

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

January 4, 1993

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President
 Mrs. Marilyn Dimmick, Vice President
 Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Clerk
 Mr. Clifford Massie, Treasurer
 Mr. Joe Arness, Member
 Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member
 Mr. Michael Wiley, Member
 Mr. Martin Jackson, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Robert Holmes, Superintendent of Schools
 Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,
 Operations, and Technology
 Mrs. Mary Rubadeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
 Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
 Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Paul Kubena	Mr. Ken Tarbox
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Moldenhauer	Mrs. Brenda Cutsforth
Mrs. Janie Lawley	Mr. John Kistler
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Inabnit	Mr. Pat Shields
Mr. John Kistler	Rev. Joe Knox
Mr. Duane Anderson	Mrs. Kim Robinson
Ms. Kari Mohn	Mr. Richard Hallmark
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Becker	Mr. Dan Sexton
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. Hal Smalley
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Rev. Alan Humphries
Mrs. Kelly Smith	Mrs. Mary Toutonghi
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jackson	Mrs. Mary Howarth
Mr. Lawrence Sauer	Mrs. Celeste Haakenson
Mr. Roland Jones	Mr. Tom Marok
Rev. Mac Burrell	Rev. Phil Reemtsma
Rev. Dean Nichols	Mr. Glen Merwin
Mrs. Arlene Haines	Mr. Jay Rasmussen
Mr. Robert Flatt	Mr. Jerry Koval
Mrs. Beverly Berdahl	Mr. Bill Boles
Mr. Tom Robertson	Mrs. Kathy Ball
Mrs. Capri Potton	Mr. Larry Adams
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. Marilyn Dimmick	Present
Mr. Michael Tauriainen	Present
Mr. Clifford Massie	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Mr. Michael Wiley	Present
Mr. Martin Jackson	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of December 7, 1992, were approved with corrections.

HEARING OF
DELEGATIONS:

Mr. Duane Anderson told the Board that whatever teachers believe, they teach. He felt that teacher access to the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" which, if approved by the school board, would espouse the book's information as truth. He felt the book did not provide a balance of information to teaching in the classroom, and the district should make a choice on what teachers should use.

Mrs. Eileen Becker stated the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" did not follow the guidelines of the health curriculum, and she was thankful it had been removed from the health curriculum and libraries for use by students. She felt it was important for the Board to complete its job and take a stand for the children's sake to remove the book completely from the district.

Mrs. Mary Howarth extended regrets that Dr. Marguerite McIntosh was unable to attend the meeting due to a change in travel plans. She told the Board a group of concerned parents had requested her to speak on their behalf that the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" was not a factual text.

Mrs. Celeste Haakenson representing thirteen persons who opposed the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" as a resource book for teachers stated the book promoted sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, oral sex, etc. among young children. She did not feel banning the book constituted censorship, but instead it was a responsibility to monitor what is fed to the children's minds just as it is a responsibility to monitor what it put into children's bodies such as food or drugs. She noted that committee members should be aware of the facts to make an accurate analysis of any book's contents so they can make a reasonable recommendation.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Obendorf acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Seward Advisory Committee requesting the board take necessary steps to establish a middle school for the 7th and 8th grades in Seward for the 1993-94 school year. A mission statement to that effect accompanied their request.

She read a letter from Debra Germano, McNeil Canyon Elementary PTA member, requesting that school board packets be sent to all parent groups outside the Kenai-Soldotna area, upon their request. She felt agenda information should be made available to parents prior to school board meetings.

Mrs. Obendorf noted letters in support of the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" were received from Susan Kernes, Lora Turner, Kathy Steberl, Debra Germano, Karen Murdock, Johnnie Osborn, Regan Parks, Lynne Wallace, and Bonnie Alex. She noted printed letters in opposition to the book were received from Liz Chase, Louise Johns, Robin Gross, Marlen Gibbs, Marianne Dailey, Tiarnan and Stacie Coval, Julia Selanoff, Loretta Coblean, Neil Renney, Dennis Johns, Thad Henry, Joel Kapp, Bonnie Clouston, and Theresa Renney.

TUSTUMENA PAC:

Mr. Pat Shields, Tustumena PAC Chairperson, expressed appreciation to Mr. Dahlgren for his successful efforts in gaining a reranking of the Tustumena construction project to category 2, unhoused students, from category 6. He also reported Roberta Carney, Assistant State Earthquake Program Manager, visited Tustumena School to teach staff and students on earthquake preparedness. He further noted a meeting with her, the PTA and Bob Havelin, borough emergency manager, was held regarding emergency planning for the school.

