

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

September 16, 1996

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mr. Emery Thibodeau, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent  
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,  
Operations, and Technology  
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel  
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Kistler	Mrs. Melody Douglas
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. Marvin Ungerecht	Mr. Rick Matiya
Mr. Paul Fischer	Mrs. Vickie Leach
Mrs. Sandy Roseburg	

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 5:26 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Germano moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:01 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:31 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Mr. Emery Thibodeau	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed with the deletion of Item 10f, Approval of Director of Assessment Appointment, and Item 10g, Approval of Authorization for Superintendent Search Consultation Services, pending additional information.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of the regular meeting of August 19, 1996, and special meeting of September 4, 1996, were approved as written.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Gross presented a Plaque of Appreciation to retiring school board member, Emery Thibodeau. She thanked Mr. Thibodeau for his service on the Board for the past three years. She wished him well in his future endeavors.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Bromenschenkel presented three reports under this section of the agenda.

Superintendent Bromenschenkel noted a report was prepared for the Board to consider the manner in which school reports are presented to them at regular school board meetings. The four options presented included: 1) using the current practice, 2) each school would make its presentation according to some established schedule during an afternoon board worksession, 3) schools would form groups (i.e., Seward schools, Homer schools, Russian schools) and reports would be presented in an afternoon worksession on the day of the board meeting, and 4) board members would schedule visitations to schools on the afternoon of the board meetings. He noted some of the options were suggested by the principals.

Mrs. Gross responded the Board would consider the suggestions and give their recommendations to the administration later.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (continued): Dr. Bromenschenkel reported the current enrollment of 10,238.5 students was 37 students over the projected enrollment. He noted two schools, Skyview High School and Paul Banks Elementary, appeared to be understaffed due to high enrollments. He also noted that other schools were below projections. He stated 2.2 teachers are currently budgeted in the 96-97 unallocated account. Dr. Bromenschenkel added that the total amount in the unallocated and equipment accounts amounted to \$610,000, however, there was a recent directive from the Department of Education requiring school districts to carry earthquake and flood insurance on all school district facilities effective July 1, 1997. The estimated cost for this insurance in the KPBSD was approximately \$600,000.

A listing of worksessions and topics was presented by Dr. Bromenschenkel. He suggested the staffing formula and class size analysis be reviewed on November 4; discussion on the School-to-Work Program on November 18; discussion on the frontier schools on December 2; and a progress report on the assessment process be presented on January 6.

Mrs. Gross questioned whether the Board would hold a worksession on the alternative school program. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded that this topic was adopted in the superintendent's implementation plan and a report would be due early in spring, 1997.

Dr. Anderson inquired when the graduation requirements would be presented. Dr. Bromenschenkel stated these would be presented at the next meeting in policy format.

FINANCIAL REPORT;

Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending August 31, 1996. He commented the budget appeared on target at this time and exact revenues would not be known until the 20-day count in October. He noted the ruling from the arbitration report could also affect the budget.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda included Approval of Refuse Contract, Furniture and Equipment List, Resignations, 1996-97 Teacher Assignments, 1996-97 Non-Tenure Teacher Assignments, Leave of Absence Request/Support, and Early Graduation Request.

REFUSE CONTRACT:

Mr. Dahlgren requested authorization to seek approval from the Alaska Public Utilities Commission to seek a bid proposal from Peninsula Sanitation, Inc. for the district's refuse service. Upon approval of the agreement by the Alaska Public Utilities Commission, Peninsula Sanitation would provide a one-time credit to the district's refuse billing in the amount of \$6,650.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$10,446.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Don Brown, Science, Soldotna Middle; Constance Gates, Grade 4, Mt. View Elementary; James Gates, Grade 5, Kalifornksy Beach Elementary; Diane Griechen, Grades 9-12, Homer Flex; Timothy Jacobson, Grade 4, Tustumena Elementary; Sherry Nauta, Grade 1, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary; Dawn Thorpe, Mathematics/Physical Education/Athletics, Kenai Central High; Nancy Tipton, Kindergarten, Sears Elementary; and Terry Tipton, Counselor, Skyview High. She also recommended approval of resignations for James Simeroth, Grade 7, Kenai Middle, effective August 30, 1996; and Carol J. Knight, 96-97 Leave of Absence, effective August 30, 1996.

