

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

November 4, 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:

Mrs. Kathleen McDowell	Mr. John Steckel
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mrs. Melody Douglas
Mr. Henry Anderson	Ms. Judy Blume
Mr. Ken Tarbox	Mrs. Janis Mullen
Mrs. Judy Morgenweck	Mr. Carl Miller
Sen. and Mrs. Paul Fischer	Mr. Dennis Murray
Mr. John Kistler	Mr. Scott Larson
Mrs. Sharon Moock	Mr. Mac Tappana
Mr. Gary Hollier	Mrs. Joanna Cole
Mrs. Roseanne Tunseth	
Others present not identified.	

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Dimmick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Dimmick invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of October 21, 1991, were approved as written.

AWARDS AND PRESENT-
ATIONS:

Mrs. Dimmick presented a Plaque of Appreciation to Mrs. Joyce Fischer, former school board member, in recognition of her twelve years of service on the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Dr. Holmes reported the student enrollment had decreased since his report two weeks ago. Currently the enrollment is 169 students below the projected enrollment, but 259 students above last year's count. He noted it appeared the budget would remain in the "black" based on the October enrollment and favorable special education and vocational education student counts.

He noted copies of information mailed to principals on "spend a buck" method of prioritizing budget needs was in board members' informational packets. He commented this exercise would be helpful for administrators, staff and parent group members to prioritize needs in their educational programs. He anticipated this information would give central office administrators early and meaningful input into the 1992-93 budget.

Dr. Holmes stated a policy change will be presented to the Board at the November 18 meeting on revisions to job descriptions for the Associate Superintendent, Planning, Operations and Technology and the Executive Director, Business Management.

Dr. Holmes noted that beginning with the November 18 Meeting, the Board will hear brief reports from schools within the district.

Updates from the various board committees indicated a staff/parent budget survey is at each school building, the goal on evaluation has been postponed until the 1992-93 school year, and the Negotiations Committee will meet on Friday, November 11.

SECOND READING/POLICY
001.16/EXTRACURRI-
CULAR PROGRAM AND
INTERSCHOOL
ACTIVITIES:

Mrs. Rubadeau announced the second reading of Policy 001.16, Extracurricular Program and Interschool Activities, included suggested changes from the October 21 meeting. She noted this would be the second of three readings on the policy revisions as requested by the Board.

Ms. Roseanne Tunseth commented she felt the policy was confusing when the philosophy statement read "co-curricular activities are an integral part of the education program" dealing with the physical, mental and emotional, while later in the policy it states "participation is a privilege and will be granted by the standards set by the school district." She questioned why it is a privilege for students to participate when it is considered an integral part of the educational program.

SECOND READING/POLICY
001.16/EXTRACURRI-
CULAR PROGRAM AND
INTERSCHOOL
ACTIVITIES (cont.):

Mr. John Steckel, Soldotna Junior High School physical education teacher, told the board he has coached Olympic and world games champions during his career as a coach. He commented he felt the change from interscholastic to intramural activities at the junior high school level would reduce all programs. He noted that students in all curricular areas should reach their optimum potential. He noted this was important in all curriculum, i.e., math, English, performing and fine arts, etc. He stated the driving force to excel in athletics is rooted in the competition, not necessarily to win the game but to perform skills from direct instruction in coaching. He added that if the program emphasis is intramural in nature, the key element in preparing for the performance in the game will be missing. Advanced preparation, excitement of representing one's school and school spirit of the student body will diminish. In the end, coaches would be accepting more responsibility and work with a reduction in pay. He felt the district would be accepting less for its students when it should continue its quest for excellence in education.

Mrs. Kathleen McDowell, parent, teacher and coach, stated she did not favor the middle level extracurricular program being changed from an interscholastic to intramural program. She recognized that athletes must have natural talent which is enhanced with advanced coaching. She noted this was true in all areas of the curriculum and opportunities should be available to enhance these abilities. She stated parents should work with their children to advance their skills and likewise, children's skills should not be brought down to levels of mediocrity. She added the world exists on competition. She commented interscholastic activities are fun with excitement and school spirit apparent on the part of the participants. The play time and instruction are available through the physical education program to all students. If adopted, she felt the policy would begin "putting the axe" to all programs in which talented students participate and the district would be saying that mediocrity is okay.