KPEA:

Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, told the board that the issue with the organization was not the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives", but rather the potential denial of instructional freedom. He noted the material in the book is treated differently than in other books, but teachers are guaranteed the right under their collective bargaining contract to freedom of instruction. He noted teachers have a choice on whether to use the book or not, but to deny them access by banning it would be in violation of their contract. He questioned where the banning process would stop. Based on the terms of Section 450 of the negotiated agreement, he stated that if the book was banned, the union would file a grievance against the district. He expressed concern about a meeting held earlier in the day on superintendent's compensation. A retired teacher was sent by the union to attend the meeting but was told the meeting was a closed meeting. Mrs. Obendorf responded the meeting was closed because it was a negotiation's meeting.

KPEA (cont.):

Mr. Tauriainen questioned Mr. Smalley whether he considered it an infringement of freedom of instruction if the district does not purchase a particular book. Mr. Smalley responded that was not issue, but one that a document had been in district libraries, but now would not be allowed for teachers to use the material. Mr. Smally felt this was an infringement of freedom of instruction.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Dr. Holmes announced the Budget Review Committee would meet on January 8 and 11 to begin review of the 1993-94 budget. Public hearings on the budget will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Kenai Central High School on January 13 and at Homer High on January 14. He invited the Board to attend the administrator's meeting to be held on January 20 beginning at 8:00 a.m.

HOPE SCHOOL REPORT:

Mr. Paul Kubena, Hope School Principal-Teacher, presented a student produced video of their school and community. He reported the K-10 school with 31 students has active commitment from the community through use of parent volunteers and class projects involving the community. Their academic orientation focuses on mathematics and science which exemplifies the school's direction. He noted Hope's history dates to early Alaskan gold mining days when the first school was established in the late 1800's. The current modern facility, Hope's third school, was completed in 1986.

**HOPE HOT LUNCH
PROGRAM REPORT:**

Mr. Swarner reported he and Jennifer Tabor, Food and Nutrition Services Administrator, met with the Hope School PAC to discuss a hot lunch program for that school. He presented cost estimates for different hot lunch programs at the school. He advised that the cost estimates and logistical problems for a hot lunch program will be discussed with the PAC prior to a recommendation to the School Board.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Extended Field Trip Requests, Letter to City of Soldotna, Sick Leave Bank Request/Support, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Leave of Absence Request/Support, 1992-93 Teacher Assignments, and Substitute Teacher Contracts.

**EXTENDED FIELD
TRIP REQUESTS:**

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for four Kenai Central High School students to travel to Washington, D.C., April 4-10, 1993, to participate in the Close-Up Program; for the Soldotna High School Swing Choir to participate in a cross-cultural exchange in Magadan, Russia, March 23-30, 1993; for eight Ninilchik High School students to visit colleges in San Francisco, California, March 20-27, 1993, to study the Spanish influence and culture in the Western United States; for 29 Homer Junior High students to participate in the American Student Travel Program

CONSENT AGENDA
(continued):

in Washington, D.C., March 20-26, 1993; and for five Susan B. English High School seniors to travel to Madrid, Spain, March 20-31, 1993, for a Spanish cultural experience.

LETTER TO CITY OF
SOLDOTNA:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended a letter be sent to the City of Soldotna encouraging their redesign and repaving of Park Avenue based on student and employee safety on the street.

SICK LEAVE DRAW
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a draw of 7.5 days from the KPESA Sick Leave Bank for Armella Carney, Custodian, Nikiski Jr/Sr High.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
REQUEST/CERTIFIED:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board deny an unpaid leave of absence request for the second semester of the 1992-93 school year for Linda Rourke, Art/QUEST, Homer Junior High. The denial recommendation was based on the board's philosophy and past practice that absences for one semester were not educationally sound for students.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request from January 4 through June 10, 1993, for Linda Gjosund, Secretary, Paul Banks Elementary School.

1992-93 TEACHER
ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve teacher assignments for the 1992-93 school year for Nancy Boehmer, Special Education/Resource, Skyview High School (Temporary); Mary Roed, Special Education/Resource, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary, half-time (Temporary); and Catherine Szabo, Grade 5, Mountain View Elementary (Temporary).

