

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

August 4, 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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lawrence Colston Mrs. Barbara Vogel
Mr. Justin George Ms. Shawna Loshbough
Mr. Mick Wykis Ms. Robin Coursen
Mr. Steve Wright
Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

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 Late/Arrived 7:50 p.m.
Mrs. Susan Larned Absent/Excused
Dr. Nels Anderson Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the removal of Item 10b. Approval of Administrator Evaluation Handbook.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of July 7, 1997, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mr. Dahlgren read a thank you note from Sharon Young for hosting the Association of Alaska School Board's dinner, held at Dr. Anderson's house, Saturday, July 26, 1997.

KPEA: Mr. Lawrence Colston, KPEA President, spoke in favor of the \$650 insurance payment. He stated that money spent on teachers is an investment in students. He added that teachers are not a commodity; when more effort, energy and enthusiasm is spent on them, the more they have to offer students. He concluded by saying, "invest in me, I touch kids' lives."

KPESA:

Mr. Justin George, KPESA representative, read a letter from Ms. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President. She expressed her disappointment over actions from the last board meeting. She stated that she was offended by comments made by some board members regarding KPESA. She stated that a grievance has been filed over Board action directing the District to begin unauthorized payroll deductions of \$650. Ms. Mahurin stated that it was not legal or ethical to deduct money from employees only to pay it back. She noted that, of the \$540 co-payment amount deducted last year, \$188 has been returned to employees. She stated that KPESA is interested in entering into a memorandum of agreement regarding a co-payment for the 1997-98 school year. She expressed concern over returning to work under such a negative tone.

Mr. George urged the Board to read the KPESA negotiated agreements as it relates to contracting of support employee jobs. He asked the Board to be cautious when considering granting authorization for the superintendent or designee to enter into contracts and agreements.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren presented the Superintendent's Annual Report for the 1996-97 school year. The report outlines progress on board goals for the 1996-97 school year and highlights staff achievements, student accomplishments, co-curricular achievements and various programs throughout the District.

Mr. Dahlgren reported attending the July 15 Borough Assembly Meeting in Seldovia. He stated that the Assembly failed to reconsider the technology bond issue and felt that there was a strong feeling from at least six members that the timing was poor. He added that the Assembly expressed concerns regarding the legality of going to bond over equipment and wanted to work closely with the District to locate other funding opportunities. He noted that he went to the assembly meeting to reaffirm that a plan was in place and that schools had developed a technology plan that implements technology into the curriculum. He reported that the Assembly was not totally negative but that there were too many issues for consideration, such as funding outside cap, the transfer of money from the West Homer Elementary construction project to Ninilchik Elem/High, etc.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the Borough Mayor forwarded a memo and proposed resolution that would authorize the harvest of spruce bark beetle infested trees on school property. Mr. Dahlgren explained that beetle infested trees pose a threat to the safety of staff and students. The removal and planting of new trees would begin immediately upon adoption of the resolution.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the Sallie Mae First Year Teacher Award was given to Terri Carter, elementary teacher at Redoubt Elementary. Mr. Dahlgren noted that Ms. Carter was a former KCHS student and was a member of the first graduating class of Soldotna High School in 1981.

SIX YEAR ENROLLMENT
PROJECTIONS AND PLAN:

Mr. Hickey presented the Six-Year Enrollment Projections and Plan for 1997-98 through 2002-2003. He noted a worksession was conducted prior to the meeting to review the information. The plan will be presented for adoption at the August 18 meeting. Projects for major maintenance and future construction needs were presented in prioritized ranking.

Mr. Hickey stated that he had been asked by the Borough Mayor to participate in an effort by the Borough to present information to a group of legislators regarding deferred maintenance. He will make copies available to the Board and notify them of the dates as soon the presentation has been completed.

STATUS OF HEALTH INSURANCE
PAYMENT:

Mr. Hickey presented an update on the current status of employee health insurance payments. Mr. Hickey reported that the negotiated District contribution is expected to be less than anticipated, and employee contributions are expected to meet the shortfall. He reported that the District closed the year for the health insurance account and refunded excess contributions to employees.

Mr. Hickey stated that as soon as the employee health insurance committees are able to meet, the District can make a more serious approach towards agreeing to a co-payment. He reported that a \$58 participation by the employees groups will be necessary to make up the shortfall.

Mr. Dahlgren added that at the end of the week a grievance was filed by KPEA and KPESA concerning the \$650 payment. He stated that the unions asked to waive steps I and II and go directly to step III. Mr. Dahlgren directed Mrs. Radtke to draft a letter to the unions asking them to waive step III and go directly to arbitration.

