

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

February 3, 1992

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. Gary Jackson	Mr. Robert Dover
Mrs. Gloria Larson	Mr. Karl Swartz,
Miss Marcy Craemer	Miss Joni Huntsperger
Miss Amanda Haberthur	Mr. Ken Tarbox
Mr. Henry Anderson	Mrs. Nancy Watson
Mr. Dennis Murray	Mrs. Nancy Rollins
Mr. Jim Heim	Mr. John Kistler
Mr. Duane Anderson	Mrs. Pam Lazenby
Mr. Todd Syverson	Dr. Carla Anderson
Mrs. Kathy Godek	Mrs. Sharon Mook
Mr. Daryl Kellum	Mrs. Connie Miller
Mrs. Linda Houglum	Mrs. Susan Cain
Dr. Nels Anderson	

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Obendorf called the meeting to order at 7:34 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. Ryan Rogers	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the deletion of Item 8a (1) Leave of Absence Request/Support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of January 20, 1992, were approved as written.

HEARING OF  
DELEGATIONS:

Dr. Carla Anderson, parent, presented the Board with a proposal for restructuring schools in the school area. She suggested that Soldotna Elementary, Redoubt Elementary and Kalifornsky Beach Elementary contain grades kindergarten through 5; Soldotna Junior High School become a middle school serving grades 6 and 7; Skyview High School become a junior high school for grades 8 and 9; and Soldotna High School contain grades 10 through 12. She noted due to the financial future of the KPBSD the Board should look at all possible options in an effort to most effectively use space in the schools and provide sound educational programs for students. She noted enrollment figures were based on the November, 1991 student count, and added the restructuring would be for 5 to 7 years. She felt savings would result in more efficient staffing and extracurricular activities. Other cost savings would be for facility additions rather than new facilities. She stated she felt the district's college graduation rate of 3% was low compared to other states, indicating a need for better education.

Mr. Wiley questioned Dr. Anderson on where savings would come from in the extracurricular program. Dr. Anderson stated this would be from ridding the district of one level of varsity sports to be conducted at grades 10-12 only.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Obendorf read a letter from Mrs. Mary Trimble, Homer Junior High School PAC President, requesting the Board designate Homer Junior High School as a middle school for the 1992-93 school year. She noted the Board had been informed of the parent group's decision at a budget meeting earlier this year, and the letter was official notification of this decision.

MOUNTAIN VIEW  
ELEMENTARY PTA:

Mrs. Pam Lazenby, Mountain View Elementary PTA Chairperson, thanked the Board and administration for their involvement in the January 27 Kenai parent group housing/facilities meeting. She told the Board the four Kenai area schools have developed a phone tree to update 24 district schools on legislative issues related to education. She noted they hoped this will make an impact on legislators in hearing from parents on issues important to them.

K.P.E.A.:

Mr. Henry Anderson, K.P.E.A. President, asked for clarification on the January 21 K.P.S.A.A. Minutes related to elementary invitationals without the presentation of placement awards. Mr. Dahlgren responded the request came from the

K.P.E.A. (cont.):

elementary principals' representative for a ski day/social event and was in keeping with the Board's philosophy for no travel expenses for elementary activities and no awards presented for intramurals. Transportation would be provided by parent groups.

REDOUBT ELEMENTARY  
PTA:

Mrs. Susan Cain, Redoubt Elementary PTA Chairperson, urged the Board to carefully review the configurations to best utilize the existing schools. She stated that for the students' best interest, the PTR should be kept low in the elementary grades and progress to the larger class sizes in the high school, not vice versa.

SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT:

Dr. Holmes announced a districtwide parent group meeting will be held in the Borough Assembly Room, Soldotna, on March 7, 1992. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. with sessions on "Shared Decision Making for Student Success" and "Practical Ideas to Succeed in School."

He noted public budget hearings will be held at Kenai Central High School on Wednesday, February 5; at Seward High School on February 10; and at Homer High School on February 12. All hearings begin at 7:00 p.m. A public worksession on the budget will also be held on February 17.

Dr. Holmes noted a successful Department of Education audit was conducted last week for special services and federal programs.

He expressed appreciation to Mrs. Pam Lazenby and the Kenai parent groups for organizing the Housing/Facilities Meeting in Kenai, January 27. He commented the Board and administration would be happy to hold similar meetings throughout the peninsula if parents desired these.

KALIFORNSKY BEACH  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
REPORT:

Mr. Gary Jackson, Principal, and teachers, Mr. Robert Dover and Mrs. Gloria Larson, along with students, Karl Swartz, Marcy Craemer, Joni Huntsperger and Amanda Haberthur, reported to the Board on Kalifornsky Beach Elementary School's Adopt-A-Stream Program. The staff and students have conducted scientific and environmental studies of Slikok Creek where the project involves study of the life and cycle of the creek. They reported a great deal of support for the project has come from Mr. Ken Tarbox of the Alaska Fish and Game Department.