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, urged the Board approve the unpaid leave of absence request for Linda Gjosund, Head Secretary at Paul Banks Elementary School, in order for her to work for her local legislator in Juneau. She noted this attributes to Linda's skills and the caliber of employees in the district. She stated that due to cancellation of the December 21 meeting the request was delayed until the January 3 meeting, and Mrs. Gjosund is on personal leave for the day pending approval of the request by the board. She questioned why such a request needed board approval since support employees do not work under signed contracts like the teachers. She noted that Paul Banks Elementary has 1.5 secretarial positions based on enrollment, but with Mrs. Gjosund's leave the half-time secretary will be her replacement and the half-time position abolished. She felt this would create a hardship for the office staff at mid-year, and realized this would be a different situation in the fall. Mrs. Radtke stated this action was not punitive action, but simply following the district's staffing formula for secretaries. When positions change, adjustments are made as they apply to the formula.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items #1 through #7. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**DISPENSATION OF
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
MATERIALS:**

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" be available for loan to secondary health educators as a professional resource through the District Media Center. The book would be labeled "Professional Resource Material/Not Approved for Student Use." Reasons for the recommendation were that initially the book was reviewed by a subcommittee of the health curriculum and found not to be in alignment with the health curriculum, their recommendation was that the book be dispersed to health educators, and health committee members were polled on the recommendation where no objections were voiced. Secondly, reconsideration committee members read the book and various reviews of the book where six of the eight members voted the book was appropriate for high school libraries. Lastly, she valued the professional judgment of the teaching staff to use the material as a professional resource to be used within the guidelines of the health curriculum.

Mrs. Dimmick questioned where the donated copies would remain. Mrs. Rubadeau reported the 17 copies, 14 donated and three belonging to the district would be placed in the District Media Center. The donated copies were from an anonymous donor, therefore, it is unknown where to return the books. Mr. Wiley suggested the books be labeled that the information is not up-to-date and might be misleading. Mrs. Rubadeau stated this could be done, but should also be done to every set of encyclopedias in the district.

Mrs. Obendorf announced each person would be allowed three minutes for their comments, the subject being considered was the only topic to be addressed, remarks about any district employee or other persons would be out of order, there would be no interruptions when a person is speaking, and all persons rights and points of view are to be respected.

Mr. Roland Jones, Soldotna parent, stated he felt the book was inappropriate for students and teachers, and felt it was not fit for use by anyone. He requested a listing of the people who voted for the book.

Mr. Tom Marok stated he reviewed the book and felt the issue was not censorship but moral decency. He felt there might be some good information in the book, but this was interspersed with objectionable material he would not want taught to his children. He felt more accurate information could be found elsewhere, and nurses and health teachers would have access to

DISPENSATIONS OF
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
MATERIALS (cont.):

medically correct information. He felt it was time for everyone, including the school board, to take a stand against anything that undermined the moral and decent upbringing of children.

Rev. Mac Burrell, Pastor First Baptist Church in Soldotna, stated he was speaking on behalf of members of his congregation. He stated he appreciated the work of the school board and Mrs. Rubadeau who assure the rights of Christian children in the schools. He requested the Board ban the book from all use in the school district, and not undo the cooperation already built within the community. He questioned whether a Bible was in the District Media Center.

Rev. Alan Humphries, Soldotna parent, commented that the book was now being considered as "professional" resource materials and he felt the book was far from professional. He stated he did not support censorship and was not in opposition to school district policy. He felt the information was out-of-date related to AIDS, etc., and was not a "professional" material.

Rev. Dean Nichols, Kenai First Baptist Church, stated he did not feel the material was professional and was not morally suitable for school libraries. He stated the issue was one of taxpayers paying for the book which they found morally objectionable. He commented teachers could purchase the book with their own money, but tax dollars should not be used in buying the book.

Ms. Kari Mohn, District Media Center Coordinator, stated she supported keeping a diversity of materials for professional educators use. She felt it was important that the KPBSD not be placed in a position of banning a professional resource. She stated she felt the issue was one of academic freedom, and she supported educators access to information. She stated all people lose when educators are limited to the materials they can use in a democratic society. Mr. Wiley questioned her on whether Bibles were in the library. She responded that Bibles are in school libraries. He also questioned how many copies of "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" would be appropriate for placement in the District Media Center. She responded the three copies from the school libraries would be placed in the DMC. Mr. Tauriainen questioned Ms. Mohn on whether she felt the district was denying access to materials by not buying that book. Ms. Mohn responded the issue before the board was dealing with school district materials already purchased and she did not favor banning those materials. She felt the issue was one of academic freedom.

