

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

December 2, 1996

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk
Dr. Nels Anderson, Treasurer
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Member
Miss Megan Corazza, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,
Operations, and Technology
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Hal Smalley	Mrs. Melody Douglas
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mr. William Coghill
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mr. John Kistler
Mr. Frank Garrity	Mrs. Barbara Dahl
Mrs. Chyrell Richardson	Mr. Jay Sauer
Mr. and Mrs. Butch Leman	Ms. Heidi Chay
Others present not identified.	

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mrs. Fischer 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. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:30 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the Board adjourn the executive session. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Absent - Excused
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Absent - Excused
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Miss Megan Corazza	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed with the addition of Item 10e, Approval to Schedule Special School Board Meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of November 18, 1996, were approved as written.

CHAPMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Frank Garrity, Principal, Chapman Elementary School in Anchor Point, reported the school's major goal this year is an all-school cross-curricular thematic unit on Alaska that focuses on student writing improvement using the writing process and encompasses the technology available. Student-led portfolios at parent conferences continue this year and the music program is the largest ever at the school. He noted the principal and staff, and more recently the Chapter I Program, finance the breakfast program at the school with the belief that students need nutrition before they can learn. Other activities at Chapman School include hands-on science projects, web page publishing, outdoor environmental experiences, "Gold Rush" publications, an excellent parent volunteer program, and family math night. Mr. Garrity introduced the School Based Decision Making Council chairperson, Chyrell Richardson, and the PTA chairperson, Barbara Dahl. Concern was expressed about the water problem at the school. Mr. Dahlgren explained the school district is working with the borough on this, with anticipation that the problem will be corrected within the near future.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Butch Leman, Ninilchik parent, told the Board parents and staff members in Ninilchik are interested in generating lines of communication and consensus on where the community wants to go with the Ninilchik School situation. He hoped the Board and administration would consider the community's wishes for their school.

Mrs. Terry Leman, Ninilchik parent, expressed concern about the air quality at the junior-senior high school facility and the fairground temporary quarters. She suggested use of clear air machines to help the situation. Mr. Dahlgren responded that from our workman's comp. carrier an industrial hygienist tested the air quality and all tests proved safe. They also advised against use of the clear air machines.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Bromenschenkel acknowledged the presence of a large number of high school students in attendance at the meeting. He noted this was the last opportunity for them to attend a school board meeting prior to the end of the semester.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (continued): Superintendent Bromenschenkel advised that the Board needed to schedule a Special School Board Meeting, possibly in Ninilchik, related to replacement of the Ninilchik School Building. He noted the issue was two-fold; one, dealing with a response to the fire and replacement of the building; and secondly, thoughts and ideas from the community related to expansion and relocation. He stated these were two different issues which should be dealt with separately.

AUDIT REPORT: Mr. William Coghill, CPA, Mikunda, Cottrell and Company, presented the fiscal year 96 audit report of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. He noted the staff has done a excellent job in preparation of the school district accounts, and it is the recipient of Certificates of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. A Letter to Management and a report on internal controls and compliances will be submitted in the near future.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Larned reported she attended the Vocational Advisory Committee Meeting on November 21. She reported \$67,000 was awarded in Carl Perkins Mini-grants. She commented the Technician Certification Program will begin in January as an after-school program in the computer field. The program will begin with a few students, but eventually become districtwide. The committee's next meeting will be on January 30.

Dr. Anderson stated he attended the Science Curriculum Committee Meeting and relayed the information he gathered from board members on their lack of desire for a mandatory integrated science class for first year high school. He stated he was of the opinion that integrated science is an excellent idea, and the committee will include other classes in that option for the freshman year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items on the Consent Agenda included Approval of Furniture and Equipment List, Extended Field Trip Requests, Resignations, and Substitute Teacher Contracts.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT LIST:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for the West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$33,340.76.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUESTS:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 11 Chapman Elementary 7th and 8th graders to travel to Washington, D.C., March 22-29, 1997, to participate in the American Student Travel Program; for 35 Kenai Middle and Kenai Central High School band students to perform in a Florida Bandmasters Association concert evaluation and to visit national parks, March 18-28, 1997, in southern Florida; and for six Ninilchik High School students to participate in Close-Up Program activities in Washington, D.C., April 11-19, 1997.

RESIGNATIONS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Alyce Johnson, Grade 3, Mountain View Elementary; Donna Rea, Grade 3, Soldotna Elementary; Gary Horrell, Physical Education, Homer Junior High; Noreen Steinbrecher, Grade 1, Seward Elementary; and Roger Steinbrecher, Social Studies/ Athletic Director, Seward Jr/Sr High.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Stephanie Carroll, Grade 1, Paul Banks Elementary; and Suzanne Phillips, Language Arts, Soldotna Middle.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items as presented. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL BASED DECISION MAKING COUNCIL WAIVER/ TYONEK:

Dr. Bromenschenkel reported the Tyonek Parent Advisory Committee requested a waiver from district policies related to an alternative composition for the School Based Decision Making Council at their school. He advised the Board deny the waiver as requested because, as written, it would be possible for the entire school based decision making council to be composed of employees. He noted this is not in the spirit of the school based decision making guidelines which were adopted by the school board. The guidelines call for membership from teachers, support staff, parents, nonparent community members, the administrator and students at the secondary level.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, stated the waiver should be approved because Tyonek is a small-type community split into two separate groups. He felt it might be difficult to get volunteers in that community.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the recommendation of Dr. Bromenschenkel. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Miss Corazza inquired whether the Tyonek School had a School Based Decision Making Council this year. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded they do not have one established. Mrs. Fischer questioned whether a PAC, PTA, or any other parent group is functioning at the school this year. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded there was no operational parent-teacher group this year.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION:
ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following; "Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of KH.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, December 2, 1996. The student and her mother were in attendance. Mr. Bob Bellmore, Principal of Nikiski High School and Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, and recommended expulsion of the student for a second drug offense.

