

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

October 21, 1991

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. Ryan Rogers, Student Representative

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Henry Anderson Mr. Paul Epperson  
Mr. Kurt Heider Mr. Scott Larson  
Mr. Paul Sorenson Mrs. Paula Christensen  
Mr. William Radtke Mr. John Kistler  
Mrs. Janis Mullen Mr. Keith Kornelis  
Mr. Justin Brothen Mrs. Karen Mahurin  
Mr. Tommye Corr  
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.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Mr. Ryan Rogers, Soldotna High School senior, was welcomed to the Board as its student representative for the 1991-92 school year.

OATH OF OFFICE: Newly elected school board members, Mike Wiley and Mari-Anne Gross, were sworn into office by Notary Public, Barbara Jewell.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Betty Obendorf Present  
Mrs. Marilyn Dimmick Present  
Mr. Clifford Massie Present  
Mr. Joe Arness Present  
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
Mr. Michael Tauriainen Present  
Mr. Michael Wiley Present  
Mr. Ryan Rogers Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the addition of Consent Agenda Items 9a (3), Approval of 1991-92 Teacher Assignment, and 9a (4), Approval of Leave of Absence Request/Support.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD: Mrs. Obendorf announced the Board would elect officers for the 1991-92 school year.

ACTION Mrs. Dimmick moved to nominate Betty Obendorf as President of the Board. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mr. Wiley moved the Board elect Marilyn Dimmick as Vice President of the Board. Mr. Massie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mrs. Dimmick moved to nominate Mike Tauriainen as Clerk of the Board. Mr. Massie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mrs. Dimmick moved to nominate Clifford Massie as Treasurer of the Board. Mr. Wiley seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ESTABLISH MEETING DATE, TIME AND PLACE: ACTION Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board establish the regular meeting date, time and place of the school board as the first and third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Room, Soldotna. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the October 7, 1991, Meeting were approved with a correction.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Holmes reported enrollment had increased from the last reporting period, but was 117 students below the projected enrollment. He noted October 25 would be the last reporting date and the central office administration would then make budget decisions based on the current data.

He reported the Parent Training Meeting held on Saturday, October 19 was successful with approximately 50 parents attending. He extended appreciation to Gretchen Morgan, the Boroughwide Steering Committee and Barbara Jewell for coordinating the effort.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT (cont.):

Reports were heard from Mr. Swarner on the Budget Committee, Mrs. Radtke regarding negotiations and Mr. Dahlgren on student housing and activities. Mr. Swarner reported the Budget Committee met earlier in the day to review the budget process. Additional public input will be received at public hearings to be held in Seward, Homer and Kenai in December and again at these towns in February. The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on November 25. Mrs. Radtke reported the negotiating team had been selected at the October 7 School Board Meeting and will begin sessions in a few weeks. Mr. Dahlgren reported the committee for student housing has been looking at various options to address crowded school conditions. The next meeting of this committee will be held on November 5. Mr. Dahlgren reported the first reading of revisions to Policy 001.16, Extracurricular Program and Interschool Activity, would be addressed later in the meeting. He noted the Co-curricular Committee plans to meet in the near future with the Kenai Peninsula School Activities Association to address funding of activities, and develop a Board recommendation to be presented on December 16.

Dr. Holmes urged Board members to attend the Skills for Excellence Meeting on November 20 at 8:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Don Shelvy who will speak on collaborative decision making.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending September 30, 1991.

BUDGET TRANSFER  
REPORT:

Mr. Swarner reported on Budget Transfers #1 through #49 as follows: #1, Skyview High, \$181; #2, Kenai Central High, \$140; #3, Kenai Central High, \$378; #4, Kenai Central High, \$576; #5, Kenai Central High, \$173; #6, Nikiski Jr/Sr High, \$7,129; #7, Kenai Central High, \$141; #8, Kenai Central High, \$808; #9, Soldotna High, \$1,600; #10, Soldotna High, \$200; #11, Purchasing Services, \$108; #13, Pupil Transportation, \$850; #14, Special Services, \$400; #15, Elementary Curriculum, \$2,300; #16, Soldotna High, \$260; #17, Elementary Curriculum, \$65; #18, Homer High, \$2,300; #19, Susan B. English Elem/High, \$300; #20, Homer High, \$990; #21, Elementary Curriculum, \$104; #22, Homer High, \$400; #24, Homer High, \$348; #25, Susan B. English Elem/High, \$24; #26, Sterling Elementary, \$276; #27, Redoubt Elementary, \$102; #28, Mountain View Elementary, \$155; #29, Nikiski Jr/Sr High, \$785; #30, Kenai Central High, \$526; #31, Homer Intermediate, \$590; #33, Seward Elementary, \$1,604; #34, Homer Intermediate, \$862; #35, Ninilchik Elem/High, \$500; #36, Susan B. English Elem/High, \$650; #37, Homer High, \$250; #38, Soldotna Elementary, \$1,117; #39, Homer Junior High, \$590; #40, District Service Support, \$1,632; #41, Homer High, \$2,600; #42, Homer Intermediate, \$340; #43, Homer Intermediate, \$1,567; #44, Special Services, \$3,054; #45, Special Services, \$3,120; #46, Kenai Central High, \$289; #47, Alternative Programs \$600; #49, Special Services, \$2,500.

BUDGET TRANSFER  
REPORT (cont.):

Several board members expressed concern on the large amounts of funds being transferred from supply accounts for the purchase of equipment, and questioned whether the supply accounts would be adequate for the remainder of the school year.

KENAI MIDDLE SCHOOL  
REPORT:

Mr. Paul Sorenson, Principal of Kenai Middle School, and staff members, Paula Christensen and William Radtke, reported to the board on implementation of the middle school concept at their school. They reported the interdisciplinary core team of teachers has effectively coordinated classes and created excellent communication between the school and parents. Through the new program students are receiving more individual attention. In addition, a homework hotline has become effective for teachers, parents and students. The staff expressed appreciation to the Board for allowing the necessary planning and training to implement the program which is evident from its success this year. They encouraged board members to visit the school and PAC meetings to see firsthand the program in action.

Mr. Wiley questioned whether a 6-8 grade configuration was the best arrangement for a middle school program. Mr. Sorenson responded there was no magic number, however, the 6-8 grade grouping was most common. He added the philosophy of the school is the most important element of the concept to making a positive transition between elementary and high school.

GRADUATE FOLLOW-UP  
SURVEY REPORT:

Mrs. Rubadeau reported results on follow-up surveys sent to high school graduates of classes for 1986 and 1990. The rate of return was 9% for the class of 1986 and 16% for the 1990 class. Most were students or graduates of four-year colleges. The employment rate of the respondents was 75%, half of them full-time, many in summer jobs. They reported they didn't take, but should have taken high school courses in business, computers, science, math, industrial arts, health, and foreign language. Almost all rated their counseling and basic education programs as good or fair. Overall, 70% of the 1986 graduates and 77% of the 1990 graduates agreed or strongly agreed that high school prepared them to face present adult challenges in a competent manner. The sharpest agreement of responses in the entire survey was given under the question that high schools should encourage all students to learn a skill they can use in employment.

FIRST READING/POLICY  
001.16/EXTRA-  
CURRICULAR AND INTER-  
SCHOOL ACTIVITY:

Mrs. Rubadeau presented the first reading on revisions to Policy 001.16, Extracurricular Program and Interschool Activities. The policy included a general statement and philosophy statements for the elementary, middle and high school level co-curricular programs. Mr. Dahlgren reported copies of the policy revisions had been sent to all parent

FIRST READING/POLICY  
001.16/EXTRA-  
CURRICULAR AND INTER-  
SCHOOL ACTIVITY  
(continued):

groups in the district. He noted the impact would have far reaching effects on the peninsula and suggested two readings be conducted prior to adoption of the policy.