Mr. Glen Merwin told the Board the U.S. government spent \$2 billion from 1971 to 1981 on family planning programs, and during that period of time pregnancies increased 48.3%,

DISPENSATION OF
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
MATERIALS (cont.):

abortion went up to 133%, and illegitimate births and sexually transmitted diseases increased significantly. He felt there was an adolescent crisis in this country. He felt the opt out provisions to the KPBSD health curriculum fit the needs of many parents which would serve their children best. Since the Board had determined the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" was inappropriate for student use in school libraries, he urged the Board to deny use of the book to the professional staff where it sends a double message to students and professionals in the district.

RECESS:

At 9:05 p.m., Mrs. Obendorf called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:

At 9:15 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Mark Moldenhauer told the Board that voting against the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" would indicate they cared about the quality of materials their professional staff have and consequently the education of students. He felt that the district was not obligated to keep books donated to them, and likewise, not obligated to keep purchased books which are unacceptable to the public. Since the book is not written by medical personnel, he felt it was an unacceptable professional resource and not worth keeping in the district.

Mrs. Arlene Haines, Wings Christian Academy Administrator, stated the issue was not an issue of censorship, but an issue of responsibility to children. She questioned whether teachers should have total freedom to teach what they want under the guise of professional freedom. She commented that parents at her school have freedom to question what is taught to their children, and the same was evident from the parents present at the meeting.

Mr. Jay Rasmussen, Soldotna High School student, stated he did not understand comments from people who did not favor censorship but favored removal of the book. He commented that health teachers are trained professionals and would use the material as they felt fit. He stated this could open the door to other issues such as racial prejudice. He stated comments had been made about out-dated information on AIDS in the book, but whether that is taught or not, most teens listen to their peers on sexual topics.

Mr. Robert Flatt, Sterling parent, stated there was a conflict with the book issue being censorship, however, a policy to be considered later in the meeting would censor some student activities. He felt materials contrary to school district policy should not be paid for with taxpayer money at any time for any purpose. He commented that academic freedom is a

DISPENSATION OF
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
MATERIALS (cont.):

balance between teachers using the materials they wish, but are responsible to use the materials set within the board's guidelines. He felt that since the materials did not conform to the guidelines of the district, the book should be totally rejected from the school system.

Mr. Ken Tarbox, Soldotna parent, stated the issue was one of trust; that highly paid professionals can use resource materials from the media center in an appropriate manner to instruct students in sensitive, controversial subjects. Likewise, exceptions should be dealt with on an individual basis regardless what the subject is. He felt it is important that teacher information not be excluded based on a moral perspective. He questioned whether information should be excluded because of racial prejudice, feelings about violence and war, etc. He stated that great intellectual advances often come from controversy, and we grow as a society through professionalism. He felt we grow by recognizing the issues, discussing them, taking the good with the bad, and trusting parents, teachers and other members of our society to help lead our children in a complex world.

Mrs. Mary Toutonghi, Soldotna teacher, stated she had no commitment to the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives", but did have a commitment that materials already purchased should not be banned. She added the materials were purchased in good faith, the decision had already been made they would not be available to students, and there was no reason the materials could not be used as professional resources. Since a lengthy process was involved in developing the health curriculum she felt certain that professionals would support the board's philosophy in use of the materials.

Mr. Pat Shields, Kasilof parent, told the Board they were elected to represent the people of the district. He stated parent's views had been expressed to them and it was their obligation to remove the book in accordance with the public's wishes. He stated there was no other recourse for the parents except for the parents to request the Board to remove the book.

Mr. Jerry Koval stated that when you order an item from a catalog you have the option to return the item if it is not what you expect. He commented that from parents who had spoken at the meeting the book did not fit and they had the right to return it.

Mrs. Beverly Berdahl, Nikiski parent, stated that as a taxpayer she was disappointed by the district stocking the libraries in a bulk manner. She felt the book was purchased unknowingly and it was not acceptable for use by anyone in the district.