ELEMENTARY  
INTERVENTION  
STRATEGIES REPORT:

Mrs. Debra Sanders, school psychologist, reported on the many diversified responsibilities of elementary school intervention specialists. She explained the role of the intervention specialists and their importance to academic success of students. She listed many programs which have been developed, but there is not enough time for these specialists to

ELEMENTARY  
INTERVENTION  
STRATEGIES REPORT  
(continued):

implement them with their heavy student load. She also noted that many referrals now come from students and it is critical that these needs be addressed. She stated that current statistics indicate the Department of Youth and Family Services receives 150 calls per day, of which many do not receive responses due to lack of staffing.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Request for Australian Teacher Exchange, 1991-92 Teacher Assignments, In-service Request, and Extended Field Trip Requests.

REQUEST FOR  
AUSTRALIAN TEACHER  
EXCHANGE:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve submitting an application to the Department of Education for Brenda Hearnberger, Grade 8, Homer Junior High, for consideration in the Australian Teacher Exchange Program.

1991-92 TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1991-92 teacher assignments for Sandra Altland, Special Education/Educationally Handicapped, Kenai Middle School (Temporary); and Ruth McMillan, Special Education/Resource/Educationally Handicapped, Kenai Middle School (Temporary).

INSERVICE RELEASE  
REQUEST:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve an inservice release day on April 9, 1992 for Nikolaevsk Elem/High staff to work on the district approved elementary art curriculum, Improving Visual Arts Education (IVAE).

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 4 Skyview High School students to travel to Washington, D.C., April 24-May 3, 1992, to participate in the Close Up Program; for 4 Ninilchik High School students to participate in Close Up activities in Washington, D.C. April 4-11, 1992; and for 12 Soldotna High School Spanish students to travel to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, March 21-30, 1992 to study the Spanish language and culture.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items. Mrs. Dimmick seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY CHANGES/CO-  
CURRICULAR:

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve word changes from "extracurricular" to "cocurricular" in the following policies and regulations: 001.131, Length of School Day; 001.16R, Extracurricular Program and Interschool Activity; 003.121R, Field Trips; 003.322R, Transportation Coordinator; 003.351R, Administrative Evaluation Criteria; 004.242, Curricular/Extracurricular Programs; 004.242R, Use of Private Vehicles; 006.32, Affirmative Action; 006.42, Married/Pregnant Students; 007.11R, Student Handbook; 007.16, Theft and Vandalism; 007.17, District Provided Transportation; 007.342R, Student Disciplinary Records; and 007.42, Compulsory Attendance.

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ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board approve the policy changes as recommended by Mrs. Rubadeau. Mr. Wiley seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEGOTIATIONS/  
K.P.E.A.:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board commence negotiations with the Kenai Peninsula Education Association. Her recommendation was supported by a letter from Mr. Henry Anderson, K.P.E.A. President.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, requested the negotiations sessions be held in open sessions as stated in Section 620, Subsection, Conducting Negotiations, paragraph 2 of the Negotiated Agreement.

ACTION

Mr. Massie moved the Board enter into negotiations with K.P.E.A. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC  
PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Bill Brown, parent, told that Board that as a former Ketchikan resident now living in Soldotna, he had previously heard of the KPBSD's excellence of education, but had yet to see that while living here. He felt that community spirit was lacking in the area due to differences in the high schools. He expressed concern that his children would not receive a good education and leave the system lacking. He felt a top-notch education was more important than extracurricular activities and sports activities. He added the public school class ratios were too high, and students were not learning. He felt there was a need to consider restructuring to better utilize facilities and financial resources.

Mrs. Judy Shell, parent, spoke in support of the restructuring plan for the Soldotna area as proposed by Dr. Anderson. She felt this program would solve the overcrowded problems of the area which would bring Soldotna High School to 85% capacity with grades 10-12 and Skyview High School to 80% capacity with grades 8 and 9 while bringing the schools' enrollment in line with the district philosophy. She stated the secondary programs would be increased for less money by more efficiently utilizing existing staff and facilities. She commented she felt the quality of education has deteriorated since 1986, and even more with the opening of Skyview High School. She noted it was inefficient to operate two high schools in the community.

Dr. Nels Anderson, parent, requested the Board privately ask Dr. Holmes, as a professional, his opinion of the restructuring proposal. He questioned whether the dismal reports of 3% college graduates from the Kenai Peninsula

PUBLIC  
PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

School District were true, and if true, it is not a good indicator of education in the district. He offered to work on a program that would work with students to become better academically oriented to attend and graduate from colleges and universities at a better rate than currently reported.

Mr. Duane Anderson, Soldotna parent, commented that the communities of Ketchikan and Juneau do not share the same situations as those of the Kenai Peninsula due to their geographic and economic diversities. He apprised the Board of a possible new market on the Peninsula for timber sales which would impact the educational system both by additional students and need for facilities to house them. He noted a task force is meeting on this venture which could result in approximately 1,100 direct jobs within the next two years.

