

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

June 8, 1998

- SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member
- STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant Superintendent, Operations and Business Management  
Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
- OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Rebecca Jorgenson Mrs. Rosie Reeder  
Mr. Doug Mallette Mr. Jim Skogstad  
Ms. Shana Loshbaugh Mr. Tim Peterson  
Ms. Karen Mahurin Ms. Pam Lettington  
Mr. Justin George Ms. Terri Woodward  
Ms. Barbara Vogel Mrs. Jeri Best  
Mr. Jim Dawson Mr. Paul Fischer  
Mrs. Jean Kimple Mr. Richard Jobe
- Others present not identified.
- CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mr. Arness, Mrs. Larned, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Gross were in attendance.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 1:36 p.m., Mrs. Larned 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. The purpose of the executive session was to discuss the applicants for the School Board vacancy. Mrs. Mullins seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:30 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the executive session be adjourned. Mrs. Mullins 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
	Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
	Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
	Ms. Deborah Germano	Present
	Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of May 18, 1998, and June 1, 1998, were approved as printed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Doug Mallette apologized to the Board for his absence during the special School Board meeting of June 1, 1998. He explained that due to an unexpected death in the family he was not able to attend. He told the Board that he is still interested in the vacant seat and will also seek election in the future.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS: Ms. Pam Lettington, spokesperson for the Nikiski Area Reconfiguration Committee, told the Board that a committee was formed as a result of concerns expressed by Nikiski residents that Nikiski Middle/Senior High school was not built to house middle school students and that the gymnasium was not adequate to allow the delivery of a middle school extracurricular program. She stated that the committee was also concerned about the perceived competition that exists between the two elementary schools. She stated that the committee divided into small work groups and solicited input from local PTAs, site-based councils and school staff concerning the reconfiguration of the Nikiski schools. Ms. Lettington stated that after the input had been received, a survey was developed for Nikiski area families, a sampling of senior citizens, school staff and a sampling of students in grades 7-12. Ms. Lettington reviewed the results and reported that most of the people surveyed would like to see a change in the educational delivery of the Nikiski schools. She reported that the two scenarios that garnered the most votes were to establish a middle school that is separate from the Nikiski High School. She asked the Board, on behalf of the Nikiski Area Reconfiguration Committee, to have the administration reconfigure the Nikiski area schools by the 1999-2000 school year.

HEARING OF DELEGATIONS  
(Continued):

Mr. Arness asked if an addition to Nikiski Middle/Senior High School was an option, would it be the community's choice. Ms. Lettington replied that a new wing for middle high students would be the community's preferred choice. She added that the community felt that it was worth reconfiguring the Nikiski area schools so that students can have the benefit of the middle school philosophy. She felt that by offering a separate middle school, schools could focus primarily on middle school issues and that it would eliminate many of the discipline problems at Nikiski Middle/Senior High School.

Dr. Anderson asked Ms. Lettington how the community felt about housing kindergarten students in a high school setting. Ms. Lettington replied that between scenario Number 2 and scenario Number 5 most of the community felt that they would like the kindergarten students to be located at the high school. She explained that, at first, parents showed some resistance to having kindergarten students in the high school but, after further information was provided, accepted the idea. Ms. Lettington stated that, based on the survey results, scenario Number 2 and scenario Number 5 were the community's choice.

Mr. Dahlgren suggested the Board give the administration direction concerning a review of the Nikiski area schools and to collaborate with the community to develop a reconfiguration plan. He further recommended that the Board consider the reconfiguration issue during their upcoming goal setting session.

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

Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA president, informed the Board that the union ratified the KPESA agreement and thanked Mrs. Mullins and Mr. Arness for their participation in the negotiation process. In response to comments made during the June 1, 1998, special School Board meeting, Mrs. Mahurin pointed out that there is a difference between traditional bargaining and adversarial bargaining. She expressed her appreciation to the Board for a combination of traditional bargaining and collaborative bargaining. Mrs. Mahurin thanked the Board for appointing Board members to serve on the negotiating team. She apologized to the Board for the lack of union attendance during the employee recognition committee meetings and assured the Board that she will have a representative attend next school year.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** Mrs. Gross presented "Pat on the Back" awards from the Alaska Association of School Librarians to Jim Dawson, Donna Peterson and Sue Liebner. Mrs. Gross explained that the awards are given each year to principals who actively give their support to school libraries.

