

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Seward High School
Seward, Alaska 99664

October 6, 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

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh Mr. Robert Boyle
Mr. Lawrence Colston Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Ms. Terry Woodward Mr. Malcolm Fleming
Mr. Jerry Dixon Mrs. Nancy Tapsfield
Mr. Marvin Tapsfield Ms. Liesl Davenport
Mr. Cliff Regal Ms. Carol Sturgelewski
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Davenport introduced Mr. Jasper Cunningham who played *Adios Muchachos* on the baritone while Ms. Cunningham accompanied him on the piano.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present
Mr. Joe Arness Absent/Excused
Mrs. Susan Larned Present
Dr. Nels Anderson Absent/Excused
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of September 15, 1997, were approved with a correction.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Robert Boyle, Principal, Seward Elementary, introduced Mr. Marvin Tapsfield who reported on the Youth Area Watch Program project in cooperation with the Chugach School District. Mr. Tapsfield explained that Exxon Trustee Council awarded Chugach School District 5 million dollars for 45 students. The Chugach School District expanded their program to include Seward Elementary and Seward High participants. Mr. Tapsfield explained that students in grades 5 through 12 were allowed to work in the field of science with research scientists in Prince William Sound. Six students joined scientists on research vessels, spent a week on board, conducted experiments, used computers, analyzed sea water, and studied sea life. Students were allowed to study the effects of the oil spill and were able to take science experiments back to the classroom to duplicate for other students. Mr. Jonah Swiderseski, student at Seward Middle/High School and Youth Area Watch Program participant, explained that his research experiment was to study crab zoya by compiling data on their growth and weight loss or gain and write a brief summary. Mr. Boyle stated that Jonah's work has been published on the web page.

Mrs. Tapsfield reported on the Fine Arts Camp sponsored by the Seward PTSA. She explained that over 100 students in grades 2 through 6 participated in a five-week variety of courses relating to fine arts. She told the Board that the students were extremely proud of their accomplishments and showcased their newly learned talents on the last night of the camp. Mrs. Tapsfield explained that the PTSA sponsored the camp through a grant from Holland America. Mrs. Tapsfield and Seward Elementary students displayed stained glass, ceramics and quilts created during the Fine Arts Camp.

Mr. Boyle reported on the Seward Elementary teacher exchange program which brought Ms. Jenifer Barrass from Australia. Mr. Boyle also reported that Mr. Dixon was named as the MacAuliffe Fellowship Award recipient. He explained that students created a web page by interviewing local senior citizens and writing their biographies. Mr. Boyle told the Board that their goals for the 1997-98 school year will be implementation of the new science curriculum, improvement of the Sights on Success Program, and a student and staff wellness program. Mr. Boyle reported on staffing challenges with the reduction of a 6th grade teacher and the elimination of a kindergarten teacher. He thanked the many school volunteers, PTSA and site council parents and introduced the student council president and vice president.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Cliff Regal, Seward Site Council Member, spoke to the Board about his concerns regarding staffing at the kindergarten and 6th grade levels. He told the Board that Seward Elementary has one half-time teacher position that is currently unfunded and urged the Board to fill that position.

Ms. Carol Sturgulewski, parent, told the Board she has been volunteering in the 6th grade and feels that the teachers are doing an excellent job with the overcrowding situation. She expressed her concern that students are not getting the attention they need and less instruction. She urged the board to allocate funds for the one half-time teacher position or consider hiring another aide to be shared between the kindergarten and 6th grade classrooms.

Mrs. Sharon Ganser, parent, stated that she is the parent of a kindergarten student and a 6th grade student. She told the Board the school has an excellent staff but felt that the students aren't being served as they have in the past. As time goes on, conditions at the 6th grade level will get more difficult. She reported that currently the 6th grade has 3 teachers in the morning and then students are split between 2 teachers in the afternoon. She asked the Board to provide assistance to the 6th grade as the teachers try to prepare them for junior high.

