soldotna High School at 9 a.m. on June 8 in the library. He stated that Dr. Peterson will conduct the session.

Mr. Dahlgren extended his appreciation to the support staff, certified staff, administrative staff, and the School Board. He stated that it is an honor to be the superintendent of such a fine district. He stated that throughout the many conferences and statewide meetings, he is proud to tell others about the District. He stated that he feels that he is leaving the District in good hands. He wished the Board and the District the best in the upcoming years.

One Percent for Art at Tustumena Elementary:

Mr. Hickey reported that in compliance with the Art in Public Places Statute, 1% of the cost of the Tustumena Elementary Addition project has been dedicated to the purchase of an acrylic painting for the library wall and a ceramic and tactile display for the main foyer area of the building. He stated that the art selections were made as a result of meetings with Mr. Spence and the Tustumena community.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Early Graduation Request, Substitute Teacher Contract, Teacher Assignments 1999-2000, Resignations, Budget Transfer, Tentative Nontenure Teaching Appointment, and Request for Leave of Absence/Support

Early Graduation Request:

By memorandum, Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Homer High School student.

Substitute Teacher Contract:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Angela Koehler, activities, Kenai Central High and Susan Nabholz, math, Kenai Central High.

Teacher Assignments 1999-2000:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 1999-2000 school year for Heather Truesdell, (temporary) English, Skyview High; Robert Keller, special education/resource, Seward Middle/High; Jamie Harper, special services program manager; Matthew Estill, special education/resource, Kenai Central High; Ann Fantz, Grades 3-5, Moose Pass Elementary; Leanne Marlow, Grades K-2, Moose Pass Elementary; and Debbie Dover, (temporary) Grade 2, K-Beach Elementary.

- Resignations: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1998-99 school year for William Hague, principal/teacher, Hope School; David Cain, school psychologist, District Wide Special Services; Donna Rae Faulkner, physical science, Homer High; Dudley Homelvig, English/physical education/vocational education, Kenai Central High; and Michael Stockburger, generalist, Kenai Alternative.
- Budget Transfer: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a budget transfer to cover costs of temporary wages necessary to process increased freight during the summer months.
- Tentative NonTenure Teaching Appointment: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 1999-2000 school year for Nancy Boyle, language arts/QUEST, Seward Middle/High School; Heidi Farrand, music, Seward Elementary; Julie Ball, kindergarten, Aurora Borealis; and Kristina Owens, Grades 3-6, Homer Charter.
- Request for Leave of Absence/Support: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year, unpaid leave of absence for the 1999-2000 school year for Janice Northey, secretary II, Soldotna Middle School and Roxanne Kaloa, Title IX tutor, Bartlett Elementary/High School.
- ACTION Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve Consent Agenda items Numbers 1 through 7. Mrs. Mullins seconded.
- Dr. Anderson stated that he objected to two teachers taking leave for Parvol B19. He stated that these actions are contrary to the Center for Disease Control and the American Academy of Pediatric Committee's report on isolations for Parvol B19. He commented that during the times of tight budgets, he has a hard time recommending substitute teachers for isolations that organized medicine has decided is not appropriate. Mrs. Radtke stated that she asked for and received documentation and justification from both teachers' physicians.
- Ms. Germano stated that the salary budget transfer is an annual occurrence and asked why it is not normally included in the budget. Mr. Hickey stated he would find out the answer and report back.
- Ms. Germano asked what items were offered for sale during the student nutrition sale. Mr. Hickey stated that food with a shelf life is sold.
- Ms. Germano asked how much food is left at the end of the school year. Mr. Hickey stated that it depends on the food item. He stated that he would find out and provide more detailed information.

Request for Leave of Absence/Support
(Continued):

Motion carried unanimously.

KPEA Negotiated Agreement:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the 1999-2002 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Negotiated agreement as presented.

ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the 1999-2002 Kenai Peninsula Education Association Negotiated agreement. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

KPAA Negotiated Agreement: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the 1999-2002 Kenai Peninsula Administrators' Association Negotiated agreement as presented.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the 1999-2002 Kenai Peninsula Administrators' Association Negotiated Agreement. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Student Expulsion: Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of DM.

ACTION

This matter was heard by the Board on June 7, 1999.