Mrs. Gross presented a gift of appreciation on behalf of the Board and the District to Mrs. Joyce Fischer for her nearly two decades of dedicated service to the Board of Education.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Mr. Dahlgren reminded Board members of the Board planning session on Tuesday, June 9, 1998, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Skyview High School Library. He stated that the purpose of the planning session will be to review last year's goals and establish Board goals for 1998-99. He stated that the Board will also complete their plan to allocate the additional money received as a result of the passage of SB36.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Mrs. Donna Peterson was representing the District at the State School Board meeting. He noted that the State School Board will be unveiling some regulations for public comment that are of major interest to the District.

**FINE ARTS REPORT:** Mr. McLain thanked Mrs. Donna Peterson, Ms. Dorothy Gray and Ms. Kathy Schwartz for their work on the fine arts report and for their contribution to the committee. He announced that Ms. Schwartz has reserved spaces for Kenai Peninsula teachers who wish to attend the Alaska Arts Education Institute, which is being held at the Kenai Peninsula College. Mr. McLain called the Board's attention to a diagram included in the fine arts report that demonstrated the connection of art to social studies, writing and science.

**BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:** Mr. Hickey reported on budget transfers Numbers 358 through 854 for various schools and departments within the District.

TITLE II EISENHOWER GRANT  
EXPENDITURES REPORT:

Mr. Ed McLain presented a report consisting of the last three Title II end-of-year reports to the Alaska Department of Education. The reports included the approved goals and objectives of the grant, activities funded by the grant, the numbers (of teachers, parents, others) served by those activities, and the dollars expended for those activities for each of the years 1995–1996, 1996–1997 and 1997–1998. Mr. McLain noted that as many as forty-eight activities are funded each year and that 18-20% of the grant is used for Ms. Gray's salary. He stated that all of the activities were related to math and science and that the total budgets range from \$80,000 to \$100,000 each year. He called the Board's attention to the positive review comments included in the report.

Mrs. Larned asked whether the Eisenhower grant can fund other activities. Mr. McLain answered that two years ago the Eisenhower grant was broadened to allow staff development in a variety of activities connected to higher-order thinking skills. He reported that a committee was formed to review the change in grant restrictions. He noted that the grant has been primarily used to fund math and science activities but that Eisenhower grant recipients now have been asked by the state and federal government to collaborate with other programs.

Ms. Germano asked why the entire District wasn't invited to participate in the POLARIS initiative. Mr. McLain explained that this decision was made when the initiative was first offered to the District because of the cost. He noted that only \$8,000 was spent on POLARIS-related activities. Mr. McLain explained that this year the District insisted that the entire District be allowed to participate in the POLARIS initiative.

Dr. Anderson asked whether a committee existed to oversee and plan Eisenhower expenditures and activities. Mr. McLain replied that Mrs. Peterson and Ms. Gray formed a committee composed of representatives from the entire District and that it is an advisory committee since grant expenditures must fall within specific parameters.

Dr. Anderson requested that the administration provide a detailed list of one year's workshops that were paid for by Eisenhower grant money.

- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Early Graduation Request, Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Officer Appointments, Budget Transfers, Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignment, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Resignations, 1998-99 Teacher Assignments, Substitute Teacher Contracts, and Leave of Absence Request/Support.
- EARLY GRADUATION REQUEST: Mr. Ed. McLain recommended the Board approve a Homer High School student's request to graduate by the end of the first semester, 1998-99 school year.
- TITLE IX AND SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE OFFICER APPOINTMENTS: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointment of Mr. Ed McLain as the District Title IX compliance officer and Mr. Rick Matiya as the District Section 504 compliance officer.
- BUDGET TRANSFERS: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfers Number 622 for \$13,385 to cover periodic temporary help to process mail and freight shipments, Number 631 for \$13,058 to purchase computers for the QUEST distance learning program, Number 705 for \$10,296 to cover extraordinary substitute costs resulting from an employee on long-term leave due to an injury and Number 852 for \$14,945 to cover the purchase of replacement sound system equipment.
- TENTATIVE NONTENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 1998-99 school year for William Withrow, physical education, Sterling Elementary.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/CERTIFIED: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence request for the 1998-99 school year for Sandy Pelischek, Special Education/Speech and Resource, Seward High.
- RESIGNATIONS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year from Debbie Burdick, math, Seward High; Carol Huntington, Special Education/resource, West Homer Elementary and Rondi Marsh, music, Skyview/Sterling Elementary.
- 1998-99 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 1998-99 school year for Bruce Christianson, Special Education/resource, Soldotna High; Laura Lawrence, Special Education/resource, Sterling Elementary; Jason Daniels, primary grades, K-Beach Elementary; and Victoria Hagen, Districtwide School Psychologist.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Donna Anderson, Grade 1, Sears Elementary and Suzanne Klaben, Grade 3, Nikiski Elementary.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE  
REQUEST/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for Barbara Baldwin, Title I Tutor, Sears Elementary, beginning January 11 to May 7, 1999.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 9. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Ms. Germano asked whether budget transfer Number 622 for \$13,000 for temporary help to process mail and freight shipments was out of the ordinary. Mr. Hickey responded that the warehouse has encountered peak loads in the past and felt that the \$13,000 was a bit out of the norm but that any amount over \$10,000 required Board approval.

