

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

March 17, 1997

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
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Cathie Schmelzenbach	Mr. Paul Sorenson
Mr. Tim Sandahl	Mrs. Tess Dally
Mr. David Fischer	Mr. Merrill Sikorski
Mr. Jon Lillevik	Mrs. Rosemary Bird
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh	Mr. Paul Fischer
Mr. Robert Brown	Ms. Terri Woodward
Dr. Donna Peterson	Mr. Fred Wemark
Mrs. Lynn Hohl	Ms. Carolyn Cannava
Mr. Eric Fry	Miss Megan Webb
Miss Megan Parshall	Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mr. Hal Smalley	Mr. John Kistler
Mr. Doug Lothian	Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. A quorum of school board members, Dr. Nels Anderson, Mrs. Debra Mullins, Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Mrs. Susan Larned, and Mr. Joe Arness were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 1:07 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. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 3:47 p.m., Mrs. Larned moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECESS:

At 3:48 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 7:30 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

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
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Miss Megan Corazza	Absent - Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 3, 1997, were approved as written.

KENAI MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Paul Sorenson, Principal of Kenai Middle School, and staff members Cathie Schmelzenbach, Dave Fischer, Tim Sandahl, and Tess Dally reported to the Board on the goals and teaching assignments of their 454 student middle school, the school's web page and on-going instructional technology, the accelerated reading program, the Analytic Writing Assessment goal and the school's family support program. Twenty students from the 55-member choir, under the direction of Rosemary Bird, performed two selections for the Board and audience.

RECESS: At 8:15 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 8:25 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Miss Megan Webb, Soldotna High School senior, told the Board students in the district are concerned they do not have enough textbooks in their classrooms. She cited an example where 50 sociology students in two classes share 23 textbooks. She also noted there were 13 textbooks for 25 students in her physics class. She questioned why each student does not have a textbook of their own to take home to study.

CARING FOR THE KENAI PROGRAM: Mr. Merrill Sikorksi gave a video presentation on the Caring for the Kenai Program. This program is a partnership between the schools and industry working together in an effort to improve the environment on the Kenai Peninsula. He told the Board this is the seventh year of the program,

CARING FOR THE KENAI PROGRAM (continued): and students are completing their projects this week. He expressed appreciation to the school district, the community, and businesses on the Peninsula for their cooperation and support for the program.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Dr. Bromenschenkel noted a number of communications had been received related to the Bay View Charter School. Mr. Arness acknowledged receipt of the letters and noted the Board would take time to read the communications prior to considering the Bay View Charter School proposal.

- KPEA:** Mr. Hal Smalley, KPEA President, noted he received numerous communications related to the Bay View Charter School proposal and asked the Board to consider the concerns expressed in the letters. He also told the Board he attended a meeting recently in Seattle related to the Challenger Learning Center. He noted a center is currently being proposed for Kenai and asked for the Board's support of the program by encouraging legislative funding for approximately \$1.5 million and also encouraging congressional funding for this project.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Bromenschenkel presented a listing of school board worksessions for the remainder of the 1996-97 school year. He also presented an analysis of Senator Wilken's educational funding proposal to be presented in the legislature soon. Superintendent Bromenschenkel reminded the Board of their meeting on Tuesday, March 19, with the Borough Assembly related to the 1997-98 budget and funding outside the cap.
- 1997-98 BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Mr. Swarner presented the 1997-98 budget to the Board. The Board will consider adoption of the budget at their April 7, 1997 meeting. He noted the budget has been adjusted downward to reflect reductions of \$2.2 million and it is a balanced budget. He anticipated that by April 7, it would be known whether the Borough Assembly will support additional funding outside the cap as well as identifying students for the charter schools and adjusting the projected enrollments for those schools and affected KPBSD schools. Mrs. Fischer questioned whether the food service price increases were included in the budget. Mr. Swarner stated those increases were included from the budget review committee meetings and worksessions.
- FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ending February 28, 1997.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations, Leave of Absence Request/Support, and Furniture and Equipment List.
- RESIGNATIONS:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations from Holly Zwink, currently on leave of absence, effective February 25, 1997; and Lynn McNamara, currently on leave of absence, effective March 4, 1997.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE/SUPPORT:** Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 1997-98 school year for Dawn Stetz, Administrative Secretary I, Alternative Schooling/Bilingual Education.
- 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 \$69,588.25.
- ACTION** Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda Items. Mrs. Fischer seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.