**DISPENSATION OF
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
MATERIALS (cont.):**

Mr. Bill Boles, Soldotna resident, stated he was appalled that the leaders of the school system would allow a book in the school system that residents would have to request its removal. He noted it was a waste of time and money to continue using objectionable materials.

Mrs. Kim Robinson, Sterling parent, stated there would be undesirable consequences from the use of the book. She requested the board remove the book from use in the district because serious consequences could result.

Rev. Phil Reamtsma, Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, stated from his counseling experience he had seen many situations resulting from irresponsible actions. He stated he felt the issue before the Board was not academic freedom, but one of responsibility. With better resources and materials available, he felt the book should be removed. He expressed concern the Board would be sending an irresponsible message to the students. He felt the Board needed to make a decision on what was best for young people, not how much could be tolerated.

Mrs. Brenda Cutsforth, parent, questioned what the benefits would be for students from use of the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives", since it had already been found to be inappropriate for the health curriculum. She noted the book is out-dated and inaccurate on medical facts related to health information. She felt students should be given the best health information possible, but this type of information is not found in the book. She felt the issue was life and death information being given to students.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, stated the issue was whether professionals would be allowed to use the book as resource material, not quality or content of the book. He commented parents trust their children to the professional staff daily, and, likewise, the professionals' judgement should be trusted to utilize resource materials appropriately.

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, parent, stated she and many parents supported the introduction of a health curriculum in the district years ago. She noted the three books in the school libraries had been used a total of three times and it was now time they go to the District Media Center for use by the professional teaching staff as a resource. She felt her fellow colleagues had a right to use the books as well as other current and out dated material.

Mr. Tom Robertson, Kenai parent, stated he was angry with the professional counselors in the area, and that they had not been of help to his daughter or other children. He stated he did not trust the judgement of professional counselors, and

DISPENSATION OF
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
MATERIALS (cont.):

the school board needed to remove pornographic materials from the district. He felt the Board needed to take a stand before other materials gain acceptance in the district.

Mr. Paul Ball told the Board that if students read the book and did what it said, they would get AIDS or other sexual diseases. He stated that since the Board set abstinence in its guidelines, they should ban the book because it promotes promiscuity. He commented that as voters, taxpayers and parents they wished the book to be out of the school system.

Mrs. Kathy Ball stated that in college teachers were given a multitude of materials they would be instructing from in order to learn the material. She felt the same was true with the book proposed as professional material. The book was not what parents felt was acceptable for the abstinence taught in the health program.

Mrs. Capri Potton requested the book not be available as resource material for the teachers. She stated she was a lab technician and recognized the inaccuracy of the information contained in the book. She questioned whether portions of the book could be copied for student use. She felt that as a professional adult the material was not acceptable because it promoted deceitfulness, promiscuity, homosexuality, and could be responsible for death in children.

Mr. Lawrence Sauer, student, stated the book presented information in a different perspective and because it was not acceptable by some individuals it did not mean that professionals would use the information in a harmful way. He felt teachers would use the information in accordance with the health curriculum guidelines.

Mr. Larry Adams, Sterling parent, told the Board they were going in the wrong direction and needed the best tools for life; not use of the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Life" where parents would not want references made to their children. He suggested the Board burn all copies of the book.

Mr. Charles Jackson, Soldotna Jr. High physical education instructor, stated he would not use the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" because he would not want the responsibility of some student inadvertently seeing a page in the book while it was checked out by him from the media center. He stated the book would be of no value to him as a professional and requested it be banned from the school district.

DISPENSATION OF
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
MATERIALS (cont.):

Mr. Duane Anderson, Soldotna parent, reminded the Board that the public are the employers of all government officials, and what teachers believe, use and present is their responsibility. He commented that if the school district allowed the book to be placed in the District Media Center they would be opening the door to other materials as well. He added that total freedom without responsibility and its probable end is anarchy. He objected to the book because it promoted promiscuity.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved the Board remove the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" from the district and that the district not provide this book to its professionals or otherwise. Motion died for lack of a second.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved the Board adopt Mrs. Rubadeau's recommendation on the dispensation of professional materials as stated in the board's packet. Mrs. Dimmick seconded.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to remove the last sentence of the recommendation, "The books will be labeled 'Professional Resource Material/Not Approved for Student Use.'" Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Tauriainen commented it was not the book itself but a matter of values. He stated the school district has the obligation to uphold high moral values and standards. He felt the book overtly encourages sexual promiscuity and sends the wrong message to students. The outcry from hundreds of citizens against the book was incredible in comparison to the little opposition heard. He commented the citizens of the borough were saying they do not want the book in the school district or providing the material to the staff in any way. He felt it was not censorship in the sense of denial of access; the book is available through other means. Also, because of all the publicity on the book, the district would be giving it legitimacy if allowing it to be placed in the media center. He concluded that the school board needed to make a stand on moral issues.