ASSESSMENT REPORT:

Mr. McLain expressed his appreciation for Mr. Mick Wykis and Ms. Nan Spooner for their work this summer coordinating the assessment efforts and compiling the report. Mr. McLain presented assessment information for the 1996-97 school year. Mr. McLain noted that, during the worksession held previously, state scores were not available but are included in the report sent in the board packet. Mr. McLain made comparisons between state and district scores, and stated that he was basically pleased with the results. He felt that there were some interesting anomalies in the area of math, which is the target curriculum for the 1997-98 school year.

Mr. McLain stated that the depth of this testing information is extremely useful for the District. He noted that District and school administrators will review this information during a workshop on August 5. The school administrators will return to their site councils and review testing information as they finalize their 1997-98 school development plans.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Hazardouse Bus Route Resolutions, Furniture and Equipment List, 1997-98 Teacher Appointments, Resolution for Authority to Enter into Contracts, Leaves of Absence/Support, 1997-98 Resignations, and Semester Leave of Absence/ Support.

HAZARD BUS ROUTE
RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve resolutions establishing 1997-98 hazardous bus routes for North Star, Nikiski, Seward, Redoubt, Soldotna, Sears, Mt. View, Homer Intermediate, Paul Banks and K-Beach elementary schools for the 1997-98 school year. Hazardous bus routes are established on roads within 1.5 miles from these schools where walking conditions for students are considered dangerous.

FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT
LIST:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment for West Homer Elementary School in the amount of \$36,625.51.

1997-98 TEACHER
APPOINTMENTS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1997-98 teacher assignments for Christine Abrahamson, Language Arts/Social Studies/Humanities (half-time), Homer Charter School; Stuart Allen, Science, Seward Jr./Sr.; Alan Anderson, Vocational Education; Nikiski Jr./Sr.; Pauline Demas, K-3, Nanwalek Elem/High; Margaret Evans, Generalist, Kenai Alternative; Beverly Grogan, Lead Teacher, Bayview Charter School; Jackie Kempf, Speech Pathologist, Districtwide; Susan Lepry, Math/Science (half-time), Homer Charter School; Laurie Martin, Grades 3/4, Nikolaevsk Elem/High; Heidi McMahan, Math, Skyview High; Claire Musgrove, Physical Education/Math, Seward Jr./Sr.; Lynn Norstadt, Primary (half-time), Port Graham Elem/High; Carol Norstadt, Primary, Port Graham Elem/High; Scott O'Tremba, Counselor, Ninilchik Elem/High; Leona Oberts, Lead Teacher, Aurora Borealis School; Scott Otterbacher, Grades 4-6, Nanwalek Elem/High; Eugene Palm, Grades 5-6, Aurora Borealis School; Suzanne Phillips, Grades 7-8, Aurora Borealis School; Kurt Racicot, Technology/Computers, Homer High; Odessa Rogers, Spanish (temporary), Kenai Central High; William Severson, Grades 3-4, Aurora Borealis; Constance Tobin, Grades 3/4, K-Beach Elementary; Carol VanDerWege, Reading Specialist (temporary, three quarter-time), Redoubt Elementary; Robert VanDerWege, Media Coordinator and Media Specialist, Soldotna Elementary; Karen Wessel, Lead Teacher, Homer Flex School; Lydia Wren, English/MC, Nikolaevsk Elem/High; Cathy Zorbas, Activities Director (half-time); Kenai Central High.

RESOLUTION FOR AUTHORITY TO
ENTER INTO CONTRACTS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve resolution 97-98-1 to grant the superintendent or designee authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the District. Mr. Hickey clarified that the term "service contracts" refers to vendors who provide a service not economically feasible to provide in-house and is therefore contracted out. Mr. Hickey assured the Board that such agreements are not meant to infringe on support employee positions.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 1997-98 school year for Marya Kalugin, Migrant Tutor/Bilingual Instruction, Voznesenka School and Elizabeth Smith, Head Custodian, Soldotna High.

1997-98 RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1996-97 school year for Peter Thielke, Math/Language Arts, Homer Middle and David Scott Tomaso, Primary Grades, Ninilchik School.

SEMESTER LEAVE OF
ABSENCE/SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the first semester of the 1997-98 school year for Esther Richeson, School Nurse, Kenai Central High.