FOOD SERVICE MEAL PRICES/
1997-98:

Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve school lunch prices for the 1997-98 school year at a price increase of \$.25 per meal. He noted the 1997-98 budget for the Food Service Program was developed for a projected increased revenue of \$66,600 as a result of the price increases. The 1997-98 prices would be \$2.25 for elementary (K-6), \$2.50 for secondary (7-12), and \$3.25 for adult lunches.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the Food Service Meal Prices for the 1997-98 school year. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Dr. Anderson questioned whether an increase in lunch prices would generate the projected revenue since possibly fewer lunches would be served. Mrs. Fischer commented she would not vote for the price increase because she felt the Board had not thoroughly discussed or looked at alternatives to this in the budgeting process.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Mullins

NO - Fischer

Motion carried.

RECESS:

At 9:35 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess for school board members to read communications received related to the Bay View Charter School.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:48 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

BAY VIEW CHARTER SCHOOL:

Mr. Doug Lothwian, Bay View Charter School committee member, told the Board the proposers have condensed the proposal, held a teleconference with district administrators, and held a public meeting with the Seward School Based Decision Making Council. He clarified that the lottery preference process for students of the charter school proposers would be granted for the first year only. He requested approval of the proposal.

Dr. Anderson stated he felt it admirable to give preference to AVTEC students, however, if they left early and came late the proposal should be modified to "up to 25%" rather than specific 25% as stated in the proposal. Mr. Lothwian commented the proposers considered trying this for the first year, but would change the language of the proposal as suggested.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Bay View Charter School application with the amendments as suggested. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Mullins commented that in scanning the letters it appeared there was a 50-50 split on comments, and she felt the group needed to communicate more with the community. She stated she felt the program should be more structured and she would like a review of the program in a year.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION #1:
ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of TA.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, March 17. The student and mother were present. Mr. Jim Dawson, Principal of Mt. View Elementary School, and Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, and recommended expulsion for one year for violation of weapons policy 5131.7 on February 7, 1997.

EXPULSION #1 (continued):

The undisputed evidence showed that on Friday, February 7, 1997, TA brought an unloaded 25 caliber pistol gun to school in her backpack. Mr. Dawson testified that on Friday, February 7, 1997, he learned that TA may have had a gun on campus that day. He approached TA and asked whether she had something at school that she should not have. She admitted to having a gun. She and Mr. Dawson went to her classroom where they retrieved her backpack. They returned to his office. Mr. Dawson searched the backpack and found the weapon. The Kenai Police were called and TA was taken into custody.

Based on the undisputed evidence, the Board finds that TA violated weapons policy 5131.7 on February 7, 1997. Therefore, it concludes that TA should be expelled from the District for one calendar year. She may reapply for early admission at the beginning of the second semester of the 1997-98 school year upon providing proof that she has met the following requirements: (1) successful completion of a certified gun safety course; (2) successful completion of training in the prevention of gangs; (3) psychological evaluation pertaining to safety of self and others; and (4) successful completion at her own expense of approved correspondence study for the remainder of this school year and for the 1997-98 school year until she is readmitted. The Board will defer to the Administration to evaluate whether she has completed the steps outlined above or has done what she can reasonably do to complete these steps. Upon reentry to school, TA should attend weekly meetings pertaining to positive progress for one semester.

Except as necessary for counseling or correspondence course purposes, TA shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall she attend any school event or function whatsoever." Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION #2:
ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of JJ.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, March 17, 1997. The student and his mother were present. Mr. Sam Stewart, Vice-principal of Skyview High School, and Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, and recommended expulsion for two semesters for violation of substance abuse policy 5131.6 on February 11, 1997.

EXPULSION #2 (continued):

According to the uncontradicted testimony, on February 11, 1997, a search of JJ's locker revealed a water pipe with residue. The search resulted from information obtained by the assistant principal relating to another drug violation during the day. Present during the locker check was Greg Paxton and Sam Stewart. JJ stated that the pipe belonged to another student who kept it in JJ's locker. This is JJ's second drug-related offense.

Based on the contradicted evidence, the Board finds that JJ did violate the District's substance abuse policy 5131.6 on February 11, 1997 and concludes that JJ should be expelled from the District for two semesters. He may apply for early readmission to the District in the fall of 1997 upon providing proof that he has met the following requirements: (1) completion of a drug assessment and compliance with the program recommended; (2) completion of 40 hours of community service; and (3) completion of at least four credits of correspondence work at his own expense. He may apply immediately for readmission for District correspondence. Except as necessary for such readmission, JJ shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXPULSION #3:
ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of RH.