Mrs. Dimmick noted that throughout the testimony there was very little understanding why the book had some value. As teacher resources, some things are not appropriate for students but are appropriate for adults to be aware of. She stated the book reflected prevailing attitudes of children and teachers needed to be aware of this in teaching abstinence and other elements of the health curriculum. She also expressed concern that very few people indicated respect to the intelligence level of the staff and their ability to think and judge. She thought it was disappointing that some parents who often praise the staff suddenly lacked trust in something most

DISPENSATION OF
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE
MATERIALS (cont.):

of the staff will never bother to use. She clarified this isn't a resource to be shared with students, but should be in the District Media Center with other materials teachers must deal with.

Student Representative Jackson commented the majority of students he talked to thought the book should remain as a professional resource in the District Media Center. He stated he had read the book and based on the testimony of the public he requested the book be removed from the District Media Center.

Mr. Arness stated that he felt the issue was not one of censorship if the school district found it was inappropriate. He did not necessarily believe the issue was academic freedom, or the book itself. He stated his concern was that of the fear expressed over the printed word. His concern was one for a label on a book.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the motion to add "Not Approved for Student Use or Presentation of Material to Students." Amendment died for lack of a second.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Massie, Wiley, Obendorf
NO - Tauriainen
Advisory Vote - NO

Motion carried.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved for immediate reconsideration. Mr. Arness seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Dimmick, Massie, Tauriainen, Obendorf
NO - Gross, Wiley
Advisory Vote - NO

Motion carried.

REVOTE:

YES - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Massie, Wiley, Obendorf
NO - Tauriainen
Advisory Vote - NO

Motion carried.

POLICY REVISIONS:

Mrs. Rubadeau presented policies 004.44, Loan of School Property, and 003.115, Fundraising. She requested policies 007.1, Student Conduct, and 007.1R, Student Rights and Responsibilities, be held for approval at the January 18 meeting. She stated a student representative would be present at the next Policy Review Committee to give further input to the student rights policies, prior to board consideration.

Mr. Tauriainen commented the fundraising policy appeared to not restrict holding bingo and using pull tabs. Mrs. Rubadeau responded that wording in the policy made activities restrictive and these would be reported to the superintendent. Mr. Swarner stated no pull tab activities are conducted in the district. Mrs. Dimmick commented that in the past gaming permits had been borrowed by other organizations and questioned whether this was still a practice. Mr. Swarner responded permits can still be borrowed but strict bookkeeping and reporting requirements deter loaning the permits. Schools have been advised not to loan their permits to anyone else. Mr. Wiley spoke on the Loan of School Property policy that it appeared contrary to the Site Based Management Plan, and did not approve loan of computers. He commented that the Seward Chamber of Commerce used school computers during the summer where many of the computers were purchased with locally earned funds. He also felt more emphasis could be put on home schooling and loan of equipment for that purpose. He felt home schooled students should have access to school equipment because the parents pay taxes in the borough. Mrs. Rubadeau responded that school property is available to district and state correspondence students, and these students are counted in generating state funds to the district. Mr. Dahlgren stated the term "district administrator" in the policy referred to both school principals as well as other administrators in the district who might have occasion to decide on what equipment would be loaned. He stated the computers loaned in Seward were from the Loaner Lab for a worthy project in Seward.

RECESS:

At 10:42 p.m., Mrs. Obendorf called a recess.

**RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:**

At 10:57 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mr. John Kistler told the Board they should be very specific on activities for gaming permit use. He felt that in times of declining revenues schools will resort to using their gaming permits more to raise funds. He suggested use of the permits be limited to bingo and raffles only.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved the Board approve Policy 003.115 as revised in the board's packets. Mrs. Dimmick seconded.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross amended the motion to include "gaming permits may only be used for raffles and bingo." Amendment died for lack of a second.