FINDINGS: The evidence showed that on May 6, 1999, the student hit a female student on the buttocks as she walked past. She told another student, JF, that it hurt. JF turned to DM and said that he should stop hitting the female student. DM picked up an exacto knife and threw it diagonally across a table towards JF. It punctured JF's hand, who then showed his bloody hand to the teacher. Upon questioning by the assistant principal, DM first denied and then admitted throwing the knife, stating that JF is not his father and cannot tell him what to do. A police officer arrested DM, who was taken to the juvenile intake officer, but all criminal charges have been dropped. Evidence also showed that the student was previously suspended for one day, on April 16, 1999, for attempted assault. Additional evidence showed that DM was removed from his home by the state in February, 1999, due to causes beyond the student's control, and that he was recently placed in the same foster home as his sister. DM is currently enrolled in an intensive sixty-day Central Peninsula Counseling Services program which is working with him on anger management and impulse control, and he has seen a psychiatrist.

Student Expulsion (Continued): **CONCLUSIONS:** The willful and knowing throwing of an exacto knife against another student is a single act of a grave nature that is harmful to the welfare and safety of other students in violation of Board policy 5144.1 and administrative regulation 5144.1(a) and (b). It is behavior inimical to the welfare, safety, and morals of other students.

ACTION: The student shall be expelled for a one-year period commencing with the first day of school in August 1999 and ending with the last day of summer break of August 2000. The student may apply for early readmission for the semester beginning in August, 1999, subject to the following:

(a) The school administration must conclude, based upon evidence provided by the student, that his presence will no longer be inimical to the safety and welfare of other students and other persons employed or volunteering at the school; and

(b) The student may not be readmitted early until, at a minimum, he has successfully completed the full Central Peninsula Counseling Services program in which he is now enrolled, and has obtained a report from a psychiatrist indicating the student's anger, psychiatric and other associated behavioral problems are sufficiently under control that it appears safe to readmit the student." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Certified Diploma Recommendations:

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve a list of recommendations and activities that were developed by the Certified Diploma Committee.

Ms. Germano stated that the recommendations are pointed towards remediation and that nothing addresses the average or above-average student. She expressed her concern that the programs are all going to be remediation programs.

Dr. Peterson stated the District has identified as a need those students who do not meet the established standards. She explained that training and curriculum money goes towards the delivery of an education for the majority of students in the District. She stated that eventually above-average students will be addressed.

Certified Diploma Recommendations
(Continued):

Ms. Germano asked how the needs of the above-average student will be met when the focus is on the under-achieving students at the high school level. Dr. Peterson explained that high school students create their own schedule and make their selection based on coursework. She said that two courses have been added to the District course master, remedial math and remedial language arts.

Dr. Anderson assured those present that the Committee is trying to provide criteria excellence for top-end students and not just adequacy.

Mrs. Larned asked if there are plans for remediation summer school. Mr. Dahlgren explained that summer schools are operating at Kenai Middle School and Soldotna Middle School using Title I funds. He stated that in the future schools will offer after-school programs and tutorials. He added that the school day will be redefined because of standards-based curriculum, the expectations that the Board is putting on its students and the expectations that the state is putting on students with the qualifying exam. He stated that students must be successful at the benchmark areas, and if not, they will have to participate in summer school or after-school programs. He stated that parents will have to become partners if their child is going to graduate from high school.

Mrs. Crawford asked whether site-based remediation coordinators will be working largely with special education students. Dr. Peterson stated that every student who is not reaching the benchmarks must be identified. She explained that after the benchmark data is collected, a plan is developed for each of those failing students.

Mrs. Larned asked whether summer school attendance is voluntary. Dr. Peterson stated that summer school attendance has been encouraged but is now being used as an option for those students facing retention.

Ms. Germano asked whether summer school programs are being offered in other areas of the District. Dr. Peterson replied that money from the Quality Schools Initiative and Title I is funding summer schools and that schools developed their own plan of action. She reported that summer schools have been approved for Homer, Kenai and Soldotna this summer and that Seward will be added next year.

ACTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the certified diploma recommendations. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Request for Acquisition of Property for Homer Flex School:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a request to the Borough Assembly to acquire the property known as "Remainder of Lot 17, AA Mattox Subdivision" on behalf of the Homer Flex School. Mr. Hickey called the Board's attention to additional information provided in the information packet listing an estimated \$140,000 of necessary upgrades to bring the building up to Uniform Building Code.

Mr. Arness asked why the acquisition of property for the Homer Flex School is a priority project. Mr. Hickey stated that the Homer Fire Marshall walked through the current facility and noted deficiencies that must be reconciled by August 15 or vacate the premises. He further explained that as a result of conversations with the leaseholder, the District administration decided to vacate the current facility. He stated that the District has been unable to locate any other E1 coded space to lease in Homer.

Ms. Germano stated that the proposed facility is good for the Homer Flex students. She stated that the old intermediate building was considered but that the costs would be higher if both floors are going to be used.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve a recommendation to request the Borough Assembly to acquire the property known as "Remainder of Lot 17, AA Mattox Subdivision" on behalf of the Homer Flex School. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mr. Arness passed the gavel to Mrs. Mullins.