Mr. Mac Tappana, Soldotna Junior High School PTA representative, told the Board their group felt all students should be allowed to participate in an athletic group. They felt this would be allowed through the policy change. They felt children have a need to belong and identify, and through intramurals this would allow the greatest number of students to achieve these needs.

Mrs. Sharon Moock, parent, commented that she had concerns related to ambiguous wording in the middle level and high school level with "as appropriate". She stated the Board

SECOND READING/POLICY
001.16/EXTRACURRI-
CULAR PROGRAM AND
INTERSCHOOL
ACTIVITIES (cont.):

needed to be up front with the students when it came to funding matters and programs offered. She noted there are gifted athletes in our communities who should be afforded the same opportunities as those for academically gifted students. She added the base needs to be provided for all students, whether academically or athletically. She urged the Board to be up front with their intent of the policy.

Mr. Henry Anderson, K.P.E.A. President, questioned the Board's intent on changing the terminology from "extracurricular" to "co-curricular". He questioned whether it was the Board's intent to make extracurricular programs part of the regular school program and if so, where did they plan to obtain funds for co-curricular programs. If not the intent, he questioned why the board wanted to change the terminology.

Mrs. Joyce Fischer, former school board member, stated she initially worked on the committee to revise the policy and it was the intent of the committee to place co-curricular programs equal with other school programs. She commented that in meeting with business people at the Coalition on Education these people indicated the graduates were not receiving qualities such as working together in cooperation, commitment to being on time, working for goals, etc. She stated she was disappointed competition at the junior high level had been changed. She noted it was not a matter of finances, but a change that has progressed through the years. She hoped this could be worked out in cooperation with the academics.

Mr. Gary Hollier, parent, stated he was confused with the policy where an intramural program would be run with an interscholastic program. He spoke from personal experience where an elementary program decreased from a 10-week program to four weeks while the number of participants decreased. He stated he would be opposed to a sole intramural program at the middle school level. He questioned the last sentence of the middle school philosophy where "interscholastic programs may be conducted in conjunction with an intramural activity as appropriate". Mr. Massie responded the intent was not to cut middle level programs, but to add participation for students who do not qualify for competitive teams. Thus, the reason for intramural activities. Mr. Hollier stated he felt that eliminating interscholastic activities at the elementary and middle school levels was a disservice to the quality of programs and to the coaches. He felt the inferior quality would carry through at all levels.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, commented that he supported the policy change. He stated he felt too much emphasis has been placed on extracurricular activities and not on education. He added that he felt the district could accomplished the goal of

SECOND READING/POLICY
001.16/ESTRACURRI-
CULAR PROGRAM AND
INTERSCHOOL
ACTIVITIES (cont.):

constructive competition by working to create a system of intracurricular activities to achieve the same goal. In reverse, emphasis on intracurricular activities would provide funds needed to purchase equipment and materials to enhance the education of the students while still providing a competitive education, team spirit and increased participation in the educational process. He urged that students be provided an opportunity to use what they learn in the classroom for a purpose that is closer to real life situations and compete as academic teams with cheerleaders and assemblies to promote team and school spirit. In this way, schools should develop a method to benefit the majority instead of the minority of students.

Mr. Mac Tappana, parent, teacher, and coach, commented that a program for Nikiski 7th and 8th graders serves many students, some who will make the team and others who will not. He added it was a functional and successful program because of the smiles on the students' faces.

Mr. John Steckel suggested the Board consider a "no cut" policy which would be adhered to at the district level. At the middle/junior high schools this would affect only two activities, basketball and volleyball. If the rules are mandated, then the coaches would be required to follow those rules.

Mrs. Joanna Cole commented that she was confused about the direction of the school district on student activities. She questioned whether students would be cut from teams. She stated she supported a program where all students had an opportunity to play.

Mrs. Janis Mullin, parent, stated she felt all students should be able to participate in the activities at the middle level. She further encouraged that tournaments be held at the end of the program which would support the concept of competitiveness in the activities.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Substitute Teacher Contract, Grant Application, In-Service Release Request/Seward Elementary and Seward Jr/Sr High, Extended Field Trip Request, and G.E.D. Testing.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a contract for 19-day substitute teacher, Ruth McMillan, Kindergarten, Sears Elementary.