Mr. Jackson questioned whether split-the-pot fundraisers would be included in the motion.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the amendment to limit the activities to raffles. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Wiley stated the policy needed to be general in nature and be more in line with the Site Based Decision Making concept where schools would have more latitude to their community circumstances. Mr. Tauriainen disagreed and felt it was the district's responsibility to set values, and should not be in the gambling business. Mrs. Dimmick stated her major concern was that of legal responsibility and liability of the school district. She felt outside organizations could continue to raise funds in the manner they previously had done and assume their own liability for it. Mr. Massie stated the committee had listed activities that should not be held, but they felt leaving the responsibility to the superintendent would best serve the Board. Discussion followed on various activities such as cake walks, duck drops, carnivals, age restrictions, etc. The Board felt additional information was needed before the policy could be approved.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board postpone action on the policy until the February 1 meeting. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board adopt Policy 004.4R, Loan of School Equipment. Mrs. Gross seconded.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the motion to add "5. All district equipment shall be available to home school and correspondence students." Mr. Wiley seconded.

Mrs. Gross commented the policy already addressed use of school equipment available to students on district correspondence programs. She noted the schools are critically short of equipment and the district would have no control over families using the equipment or computers; the family could move away without district officials knowing this. Mrs. Dimmick stated the terminology should be very specific on which home schooled students would be allowed use of equipment. Mr. Tauriainen stated home schooling should be encouraged where he felt it was good for kids and saves the district money. Mr. Jackson stated parents of home schooled

POLICY REVISIONS

(continued):

children are taxpayers and should get something back for their money. He also felt a principal would use good judgement in loaning equipment. Mrs. Obendorf expressed concern that it would be difficult to plan for replacing, repairing, and purchase of equipment needed. Dr. Holmes stated the district doesn't have the money or equipment to make loans and new purchases for home schooled students who are not accounted for in the district. Most students are enrolled in district or state programs which would be provided for in the policy.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Tauriainen, Wiley

NO - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Massie, Obendorf

Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved to amend the motion to change the word district administrators to "Principals or District Administrators." Motion died for lack of a second.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved to amend the motion to delete the last sentence in Section #4 relating to computers and monitors. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Mrs. Rubdeau explained the provision was written specifically to address special education equipment.

VOTE:

YES - Tauriainen, Wiley

NO - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Massie, Obendorf

Advisory Vote - YES

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

YES - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Massie, Obendorf

NO - Tauriainen, Wiley

Avisory Vote - NO

Motion carried.

Mrs. Obendorf noted members of the audience attended the meeting to speak to the policy on the student conduct and student rights and responsibilities.

POLICY REVISIONS
(continued):

Mr. Jay Rasmussen, Soldotna High School student, questioned the meaning of being informed of locker searches. Mrs. Rubadeau responded the administrator will inform the student before a locker search is made, unless there is an immediate danger, such as a bomb or gun. Drugs in a locker would not be considered an immediate danger.

Mr. Lawrence Sauer, Soldotna High School student, questioned whether the authorities are allowed to check a closed item within the locker. Mrs. Rubadeau stated these items would be checked only if there was reasonable cause or if there were dangerous or illegal substances present. He questioned the dress code section of the policy on whether a student could wear a shirt sponsored by a beer or cigarette company. Mrs. Rubadeau stated the general rule applies unless it causes a disruption and this is left to the discretion of the principal. It was the intent that students should dress in alignment with the school system, nothing with racist comments or promotion of drugs and alcohol. Mr. Tauriainen suggested the dress code policy include the prohibition of profanity on T-shirts. Mr. Jackson stated a student's right should be that they be respected and shown common respect by the teachers and administrators.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
PROPOSAL:

Dr. Holmes recommended the Board begin strategic planning for the district. To this end he requested authorization to begin the process for January, 1993 through June, 1993 with a budget of \$25,000. Phase I of the process would involve approximately 25 people working on a mission statement and set of objectives for the district. Continued funding for strategic planning would be developed during the budget process.

Mr. Wiley questioned how this project affected the site based decision making concept. Dr. Holmes responded all of the beliefs of strategic planning are based on consensus. He stated he did not see any substantial disruption in the site based decision making concept. He felt publicity was needed for strategic planning and it should be documented so people would know where the district was headed. Board members offered suggestions on locations where the intensive, uninterrupted sessions could be held. Mr. Jackson suggested a student representative be a member of the task force.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board approve the Strategic Planning Proposal for January through June, 1993 for \$25,000, with the second part of the project funded through the budget process. It is also understood that members were concerned about a meeting location. Mr. Massie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Roland Jones told the Board he was disappointed in their action on the book. He stated to him it was a vote of morality, and the Board came up lacking on that.