Ms. Germano asked whether the Special Services budget transfer for the purchase of computers for the QUEST distance learning program was in addition to the transfer considered at an earlier meeting. Mr. Hickey stated that he would report back.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins,  
Gross

NO - Germano

Motion carried.

KPESA NEGOTIATED  
AGREEMENT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the 1998-99 KPESA Negotiated Agreement as presented. She reported that the agreement has been ratified by the union.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the 1998-99 KPESA Negotiated Agreement as presented. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Germano thanked those people who worked on the negotiating team.

HEALTH COPAYMENT  
MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT/KPAA:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a memorandum of agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Administrators' Association and the Board to begin copayments for medical insurance beginning with the 1998-99 school year. The memorandum of agreement states that any remaining funds in the KPAA Employee Copay Medical Insurance Account on June 30 of the fiscal year will be reimbursed to participating employees by August 31 of the following year.

HEALTH COPAYMENT  
MEMORANDUM OF  
AGREEMENT/KPAA (Continued):

Mr. Hickey stated that District expenditures may require another \$84 per employee per month to meet the shortfall. He stated that the KPEA Memorandum of Agreement is still awaiting some procedural work, and he expected to bring it to the Board for approval in the fall. He reported that the KPESA negotiated agreement that just received Board approval included a change in the structure of KPESA's health plan and, therefore, will not require a memorandum of agreement.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Kenai Peninsula Administrators' Association and the Board. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Germano asked whether orthodontics coverage was extended only to KPAA members. Mr. Hickey explained that only KPAA has orthodontics coverage and that there is an additional copayment or premium that covers the costs. He reported that dependent children are covered for KPAA. Mrs. Gross asked whether other groups could participate in the orthodontics coverage. Mr. Hickey stated that orthodontics coverage is a negotiable item.

Motion carried unanimously.

POLICY REVISION BP 6146.1,  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements, which delays by one year the requirement for students to fulfill 22 units for graduation.

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve revisions to BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

Mr. Arness explained that the idea to delay the new graduation requirements by one year came up when the District reduced high school staff. He explained that there was a concern that students could not earn the credits necessary to graduate under the new graduation requirements. He stated that, even though that may not be an issue anymore, enough questions have arisen that he felt it wise to step back and reconsider the science and math third-year requirement. He felt that revising BP 6146.1 would be the cleanest way to accomplish that.

Dr. Anderson expressed concern that because students are allowed to take practical arts as a science, they can graduate without taking any science classes. He suggested that the Board review the policy in a one-hour worksession. He further stated that the corresponding administrative regulation should be revised to allow dual credit for those students taking college classes.



POLICY REVISION BP 6146.1,  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS (Continued):

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board postpone action on BP 6146.1, High School Graduation Requirements, until a worksession is held. Ms. Germano seconded.

Mr. Arness expressed concern that teachers are currently being hired and that high schools are planning their schedules for next year. Mr. Arness further explained that hiring may be influenced by decisions to change high school graduation requirements. Mrs. Radtke reported that a plan is in place at each high school and that the District is close to completion of hiring high school staff. She added that some additional shifting and hiring will take place based on the Board's plan to allocate the additional money from the state. She stated that the high school principals were directed to design their schedules based on additional staff but no actual hiring has occurred.

Mrs. Mullins stated that she would support the one-year delay since the Board has recommended that high schools shift to a seven-period day.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Germano

NO - Arness, Fischer, Larned, Mullins, Gross

Motion failed.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to reduce the mathematics credits to two and require that all students take algebra and geometry. If algebra is mastered before high school another higher level math class could be substituted. Ms. Germano seconded.

Dr. Anderson read from the article "What Works and What Doesn't," in the School Board Journal, and cited a school that required students to take two math classes at a time so they could catch up and take algebra. He stated that he believes that both algebra and geometry are essential and required for all types of employment. He stated that he feels sure that the state will require both classes on their graduation exam.

Mr. Arness stated that he did not agree with Dr. Anderson's amendment and felt that the curriculum staff should be involved in decisions of this nature. Ms. Germano suggested the Board not do anything with the policy.