Monica Luther, parent, applauded 6th grade teachers but, felt that a pupil/teacher ratio of 32:1 was not good for staff or students. She expressed her concerned for the quiet students who may be struggling to maintain but do not speak up. She urged the Board to fund a one half-time position at the 6th grade.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross reported she had received three letters from Tustumena Elementary parents and staff concerning nursing time; a letter from Dave Dieckgraeff and Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Sharon Ganser concerning staffing at Seward Elementary.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A.,
K.P.E.S.A.:

Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President, commended the Board on their recent decision to pay the \$650 payment to the support staff. Mr. Colston expressed his objections to the decision concerning the \$650 payment to KPEA members. He stated that there was no court order or signed agreement authorizing the District to deduct the money from teachers' salaries. Mr. Colston stated that it is becoming clear that there is a commodity mentality with regards to teachers—the less you pay them, the better the bargain. He asked the Board to do what is right by paying the \$650 payment without deducting money from teachers' salaries.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR
P.T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.
(Continued):

Mr. Dieckgraeff, Seward Site Council President, welcomed the Board to Seward. He commended the school staff and stated that it is not uncommon to see teachers at school on Sunday afternoons. He expressed concern for 46 students and one teacher at the kindergarten level and one teacher who teaches 6th grade in the morning and music in the afternoon. He asked the Board to add an additional one half-time teacher for the 6th grade. Mr. Dieckgraeff stated he was pleased to see that 130 students are participating in sports at Seward High School. He asked the Board to think about organizing a School Based Decision Making meeting with other district councils to talk to the Board about common problems. He invited the Board to attend the Seward Site Council meeting on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Seward High library.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented an award of appreciation and a gift to Ms. Jenifer Barrass, exchange teacher from Australia. She thanked Ms. Barrass for sharing her talents and cultural background with students and staff at Seward Elementary.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren submitted a revised listing of worksessions and reports to be presented at future board meetings from October 20 through April 6, 1998. The reports/worksessions to review alternate options for nursing services was moved to December 1 and a review of the cocurricular program was moved to January 19 to accommodate the budgeting process.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the 20-day count for funding began on September 28. He reported that the District is currently 152 students under projected enrollment. This count does not include part-time students which total 22.5 FTE. With those students, the District is still 132 students under projection. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the count period continues though October 24. He explained that there is a one-day count for special services, bilingual education, and vocational education. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the district is facing a \$700,000 to \$1 million deficit and the administration will be looking at unallocated money, money set aside for the Calvert curriculum and unallocated equipment money, and will report back to the Board with a recommended plan. He stated that this is the first time in his tenure that the kindergarten class is smaller than the senior class. He guessed that the reasons were probably due to private and home schools. He will report to the Board in November with a plan on how to balance the budget.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
(Continued):

Mrs. Larned asked if the Board would be having a worksession with Cathy Schwartz concerning art classes. Mr. Dahlgren responded that one of the board goals is to review the elementary art curriculum.

Mrs. Germano asked if there was a committee looking at art curriculum. Mr. Dahlgren responded that Mrs. Peterson, Curriculum Director will decide how to accomplish this goal. Mrs. Gross stated that the Board still wishes to have a worksession with Ms. Schwartz.

Mrs. Gross stated that she would like to schedule a districtwide site council worksession with the Board.

Mr. Dahlgren introduced and welcomed Danielle Meacham, Soldotna High School senior, to the Board as the 1997-98 student representative.

BOARD REPORTS:

Mrs. Gross reported that members of the school board will meet with members of the Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau and Mat-Su school districts to discuss funding legislation introduced last year and review their effects.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permits; Unpaid Leaves of Absence/Support; 1997-98 Teacher Appointment; 19-Day Substitute Teacher Contracts; Furniture and Equipment List; Early Graduation Request; Extended Field Trip Request; and Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignment/1997-98.