The evidence presented by the administration showed that on November 19, 1996, KH left her back pack in a classroom. It was brought to the office for safekeeping. On the morning of November 20, Mr. Glaze searched the back pack for the owner's identity. He found a bag of marijuana, a leaf of marijuana and a lighter. KH was called to the office. She identified the back pack as belonging to her. She initially denied the marijuana was hers. She later admitted the marijuana was hers.

Mr. Bellmore stated this was KH's second offense. She had been suspended for 45 days during the last school year for possessing Ritalin, a prescription drug, which was not hers. Because this is KH's second offense, Mr. Bellmore recommended expulsion under policy 5131.6(a) with drug assessment and counseling as a condition of re-entry.

The Board has adopted policies supporting its commitment to maintaining a drug-free learning environment. Possession of marijuana is a serious offense. The Board concludes that in light of the uncontradicted evidence of drug possession, a suspension from Nikiski High School until the end of the semester is appropriate. Further, the Board places the following conditions upon her continued enrollment in

EXPULSION (cont.):

Nikiski High School. First, prior to being enrolled for the second semester of school, she must present proof that she has been assessed for substance abuse and is following any recommendations made as a result of that assessment. Second, she must perform a minimum of 50 documented hours of community service. A minimum of 20 hours must be completed before the beginning of the second semester of school. The remainder must be completed before the end of the third quarter. Third, any further drug offenses will result in immediate expulsion. Finally, the Board encourages KH to complete as many of her current classes as possible with the assistance of her mother and her teachers." Mrs. Fischer seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins
Advisory Vote - ABSTAIN

Motion carried.

SCHOOL CALENDARS:

Mr. Dahlgren reported the Calendar Committee met on October 29, 1996, to discuss and set calendars for the 1997-98, 1998-99, and 1999-2000 school years. The committee recommended the Board approve the 1997-98 calendar and tentatively approve the remaining two years' calendars. The calendars were presented without quarter and semester ending dates. Because this is the first year to have the first semester end prior to Christmas break, the Calendar Committee will evaluate feedback from the schools and community concerning this deviation from previous calendars. The Calendar Committee will meet in January to establish the quarter and semester ending dates, and present their recommendations to the Board at its February 17, 1997 meeting. For the 1997-98 school year, teachers would begin August 20, with students beginning on August 27. Ending dates for students would be May 28, and for teachers on May 29. All of the calendars contain a two-week Christmas break, and a one-week spring break.

Mr. Kistler, parent, urged the Board to postpone action on approval of the calendars until the February 17 meeting. He felt it was important that the Calendar Committee receive comments, and the Board approve the calendars only once.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the 1997-98 school calendar as outlined, and tentatively approve the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 calendars as outlined with approval of the semester dates to follow. Mrs. Larned seconded.

SCHOOL CALENDARS (cont.):

Mrs. Fischer commented that for scheduling purposes students and parents are interested in knowing as soon as possible the beginning and ending dates for the school calendars.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Arness on whether the students favored ending the first semester prior to Christmas break, students in the audience indicated unanimously their support for ending the semester prior to Christmas break.

Motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL MEETING:

Dr. Bromenschenkel announced the Board has need to call a special meeting next week to address issues related to the reconstruction project for the Ninilchik School. He noted it was necessary to start action immediately in order to have school functioning at the beginning of next school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve a Special Meeting on Monday, December 9, 1996, 7:00 p.m. at the Ninilchik High School Gymnasium. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Arness requested a walk-thru of the Ninilchik School facilities be conducted at 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Kistler stated he was present when the Board discussed and approved the portion of the policy manual where parents are to sign-off on student handbooks. He noted the intent of the Board was not for parents to have a "cop out" on lack of knowledge pertaining to student requirements, etc. He again questioned what action the Board intended to take and follow up on how its policies are being followed in the schools. Mr. Arness inquired if Mr. Kistler had suggestions on how this could be done. Mr. Kistler stated he had no recommendations on how to accomplish this.

BOARD COMMENTS:

The student representative and board members expressed appreciation to the students for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Mullins reported she attended the play, "Benjamin Michael Who Would Not Recycle," at North Star Elementary School. She commented both Mr. Arness' and her children had participated in this play several years ago, and it was interesting to view this version of the play.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mrs. Larned told the students that one of the Anchorage School District school board members was elected while she attended high school in Anchorage.

Mrs. Fischer stated that the Board should take the policies seriously because they are the laws of the district. She noted it behooves the Board to direct the administration to see that they are followed, and if they are not workable, they should be brought to the Board for revision. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Kistler for bringing this matter to the Board's attention.

Dr. Anderson suggested that, in all fairness to Central Office, the Board needed to give them directions for new hires' salaries. He felt this should be done in the near future.

Mrs. Fischer inquired whether the Board could schedule a worksession of the Board at the December 9 special meeting. Mr. Arness responded that he did not feel this was the appropriate time or place, and he would speak with Mrs. Gross when she returns about scheduling such a meeting.

ADJOURN:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of December 2, 1996,
were approved on January 6, 1997,
as written.