POLICY REVISION BP 6146.1,  
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Fischer stated that she agreed that the Board should not hastily amend Board policy during a meeting. She felt that in light of the concerns expressed, the one-year delay would not be harmful.

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that the Graduation Requirements Committee worked long and hard on developing the new graduation requirements. He stated that those requirements set higher standards for students. He stated that the Math Curriculum Committee considered sequencing math courses to push students harder and further. He advised the Board not to amend the graduation policy during the Board meeting. Mr. Dahlgren further stated that any attempt to mandate particular courses as graduation requirements would be too specific. He recommended that if the Board wished to adopt a detailed list of courses for graduation then the Instruction Department should be allowed to provide advice, and the list should be available at the meeting.

Mr. McLain stated that a delay of one year would not be difficult to accommodate, and he echoed Mr. Dahlgren's comments that the Instruction Department should be involved in the revision of the graduation policy.

Dr. Anderson withdrew his amendment but stated that he would vote against the delay and urged the Board to consider the matter in a timely fashion.

VOTE:

YES - Arness, Fischer, Germano, Larned, Mullins,  
NO - Anderson, Gross

Motion carried.

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY  
REPLACEMENT:

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Mrs. Lorraine Crawford to serve as the interim Board member. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Arness stated that after a lengthy discussion the Board decided to nominate Mrs. Crawford.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gross welcomed Mrs. Crawford to the Board and stated that the decision was very difficult. She expressed her appreciation to the applicants and encouraged them to consider filing for election this fall.

FIRST READING OF POLICY  
REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 3541.1, School-Related Trips and BP 5134, Student Production of Services and Materials. Mr. Hickey explained that revisions to BP 3541.1 adds language requiring drivers of school-sponsored trips to be 21 years of age or older and registered with the District. The adoption of BP 5134 would require that a waiver of liability and assumption of risk form be completed prior to receipt of any item for which student labor is involved.

Mrs. Fischer asked how a driver registers with the District. Mr. Hickey explained that a regulation and exhibit page follows the policy and they outline the requirements that the driver must have a valid driver's license, automobile insurance, and a vehicle in good working order. Mrs. Fischer asked whether the form is completed for each elementary field trip. Mr. Hickey responded that the registration form should be completed for each field trip for each driver.

Mrs. Gross suggested a dollar amount be specified in BP 5134, Student Production of Services and Materials.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Richard Jobe congratulated the Board on their successful negotiations with KPESA. He thanked the Board for their consideration of the applicants for the vacant seat. He noted that he will file for the upcoming election.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins stated that she was pleasantly surprised at the negotiation process. She expressed her appreciation for the manner in which the bargaining teams were able to discuss the issues. She thanked the candidates who applied for the vacant Board seat. She added that each candidate was well qualified and that the choice was difficult. She thanked Mrs. Fischer for her years of Board service and expressed her appreciation for the many things Mrs. Fischer has taught her about being a Board member.

Mrs. Larned echoed Mrs. Mullins comments regarding the successful KPESA negotiations and her appreciation to the Board applicants. Mrs. Larned expressed her appreciation to Mrs. Fischer and added that she appreciated her viewpoints and forthrightness. She extended her best wishes to Mrs. Fischer on her future plans.

Mr. Arness stated that although he and Mrs. Fischer disagreed many times in the past he hoped that it was respectfully so and wished her well on her future plans.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Dr. Anderson expressed appreciation for the things he has learned from Mrs. Fischer and for the years of service she has dedicated to the Board of Education. He added that the selection of the interim Board member was a difficult choice to make. He encouraged the candidates that were not selected to consider filing for election. Dr. Anderson expressed his disappointment over the recent newspaper headlines characterizing the recent negotiations as a "dispute." He stated that he did not agree and felt that the negotiation process went very well.

Ms. Germano announced that her seat will also be up for election this fall. She stated that all of the Board candidates were well qualified.

Mrs. Fischer stated that she was not surprised at how smoothly negotiations went with the support association. She noted that for nearly three decades the Board has been able to depend on KPESA to reach a compromise. Mrs. Fischer expressed her appreciation for the kind comments from Board members. She stated that she hoped her frequent minority vote kept Board members "on their toes." She expressed her appreciation for those who voted for her in the past and urged the Board applicants to file for election this fall.

Mrs. Gross extended her appreciation for Mrs. Fischer's point of view, sensitivity, persuasive arguments and input during the past years. She thanked the Board candidates for submitting their applications to fill the vacant Board seat.

ADJOURN:

At 8:53 p.m., Mrs. Fischer moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned 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 June 8, 1998,  
were approved on July 6, 1998,  
as written.