This matter was heard before the Board on Monday, March 17, 1997. The student and his father were present. Mr. Bob Bellmore, Principal, and Mr. Don Glaze, Vice-principal of Nikiski High School, and Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present on behalf of the administration, and recommended expulsion for two semesters for violation of policies 5131.6 and 5131.7 for possession of alcohol, concealed weapon and assault on February 10, 1997.

The undisputed evidence showed that on Monday, February 10, 1997 at approximately 7:20 a.m. RH sprayed pepper spray through the hallway by the Nikiski High School library and counseling center. The irritant was not sprayed directly towards a person, but the irritant became so strong that the building had to be evacuated. Students and teachers were allowed to reenter the building after the irritant had been removed by large fans. Almost immediately after the reentry,

EXPULSION #3 (continued):

RH was apprehended and brought to the office. RH admitted to Mr. Glaze, Vice-Principal, that he had been responsible for spraying the hallway. As part of further investigation, Mr. Glaze discovered a bottle of liquor in RH's backpack.

This is not RH's first offense. He has a history of skipping school and being disruptive. Further, he is on probation for breaking into a privately owned building and lighting a Kenai city dumpster on fire.

Based on the uncontradicted evidence, the Board finds that RH did violate policies 5131.6(a) and 5131.7(c) for possession of alcohol, concealed weapon and assault on February 10, 1997. Therefore, it concludes that RH should be expelled from the District for one calendar year. RH may apply for readmission at the beginning of the second semester for the 1997-98 school year upon providing proof that he has met the following requirements: (1) successful completion of a minimum of four credits of correspondence work at his own expense; and (2) compliance with any recommendation or requirements set by his probation officer or the CICADA program. He may apply immediately for readmission for District correspondence. Except as necessary for such readmission, RH shall not go on school ground during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECONSIDERATION OF
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Mr. Thorpe told the Board a parent requested the children's literature book The Giver by Lois Lowry be removed from school use. The Instructional Materials Review Committee met to review the book and recommended it remain in school libraries and that teachers use discretion when reading the book to student below grade 6 and that they make parents aware of the book's potentially thought provoking content.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Instructional Materials Review Committee recommendation. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1997-98 ADMINISTRATOR
APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve administrator appointments for the 1997-98 school year for Fred Deussing, Principal, Chapman Elementary; Richard Toymil, Principal, Paul Banks Elementary; and Lisa Stroh, Principal, Tustumena Elementary.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the administrator appointments for Chapman Elementary, Paul Banks Elementary, and Tustumena Elementary for the 1997-98 school year as presented. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR
APPOINTMENT/1997-98:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve Dr. Donna Peterson as Curriculum Director for the 1997-98 school year.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve the appointment of Dr. Donna Peterson as the Curriculum Director for the 1997-98 school year. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1997-98 TENTATIVE TENURE
ASSIGNMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the following tentative teacher assignment for the 1997-98 school year:

Seward Jr/Sr High
Burdick, Debra

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the tentative teacher assignment for 1997-98. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

TERMINATIONS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve terminations for Scott Christian and Alana Haider, teachers on unpaid leave of absence, due to failure to notify the district in writing by March 1 of their intention to return to the district.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the teacher terminations. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD GOAL SETTING WORKSESSION: Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board reschedule their goal setting worksession to Saturday, June 7, at 9:00 a.m. He noted this date change was requested by the Board.

Dr. Anderson commented he would be unable to attend the meeting on that date.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve rescheduling their goal setting session to Saturday, June 7, from Tuesday, June 10. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS: Mrs. Mullins stated she enjoyed Kenai Middle School's report, particularly the choral presentation.

Mrs. Fischer echoed Mrs. Mullins comments about the students' presentation especially after sitting through three expulsion hearings in the afternoon. She also commented it was enjoyable to hear presentations by two former students, now teachers, at the meeting.

Mrs. Larned stated the Board heard from students regarding the textbook situation, but they had not heard from teachers. She wondered if this was as much a problem for the teachers as it was for the students.

Mr. Arness reminded the Board of their meeting on Tuesday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m., and the meeting with home school parents on Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: At 10:21 p.m., Dr. Anderson moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Fisher seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of March 17, 1997,
were approved on April 7, 1997,
as written.