Mr. Byron Townsend, Soldotna parent, expressed concern that the board's rulings were too stringent on first offenses as it related to student activities. He requested they look into these regulations.

Mrs. Rebecca Perry, Kasilof parent, commented she was disappointed in the board's vote, and stated numerous incidents had occurred with teachers "free lancing" in teaching the health curriculum. She felt the book "Changing Bodies, Changing Lives" would encourage that type of "free lancing" which is prohibited by the policy.

Mrs. Mary Howarth, parent, commented that more attention needed to be given to the AIDS disease and it was not appropriate to give students inaccurate information on this deadly disease. She commented that no one should encourage children to take chances with their lives.

Mr. Mark Moldenhauer, Sterling parent, expressed appreciation to all the board members he spoke with last week. He stated he was disappointed with the outcome of the vote, and hoped the situation would not come back to haunt the Board because of the vote.

Mr. Ken Tarbox invited the Board to a pot luck dinner on January 20 at 6:00 p.m. with the Accrediation Team at Skyview High School. He noted the team will be at the school that week.

Mr. John Kistler commented that the only way Dr. Holmes would get a rubber stamp with the school board would be if he gave him one. He presented Dr. Holmes with a rubber stamp printed "School Board."

Mr. Duane Anderson told the Board he wasn't surprised on how they voted on the book, and cautioned educators to be very careful what they teach in the health curriculum. He commented the public's concern about the issue has alerted educators on being careful and sure how these items are presented in the classroom. He stated he was not aware of the clause in the teachers' contract related to instructional freedom and would not want lawyer fights which would have been a time consuming process.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Wiley commented that the Village of English Bay has been renamed Nanwalek and questioned why the school name had not been changed. Mr. Dahlgren responded that a request had been made to the PAC on whether they desired the school's name to be changed. To date, no response has been received from the PAC or village council.

He requested the Board seriously consider the letter from the Seward PAC on their proposal for a middle school there next year. He added this would affect staffing for the 1993-94 school year.

Mr. Wiley requested a review of the policy on hiring a veteran over a non-citizen. He requested preference be made to veterans and U.S. citizens over non-citizens when all hiring conditions are equal.

He questioned whether the district was taking the Site Based Decision Making process seriously, and the effects of such would have on policy revisions. He requested the Site Based Decision Making Committee review the policies as they relate to the topic.

Mr. Jackson expressed appreciation to the students who stayed so late to make their comments to the Board. He also noted that Lawrence Sauer wrote a letter to the editor recently on the issue he addressed at a prior meeting. Mr. Jackson further commented that he expected many students to be in attendance when the Board approves the budget.

Mr. Tauriainen stated he was encouraged with audience participation at the meeting. He added he was disappointed in the board's decision on the book.

Mrs. Gross stated excellent presentations were made to the Board at the meeting, despite differences of opinions. She felt the Board had listened to all people on the issue and carefully considered their opinions. She felt that teachers could be trusted in their judgement in use of portions of the book.

Mrs. Dimmick stated that if anything good came from the issue, it was that people can't avoid learning new things. She commented everyone needed to be life-long learners, despite differences of opinions.

Mrs. Obendorf recommended that Mr. Wiley and Mrs. Gross attend the National School Board Conference in Anaheim, California this spring. The Board concurred with her recommendation.

She appointed Mrs. Vickie Leach as a parent representative to complete her term on KPSAA this year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 12:42 a.m., Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

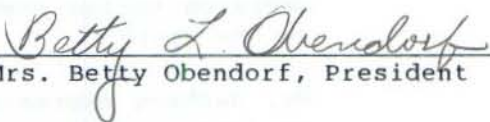
ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 1:00 a.m., Mr. Massie moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

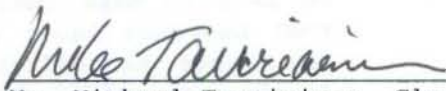
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 1:01 a.m., Mrs. Dimmick moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President


Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Clerk

The Minutes of January 4, 1993,
were approved on January 18, 1993,
with corrections.