Mrs. Dimmick requested words to the effect "having fun in a safe and healthy manner" be included in the policy. The student representative agreed with the concept given by Mrs. Dimmick and suggested it be reworded as "a safe, enjoyable environment ruled by healthy competition". Mr. Tauriainen questioned whether data was available from schools within the district on the number of students involved in intramural activities at the middle school and other levels. He commented such was reported in a letter from the Kenai Middle School Chairperson who recommended the Board not endorse the policy change for middle schools since they felt competition among schools was necessary for successful programs. Mr. Arness stated he coached a successful intramural program at North Star Elementary where many students were involved in the program. He recommended the last sentence of the third paragraph on the Middle School Level be clarified. Mrs. Gross added that the Homer Intermediate School has a very successful intramural program with 110 students out of 190 students participating. Mr. Wiley pointed out there was a change from extracurricular to co-curricular and with this it should be recognized that activity fees should be reduced or abolished. The programs would rely on volunteers. The Board concurred that the policy be scheduled for a public hearing on November 4 and be considered for adoption on November 18.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Soldotna High School In-service Request, Sick Leave Request/Support, 1991-92 Teacher Assignment, and Leave of Absence Request/Support.

SOLDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL  
IN-SERVICE REQUEST:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve a request from Soldotna High School to hold an in-service day on November 20, 1991 to conduct a self-evaluation for accreditation.

SICK LEAVE REQUEST/  
SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a draw of 6.42 days from the K.P.E.S.A. Sick Leave Bank for Doris O'Brien, Custodian, North Star Elementary.

1991-92 TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the appointment of Peter Thielke, Mathematics/Reading, Homer Junior High (Temporary) for the 1991-92 school year.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 1991-92 school year for Olga Constantine, Food Service Manager, Bartlett Elem/High School.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 through #4. Mr. Wiley seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

TYONEK HOUSING  
AGREEMENT:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a lease agreement with the Village of Tyonek and the Russian Orthodox Church and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for lease of the Parish House as a residence for school district staff. The landlord would receive \$500/month for the upper housing unit and the tenant will be responsible for utility costs. The agreement would be effective October 1, 1991, and terminate at any time upon 60 days notice.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved the Board approve the Tyonek Housing Agreement as presented by Mr. Dahlgren. Mrs. Dimmick seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY FOR NIKISKI  
MIDDLE/JUNIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL:

Mr. Dahlgren reported this item was on the agenda at the request of a school board member who asked for reconsideration of the matter at the October 7, 1991 meeting.

Mr. Arness reported a meeting was held on Thursday, October 17, 1991. The meeting was advertised in the local paper and radio station. He noted there were no dissenting comments on the property location for a future middle/junior high school in the Nikiski area.

No further action was taken by the Board on this item.

PUBLIC  
PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Keith Kornelis, Kenai Middle School PAC Chairperson, told the Board the middle school concept is working excellently and doing better than parents anticipated. He further commented that students also like the program at the middle school. He stated student participation has declined with the change in the co-curricular program. He felt this was due to lack of competition between schools.

Mr. Tommye Corr spoke in support of interscholastic competition between schools. He noted boroughwide tournaments were important and give students an opportunity to prepare for high school teams.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, reminded the Board to consider the budget restraints when considering the issue of co-curricular activities. He noted the most important part of education is teaching children.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Wiley thanked the people who supported him in the recent election. He noted an important campaign issue for him was getting the roof in Seward fixed.

BOARD COMMENTS  
(continued):

Mrs. Dimmick questioned where the district was on a public report card. Mrs. Rubadeau responded the district was working on several issues, such as the early leaver report and graduate follow-up survey, which would be part of the report card. She added the report card would be developed by November, 1992.

Mrs. Gross noted the change to intramurals was due to lack of funding, not because the board wanted to do this.

Mrs. Obendorf reminded the board and audience that this is Red Ribbon Week.

She reminded the Board of a coalition meeting comprised of legislators, educational persons, and parents would be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23, to discuss educational issues, especially funding. Five school board members indicated they would attend the meeting.

Mrs. Obendorf noted the Board would conduct a worksession on November 4 related to the AASB Long Range Plan and new resolutions.

She reminded school board members they were responsible for making their own hotel and travel reservations to the AASB Conference. She noted several members would be attending an early bird session on budgets. Mrs. Dimmick will attend the resolutions committee meeting and Mrs. Obendorf will attend the bylaws and constitution meeting.


Mrs. Obendorf asked to be excused from the November 4th meeting.

ADJOURN:

At 9:35 p.m., Mrs. Dimmick moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

  
Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Clerk

The Minutes of October 21, 1991,  
were approved on November 4, 1991,  
as written.