PRIMARY SPONSOR OF GAMING
PERMITS:

By memorandum, Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve Primary and Alternative Members in Charge for the following schools applying for gaming permits for the 1997-98 school year: Mary Downs and Fred Deussing, Chapman School; Cynthia Farrens and Keith Gebhardt, Homer High; Sue Crane and Margaret Goodman, K-Beach Elementary; Sam Stewart and Hank Overturf, Kenai Central High; Glen Szymoniak and Laura Sheldon, McNeil Canyon Elementary; Ralph Steeves and Melanie Schilling, Moose Pass Elementary; Darolyn Brown and Jim Dawson, Mt. View Elementary; Leslie Weld and Scott Otterbacher, Nanwalek Elem/High; Lassie M. Nelson and Robert Bellmore, Nikiski Middle/High; Carlton Kuhns and Dunia Martushev, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High; Paul Kubena and Janet Clark, Ninilchik Elementary/High; Kim Schaeffer and Joanne Love, North Star Elementary; Rochelle R. Hanson and Wayne A. Young, Port Graham

PRIMARY SPONSOR OF GAMING
PERMITS(Continued):

Elementary; Marilyn Kowalski-Eaton and Malcolm Fleming, Seward Middle/Senior High; Marlene Byerly and Dawn Conn, Skyview High; Sylvia Reynolds and Daniel Gensel, Soldotna High; Fabian Castilleja and Sandy Geagel, Susan B. English Elementary/High; Lisa Stroh and Ethel Riley, Tustumena Elementary; Roderick M. Ladd, Jr. and Jean Calhoun, West Homer Elementary; and Leanne S. Krieger and Michael Murray, Voznesenka Elementary.

UNPAID LEAVE OF
ABSENCE/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a request for unpaid leave of absence for Debbie Methvin, Special Services Assistant, Nikiski, Elementary, effective during the 1998-99 school year.

1997-98 TEACHER APPOINTMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a teacher assignment for the 1997-98 school year for Indy Walton, Generalist, Skyview High.

19-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Kevin Harding, Art, Skyview High; Steven Evans, Science, Soldotna Middle; Barbara Spence, Special Education/Severe, Soldotna Middle; and Kathleen Herring, Applied Communications, Nikiski Middle/Sr. High.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT
LIST:

By memorandum, Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$50,222.94.

EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Soldotna High School student to graduate at the end of the first semester of the 1997-98 school year. The student plans to live with a host family in Holland.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST:

Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for twelve Seward Elementary QUEST students to travel to Corpus Christi, Texas, to visit the Texas State Aquarium. They will gather information which will help them write the education section for the web page at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward.

TENTATIVE NONTENURE
TEACHER ASSIGNMENT/1997-98:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 1997-98 school year for Joseph Miller, Correspondence Program.

TENTATIVE NONTENURE
TEACHER ASSIGNMENT/1997-98
(Continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve Consent Agenda item numbers 1 through 8. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Fischer, Larned, Mullins, Gross

NO - Germano

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion approved.

FIRST READING OF POLICY
REVISIONS:

The Board conducted a first reading on Board Policies 3300, Expenditures/Expending Authority and 3313, Leases and Agreements.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Fischer thanked the Seward community for hosting the school board meeting. She told those present that she empathized with the problems they are facing. She stated that the Board does hear their concerns and thanked those who have written her letters voicing their concerns.

Mrs. Germano stated she was pleased to be meeting in Seward. She welcomed Miss Meacham to the board.

Miss Meacham stated that she was looking forward to the learning experience of serving as the board's student representative.

Mrs. Mullins, welcomed Miss Meacham to the Board and hoped it would be a positive experience for her. Mrs. Mullins echoed Mrs. Fisher's comments concerning the overcrowded situation in Seward classrooms. She noted that the Board will soon be placed in a very uncomfortable situation when they have to cut something to balance the budget. She reassured those present that the Board does feel the pinch.

Mrs. Mullins stated that the Board feels the need to communicate with Site Based Decision Making Councils, and she liked the idea to meet together with the Board.

Mrs. Larned thanked parents and teachers for their involvement in the special programs that were reported on.

Mrs. Gross noted that there have been 10 years of budget cuts and all schools are feeling the effects. She thanked the Seward staff and parents for hosting the School Board Meeting and reminded those present to vote at the October 7 elections.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:40 p.m., Mrs. Mullins 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 9:37 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 9:38 p.m., Mrs. Mullins 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 October 6, 1997,
were approved on October 20, 1997.