CONSENT AGENDA (Continued):

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #3, #5, #6, and #7. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Hazardous Bus Routes as presented with the change from Homer Intermediate to West Homer Elementary. Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE:

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

Motion carried.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the Furniture and Equipment List for West Homer Elementary in the amount of \$36,625.51. Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board amend the Furniture and Equipment list and remove the purchase of a building dedication plaque in the amount of \$1,200. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that Mr. Ladd had requested a plaque be placed on the front of the building dedicating the West Homer Elementary to the students and to those involved with the planning and construction. He noted that other District schools and additions have dedication plaques.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

Amendment carried.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve Resolution 97-98-1 Authority to Enter into Contracts. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

CONSENT AGENDA (Continued): Mr. Dahlgren explained that vendors often require a resolution verifying that the Board has individuals authorized to enter into contracts. He noted that because of the capital outlay and maintenance agreement, a resolution was required in order to purchase a lease agreement with the telephone system for Central Office, Homer, Nikiski, and Skyview High Schools.

Mrs. Fischer questioned the administration about when the Board would receive information on contracts. Mr. Hickey answered that board policy and administrative regulations outline what levels of purchased services are brought to the Board's attention. He assured the Board that the resolution does not circumvent what is currently in board policy. Contracts for telephone systems, copy services, drug and alcohol screening, psychology services, bus contract services, etc. do not require board approval.

ACTION Mrs. Fisher moved to amend the last sentence of the fourth paragraph of Resolution 97-98-1 by adding, "after Board approval." Mrs. Germano seconded.

Mrs. Fisher stated this amendment would emphasize that the Board does want to approve contractual agreements, as outlined by board policy, and felt that previous contracts had circumvented that approval.

Mr. Arness felt the amendment confused the intent and would not allow the superintendent or designee to enter into service contracts unless the board approves them. He stated that the amendment is properly worded and urged the Board to pass the resolution as written.

Mrs. Fischer stated that, next to educating students, the Board's function is to see that the business of educating is done in the most practical and economical manner possible. She expressed concern that many items of business have been delegated away and the Board is not aware that it is happening. She stated that by adding this amendment the Board would be aware of what is going on and can answer questions from the public.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that there are other types of contracts and services that the District enters into that are not brought to the Board and he did not feel that it was the Board's intent to see every expenditure.

Mrs. Germano agreed with Mrs. Fischer that contract information should be brought to the Board. She questioned how service contracts are drawn up.

CONSENT AGENDA (Continued): Mr. Arness felt the administration should have a document that authorizes them to sign and negotiate contracts with vendors, but that it does not mean the Board should be less vigilant about what it is they are signing.

Mr. Hickey further explained that the Board has set a policy which indicates the level the Board feels the necessity to be aware of financial transactions of the District. If anything is purchased above a minimum level the Board should be informed. Mr. Hickey stated that his intent in proposing the resolution was to clear up what he felt was a clerical error and offered to draft new policy language if the Board desired.

Mrs. Gross clarified with Mr. Dahlgren that there was a previous resolution that authorized he and Mr. Swarner to sign contracts for the District.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer

NO - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Mullins, Gross

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Mullins, Gross

NO - Fischer

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR
APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve administrator appointments for the 1997-98 school year for Aaron Stansberry, Principal/Teacher, Bartlett Elem/High; Leslie Weld, Principal/Teacher, Nanwalek School; Rosemary Bushon, Assistant Principal, Kenai Middle; Gregg Wilbanks, Assistant Principal, Skyview High; Greg Paxton, Assistant Principal, Soldotna Middle; and Alex Trout, Principal/Teacher, Kachemak Selo.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve administrator appointments for the 1997-98 school year as presented. Mrs. Germano seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Mullins requested an excused absence from the August 18, 1997, meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued): Dr. Anderson expressed his unhappiness with the comments in the *Peninsula Clarion* from Representative Hodgins, a couple of weeks ago, suggesting that the District does not employ local people. He extended an invitation to Mr. Hodgins to check with the central office and see who has been hired this school year and to retract his statement.

Mrs. Germano commented that there is an impact on students every time more money is spent on staff. She added that the concern is the students, not the students against the staff.

Mr. Dahlgren responded to Mrs. Germano's question on the technology bond issue that he hoped to meet with the borough mayor, borough finance director, and Mr. Hickey to develop a plan before having a worksession with the Assembly.

Mrs. Germano asked to have a short board policy worksession with the new administration regarding expenditures.

Mrs. Fischer expressed her concern over the half-way houses being located within one-half mile from elementary schools. She felt that the Board should provide input to the Assembly concerning student safety.

ADJOURN: At 8:40 p.m., Mr. Arness 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 August 4, 1997,
were approved on August 18, 1997,
as written.