GRANT APPLICATION:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve a grant application through the Job Training Partnership Act for the Homer Flex High School in the amount of \$23,705.34.

IN-SERVICE RELEASE
REQUEST:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve requests for in-service release time from Seward Elementary School and Seward Jr/Sr High. Seward Elementary School requested December 6, 1991, as an in-service day to work on a school goal to improve writing skills of their students. A request from Seward Jr/Sr High School requested release time for December 6, 1991, and April 16, 1992, to work on staff self-evaluation for accreditation.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP
REQUEST:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for 32-36 students to visit Magadan, U.S.S.R. as part of the Youth Summit III, February 15-25, 1992.

G.E.D. TESTING:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve a request from parents of a student on home study to be allowed to complete G.E.D. Testing through the Kenai Peninsula College.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 through #5. Mr. Wiley seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1992-93 PROJECTED
ENROLLMENT:

Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve the projected enrollment for the 1992-93 school year at 9,730 students. He noted this was a 1.9% increase of 171 students above the current year. He commented that the projection was made on moving each grade ahead one year and replacing graduating seniors with incoming kindergarten students.

Mr. Wiley questioned why a few schools were projected for less students than currently enrolled. Mr. Swarner explained this resulted in moving classes to another grade and estimating the number of incoming students either at the kindergarten, middle school or high school level.

Mrs. Dimmick asked what the increase in students was this year over last year. Mr. Swarner responded there were 259 additional students attending KPBSD schools than last year. He noted 425 additional students were projected for the 1991-92 school year, thus the projections fell short by approximately 170 students. He added the district contacts the cities, realtors and various agencies to seek current information on growth on the peninsula.

RECESS:

At 8:29 p.m., Mrs. Dimmick called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:

At 8:42 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved the Board approve the 1992-93 projected enrollment as presented. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECONSIDERATION OF
INSTRUCTIONAL
MATERIALS COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION:

Mrs. Rubadeau announced the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee met on October 24 to review the book Ghost by Piers Anthony as appropriate literature for KPBSD libraries. Based on school board Policy 006.11, the committee found the book had little literary value. Their recommendations were: 1) the novel is more appropriately placed in high school libraries, 2) no further copies of the novel be purchased by the district, and 3) the novel is to be reviewed by school librarians who are sensitive to the appropriateness of this novel for the community they serve.

Mr. Tauriainen questioned why, if the book had little literary value, did the committee not recommend eliminating the book from school libraries. Mrs. Rubadeau commented that although the book had little literary value, the committee felt it was not so objectionable that it should be removed from high school libraries.

Mr. Rogers questioned how the committee determined the level of maturity of the junior high school reader would not be sufficient for the book to remain at those libraries. Mrs. Rubadeau responded that the parent filing the complaint felt that the book was degrading to women. The committee felt the themes in the book were so undeveloped that they could be misinterpreted by an immature reader.

ACTION

Mr. Massie moved the Board approve the recommendations of the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Mr. Wiley commented that although he was not familiar with the book he would approved the committee's recommendation. He noted he did not favor censoring books.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

1992-93 STAFFING
FORMULAE:

Mrs. Radtke presented staffing schedules for the 1992-93 school year. She noted the schedules were the same as for the current year with the addition of a middle school schedule to be used for the Kenai Middle School. She explained the method used in computing school staffing and subject area specialists. She emphasized that the formulae were guidelines and building administrators have parameters in which to adjust staffing at their school.

1991-92 STAFFING
FORMULAE (cont.):

Mr. Massie noted the description for students admitted to the Gifted Program appeared to be based only on IQ. Mrs. Rubadeau explained this error would be corrected since identification of gifted students has changed over the past few years.

Mr. Wiley questioned whether the middle school formula would be used for other schools if they changed to middle school programs. Mrs. Radtke responded that if the school board approved other middle school arrangements, then the formula would apply. Currently, Kenai Middle School is the only approved middle school program in the district.

Mrs. Roseanne Tunseth told the board she felt the elementary school staffing was very high with 26 to 28 students in the classroom.