Mr. Arness stated that he opposed the expenditure of \$420,000. He expressed his concern from a credibility standpoint.

Ms. Germano stated that a lot of time has been spent over the years searching for a school for the Homer Flex students.

Mrs. Larned stated that she was able to walk through the proposed building and that it seems like a perfect facility. She noted the possibility for other groups to join them in the building.

Mrs. Gross stated that she has followed the Homer Flex School since its inception and that it has been housed in some dismal facilities and that the proposed facility is a good recommendation.

Request for Acquisition of Property for Homer Flex School (Continued):

VOTE:

YES – Anderson, Crawford, Germano, Gross, Larned, Mullins

NO – Arness

Advisory Vote – YES

Motion carried.

BUDGET TRANSFER Number 685:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer Number 685 for \$57,617 to cover costs for curriculum orders for the Aurora Borealis Charter School.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve budget transfer Number 685. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Appointments:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve an administrator appointment for the 1999-2000 school year for Mark Leal, assessment director, Central Office.

Mrs. Radtke explained that the memorandum was revised because the person recommended for the Skyview High principal position is awaiting Department of Education certification and that the recommendation will come at a later meeting.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve an administrator appointment for the 1999-2000 school year for Mark Leal, assessment director, Central Office. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Nikiski Elementary Schematic Design Appropriation:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a request to the Borough Assembly for \$40,000 to cover costs of a schematic design to reconfigure the Nikiski area schools. He noted that the total project should not exceed \$1 million including moveable equipment.

Ms. Germano asked why the schematic design was not on the capital improvement list. Mr. Dahlgren stated that Mr. Arness asked that the request be placed on the agenda.

Nikiski Elementary Schematic Design Appropriation (Continued):

Mrs. Crawford asked if a schematic design was developed for the Soldotna Middle School addition. Mr. Dahlgren explained that originally money was set aside for architectural design development for an additional middle school in the Central Peninsula area. He added that the project was put on hold, and in the meantime, the District requested that the funds be diverted to an addition to Soldotna Middle School. He stated that the request was forwarded to the Borough Mayor but the Borough has not taken action.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve a request to the Borough Assembly for \$40,000 to cover the costs of the Nikiski Elementary schematic design with the stipulations as outlined. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Mullins noted that the reconfiguration of the Nikiski area schools was approved at a previous Board meeting. She stated that this is the next logical step and urged the Board's approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Miss Calvert apologized for not attending the last Board meeting. She stated that she was busy with graduation activities. She thanked those Board members who attended the Soldotna High School graduation.

Mrs. Gross extended her thanks to Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke. She expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Radtke for going above and beyond the call of duty. She wished them the best upon their retirement.

Mrs. Larned stated that the Soldotna High graduation was wonderful. Mrs. Larned asked whether the District funds out-of-state competitions. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the District has funded travel for out-of-state competitions in the past. He noted that there has not been a definition for what competitions the District should pay. He stated that most cocurricular activities are funded at the state level but not at the national level. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he has asked for a definition of what should be funded for the past ten years. Mrs. Larned extended her thanks to Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke for their hard work and wished them well on their retirements.

Mrs. Crawford stated that it has been a pleasure to have Charise serve on the Board. She stated that it was a wonderful experience to attend the graduation ceremonies. She thanked Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke for their work.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke for their hard work. She stated that she enjoyed attending the graduation ceremonies.

Dr. Anderson stated that he would miss Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke. He stated that he and Mr. Dahlgren have had differing opinions in the past but their viewpoints have been more aligned over recent years. He stated that he appreciated Mrs. Radtke's exceptional hard work. Dr. Anderson referred to a recent newsletter listing acceptable and nonacceptable mathematics texts for middle schools and was concerned that District math texts fell into the unacceptable range. Dr. Peterson stated that it was the older version.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she appreciated the hard work by all of the parties involved in the negotiated agreements. She stated that she appreciated the mediator who worked with the teams. Mrs. Mullins noted that she enjoyed the graduation ceremonies. Mrs. Mullins noted that the retirement reception and music provided by two Skyview students for Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke was fantastic. She thanked to Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke.

Mr. Arness reminded the Board of the Board goal setting session at Soldotna High at 9:00 am. on Tuesday, June 8, 1999.

Mr. Arness presented parting gifts on behalf of the Board for Mr. Dahlgren and Mrs. Radtke.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:04 p.m., Mrs. Mullins 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. Mrs. Crawford seconded. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:25 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 10:26 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved
the School Board meeting be
adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of June 7, 1999,
were approved on July 12, 1999
as written.