1996-97 TEACHER ASSIGN-MENTS:

Mrs. Radkte recommended the Board approve 1996-97 teacher assignments for Terri Carter, Grade 1, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary, Temporary; David Emery, Physical Science, Soldotna High; Marina Gantz, Russian (.6 time), Skyview High, Temporary; Dudley Homelvig, English, Kenai Central High; Cheryl Johnson, French/English, Kenai Central High; Barbara Kiech, Kindergarten (half-time), Soldotna Elementary; Stephanie Kind, Language Arts, Ninilchik Elem/High; Heather Lindquist, Grades 5-8, Moose Pass Elementary; Gregory Maddigan, English, Homer High; Susan Maurer, Mathematics/Social Studies (.4 time), Skyview High, Temporary; Paula McCoy, Grade 2, Sterling Elementary; Jahna Pollock, Special Education/Resource (half-time), Skyview High; Bethany Rice, Language Arts/Drama (half-time), Soldotna Middle; Curtis Terrill, Science (.4 time), Skyview High, Temporary; Robin Thye, Kindergarten (half-time), North Star Elementary; William Thompson, Grade 7, Kenai Middle, Temporary; Ken Kelchle, Grade 7, Kenai Middle, Temporary; Brenda Howe, Mathematics, Seward Jr/Sr High; and Beverly Hunter-Gillaspie, Computer Technology/Business Education (half-time), Nikiski Jr/Sr High.

TENTATIVE NON-TENURE  
TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve tentative non-tenure teacher assignments for the 1996-97 school year for Henry Hofeldt, Counselor, Nikiski Jr/Sr High; Trudy Petersen, Music (.6 time), Soldotna High, Temporary; Margaret Blanding, Grades 7-8 (half-time), Chapman Elementary; and Laurie Cowgill, Library/QUEST, Sears Elementary.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 1996-97 school year for Carole Nolden, Special Education Aide, Skyview High School.

EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Homer High School senior to graduate in January, 1997.

Questions were raised on the refuse contract. Mr. Dahlgren explained this was a request to bid which needed authorization from the Alaska Public Utilities Commission before the district could go to bid for the district's refuse contract. In addition, a one-time credit of \$6,650 would be a part of the bid. He noted the attorney had approved the contract since Peninsula Sanitation was the only contractor in the area that could handle the volume of business. Concern was expressed that district policy might not be followed on this issue. The Board felt this should be further reviewed by the administration.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #2 through #7. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Agenda Item #1, Approval of Refuse Contract. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion failed unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer requested reconsideration of the Refuse Contract at the next school board meeting.

TITLE IX GRANT APPLICATION:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve a Title IX grant application in the amount of \$180,093. This program would provide instructional aides to schools during the 1996/97 school year to meet the special education and cultural needs of Native Alaskan/American Indian students. This is the third year of a three-year grant.

TITLE IX GRANT APPLICATION  
(continued):

Mrs. Gross announced a public hearing would be held on the grant application. No members of the audience spoke to this issue.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the Title IX Grant Application. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET PROCESS:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a modified form for the FY 98 budget process as suggested by the school board. The budget process would essentially use the budget process utilized for the 1996-97 budget. The calendar process was extended to provide a four-day break between program discussions and the worksession where the committee will generate ideas for balancing the budget. Approximately 25-30 individuals would serve on the Budget Review Committee. Additional worksessions were included in the schedule for review of the budget.

Mr. John Kistler commented he was pleased with the changes since the original proposal was presented.

ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the Budget Development Process. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Germano commented that membership to the Budget Review Committee by the public and employees should be advertised. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded that it was the administration's understanding that this would be made known to the public and employees. In response to Mrs. Fischer's question as to membership, Mrs. Gross clarified that the 25-30 individuals were a minimum number on the committee which encompassed personnel from the various school district unions, parent groups, chambers of commerce, senior citizens, etc. Any other community members or employees interested would be included on the review committee. Dr. Bromenschenkel noted that staff persons not appointed by their respective unions would be required to use personal leave to attend. He noted that advertisements will be made through the local news media.

Motion carried unanimously.

AASB RESOLUTION:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a resolution for consideration at the AASB Conference. The resolution dealt with the portability of tenure which was included in HB 465 approved by the 1996 legislature.

ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the AASB Resolution, Portability of Tenure. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mrs. Gross stated the Board received a packet of resolutions approved by AASB at the last conference. She noted she had requested Dr. Bromenschenkel to draft the resolution for her.

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, stated that KPEA and KPESA did not receive copies of the resolution in their packets. She noted that Mr. Smalley, KPEA President, was attending another meeting this evening and was unaware of the resolution since it was presented to the Board at the night's meeting. She felt it was unfair this was an unannounced topic and not in the packets.

Mrs. Gross commented the Board was not sneaking the resolution in, but it was developed after the packets were printed. Approval needed to be made prior to October 4, and the next school board meeting would be October 7.

Mrs. Gross questioned whether the Board wanted to hold a worksession to review the AASB core resolutions. Dr. Anderson commented the resolutions are ongoing resolutions approved last November at the AASB Conference. The Board would have had time to review the resolutions, and this was the time to present new resolutions.

Mr. Arness stated he would not vote for the resolution since KPEA did not have prior notice on the resolution. Mrs. Germano commented this was a listed agenda item and as such the resolution was an agenda item.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Thibodeau, Gross

NO - Arness

Motion carried.

POLICY/AR 9250, COMPENSATION,  
REIMBURSEMENT, AND OTHER  
BENEFITS:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented policy AR 9250, Compensation, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits, for approval. He noted this regulation puts into adopted format the practice existing in the district. A first reading of the regulation was conducted at the August 19 meeting.

Mr. John Kistler commented he felt the compensation allocated to the president seemed fair considering the responsibilities of the office.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve AR 9250, Compensation, Reimbursement, and Other Benefits. Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Thibodeau, Gross

NO - Fischer

Motion carried.

Mrs. Gross questioned Mrs. Fischer on what she felt would be fair compensation. Mrs. Fischer stated she felt the retirement and health benefits were excessive for the amount of time put in by school board members and boards, in general, statewide.

ADMINISTRATOR RESIGNATION:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve the resignation of Tom Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, effective June 30, 1997. He noted Mr. Thorpe has served the district for 18 years and has been a valued individual in the district.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Mr. Thorpe's resignation. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Kistler thought there should be elections several times during the year because it increased the size of the audience slightly.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Thibodeau told the Board he enjoyed working with them for the past three years. Members of the Board extended best wishes to Mr. Thibodeau on his visit to Hawaii.

Mrs. Larned commented she was pleased that more people will be able to be involved as Budget Review Committee members.

Mrs. Fischer commented she was able to attend the arbitration sessions where it was quite informative to hear both sides of the issue. She added that when the decision is rendered it will be interesting to learn what the arbitrator was looking for from each side.

Dr. Anderson stated it had been his pleasure to serve with the fine members of the Board. He added the reason he chose to run again for school board was to serve with such quality people who are concerned about the education of kids.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mrs. Gross wished Dr. Anderson and Mr. Arness well on their school board election.

Mrs. Gross noted she had appointed Mr. Arness to serve on the Calendar Committee, pending the election outcome.

Mrs. Gross commented it was good having the Alaska State School Board in the district last week. She noted it was a good opportunity for her and others to meet and talk with the state school board members.

ADJOURN:

At 8:44 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of September 16, 1996,  
were approved on October 7, 1996,  
with a correction.