Mr. Todd Syverson, Skyview High School Vice Principal, told the board that if they consider Dr. Anderson's proposal they would need to look at increased discipline problems due to decreased activities available to students, the drop out rate, in and out of school suspensions, and more students not allowed to participate in activities. He noted that 50% of the students would not be allowed to participate in activities due to numbers allowable on teams. He invited school board members and parents to visit Skyview High School and see changes in students who have had an opportunity to participate in activities. He noted that Dr. Anderson's proposal would address problems at the elementary level, but it does not address problems at the high school level. A major problem at the high school level would be an increase in numbers and decrease in discipline and participation.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, reminded the board their primary responsibility is to educate students within the funds available for that. To this end, he stated extracurricular activities should not be considered before a good educational program. He commented that learning basics was the primary function to prepare students for life. He noted the 92-93 proposed budget constituted one-third of the average income of a family on the peninsula if contributed directly. He urged the board to make long-range plans to address what families can spend to educate their children. He noted there were items in the negotiations process he would like addressed, such as high salaries and insurance benefits which are unaffordable to local employers.

PUBLIC  
PRESENTATIONS  
(continued):

Mrs. Sharon Moock, assembly member, stated that members of her group were surprised to hear the Commissioner of Education say he would work to defeat educational legislation over the \$60,000 unit value because school district's were inefficient with their budgets. She commented that if such funding was actually forthcoming, then the board should seriously consider school restructuring this year. She stated it appeared the current configurations were not working, and the legislature is unsympathetic to the Kenai Peninsula because its buildings are not used to capacity. She urged the Board to listen to the people now and hear what they have to say about their communities and consider their suggestions so as not to lose programs.

Mrs. Obendorf commented the board went to Kenai at the request of the Kenai parents, and would be receptive to do the same for Soldotna, Nikiski or Homer if the parents request such. She noted the meeting was planned by the parents.

Mrs. Gross commented that programs had been lost throughout the district, not only in the Soldotna area with the opening of Skyview High School. These reductions for the past six years were due to overall reductions, not restructuring. She added the board is willing to look at all alternatives presented to them.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Wiley and other board members commented on the well organized meeting at Mountain View Elementary School this past week. Board members encouraged that other parent groups in the district organize similar meetings if they feel they are needed for facility use.

Mrs. Dimmick reported she had been busy with teleconferences and inservice sessions this past week. She commented it was important for educators to get together to discuss educational issues. She expressed appreciation to Dr. Dickerson and his staff for their attitude and cooperation at Soldotna Elementary during the chlorine gas leak in Soldotna last week.

Mr. Rogers commented that he was pleased with the members of the public who spoke at the meeting and encouraged them to continue to offer their suggestions where they feel change is needed.

Mr. Tauriainen reported he attended the Alaska 2000 Committee Meeting in Anchorage last week. He noted he will serve on the Facilities Subcommittee. He stated the major obstacle the committee sees is funding for facilities. A final report will be ready in September, 1992.

BOARD COMMENTS  
(continued):

Mr. Tauriainen expressed appreciation to Dr. Carla Anderson for her report and the research she has put into her presentation.

Mrs. Gross commented the board is interested in hearing from the public on facility needs or other topics they feel are important to education.

Mr. Massie commented the Kenai Peninsula was well represented at the State Basketball Tournament this past week. He stated the board needed to know where the public stood on housing needs in the district.

Mrs. Obendorf announced the AASB representative questionnaire was in the board members' packets and requested the members give her their comments before Wednesday.

She commented the "Skills for the 21st Century Leader" satellite worksession will be held on February 15, and requested that Board members advise her by Wednesday if they plan to participate in this training session. Special arrangements would need to be made for this presentation.

Mrs. Obendorf expressed concern on the quotation that only 3% of KPBSD graduates complete college. She requested Mrs. Rubadeau research the information and report to the Board. Mrs. Rubadeau stated she felt the information was erroneous, and would present a report to the Board on this.

Mrs. Obendorf commented one of the board's goals this year has been to study facilities. A committee of parents, teachers, school board members, and administrators has studied the issue. A formal report will be presented to the Board later this year, and long term solutions are part of this goal. She reiterated the board is willing to visit any community where parents feel a need to be heard.

She stated she was disturbed by the Commissioner of Education's remarks that he was opposed to any increase in the foundation formula. She noted that the Commissioner on a visit to the KPBSD this year was impressed and changed many of his ideas. She stated it is her opinion that by not increasing funding would not bring other districts to our level, but instead lower our district to theirs. She added that she was concerned the Commissioner of Education would say he is impressed with the district and what we're doing, yet not share this information and condemn education in the state.



ADJOURN:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

  
Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Clerk

The Minutes of February 3, 1992,  
were approved on February 17, 1992,  
as written.