ACTION

Mr. Massie moved the Board approve the 1992-93 Staffing Formula. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AASB RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Dimmick reported the Board met in a worksession prior to the meeting to review AASB resolutions and give direction to their representatives on the AASB Resolutions Committee. The committee will consider presenting the resolutions to the organization at their meeting in Anchorage, November 9-12.

Mr. Henry Anderson, K.P.E.A. President, expressed concern that copies of the resolutions were not available to the audience. Mrs. Dimmick responded that this was an oversight, however, the resolutions were not in their final stages. She offered to share her copy of the resolutions with those interested. Mr. Wiley stated the worksession prior to the meeting was open to the public where all resolutions were reviewed.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved the Board favor the concept on those resolutions increasing the foundation units, funding school construction, reinstating the Professional Teacher Practices Commission, teacher tenure time extension, mandated class size, and enabling legislation for year-round school. Mr. Massie seconded.

Mr. Tauriainen stated he felt the board should not take action on the resolutions because this was generic action. He explained the Board could discuss the items and vote on them at the meeting in Anchorage.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to table the motion. Motion died for lack of a second.

AASB RESOLUTIONS
(continued):

Mr. Wiley stated he was concerned with such a broad motion, but board members could speak to the resolutions at the conference. Mrs. Gross commented she felt it was appropriate to direct the boards' representatives to express their intent in the committee meeting.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved to amend the motion to authorize Mrs. Dimmick and Mrs. Obendorf to represent the Kenai Peninsula School Board during discussions on the resolutions at the AASB Resolutions Committee. Mr. Wiley seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Mr. Tauriainen commented the intent would be that the boards' representatives would serve as proxy votes for the Board.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENT-
ATIONS:

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, K.P.E.S.A. President, told the Board she was aware of the Board's worksession, and added that the audience is not allowed input at these sessions. She stated she was disappointed the audience did not have copies of the resolutions considered by the Board. By this action, the audience had no idea what the Board approved.

Mr. John Kistler expressed concern related to the change in preparation of baccalaureate programs. He stated it was a disappointment that the educational leaders will no longer be taking the time to plan the program which would send the graduates on their way with a little bit of extra confidence to help them to succeed in their future. He suggested it is time for the educational leaders to rethink the methods on obtaining the educational goals for students. He felt it is time to return to education the values that seem to have been lost along the way and put emphasis back on scholastics. Through this, students will develop pride in what they have accomplished and should be told publicly they are wished success in life.

Mrs. Sharon Moock, Borough Assembly member, told the board she viewed the Homer Junior High School swimming pool area which is being used for sports activities despite the swimming pool not being filled. She recommended this be placed on the priority list as a health and safety issue. She also expressed concern on the conditions where students travel between the junior high school and intermediate school buildings. She suggested the risk manager review the situation as soon as possible, and that the parent committee work through the school board on this.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
(continued):

Mrs. Gross questioned whether a cost estimate was available for filling in the pool area. Mrs. Moeck noted the original design was for the entire area, not just filling in the swimming pool. She commented that because of costs an engineers study could not be done unless there was an absolute need for this.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Gross asked Dr. Holmes whether the intent of his memorandum was that baccalaureate ceremonies are allowed but would be organized by the parents and students, not the administrators. Dr. Holmes commented that this was the intent as well as a local ministerial group organizing the ceremony. This would be treated like any not-for-profit organizations, and would not be under the specific auspices of the school administrators. Mrs. Gross noted the Homer Baccalaureate ceremony was well attended last year.

Mr. Massie extended an apology to Mrs. Mahurin for not having copies of the AASB Resolutions available. He noted the Board met for nearly two hours to discuss the resolutions prior to the meeting. Likewise, Mr. Wiley stated the Board would not vote on the resolutions until November 12, and noted he would be happy to share his copy of the resolutions.

Mrs. Dimmick welcomed Mrs. Schwartz's education class from Kenai Peninsula College to the meeting.

Mrs. Dimmick announced the Housing Committee would meet on November 5 at 9:00 a.m, and the Activities Committee would meet at 1:15 p.m. on November 6.

ADJOURN:

At 9:38 p.m., Mr. Wiley moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Massie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President


Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Clerk