



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Assistant Superintendent

Dave Jones

148 North Binkley Street Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Phone (907) 714-8888 Fax (907) 262-5867

Email djones2@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

Memorandum

To: Members, Board of Education

From: Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent

Through: Donna Peterson, Superintendent

Date: August 28, 2008

RE: Information Regarding Request to ASAA Regarding Homer Hockey

For the June 2, 2008 Board meeting, an information packet was included regarding Homer High School Hockey and the possibility of students from Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna playing on the Homer High School Hockey team. A Board member subsequently asked to have a work session discussion on the matter. With the Board meeting scheduled for Homer, we thought it would be the best time to have the discussion as all members involved will be able to participate.

I recently spoke with Gary Matthews (ASAA Executive Director) about work session discussions held at the most recent ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting in regards to a request to allow students from Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo, Razdolna and Homer High School to form a cooperative team for Hockey.

Mr. Matthews stated that the current ASAA Rules do not allow 4A schools such as Homer High School to form cooperative teams with class 1A or 2A schools such as Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna. He explained that such an action would require the ASAA Board of Directors to make an exception to the existing rules, and there was a general concern that an exception in this area would open the flood gates for similar requests across the state. Mr. Matthews further explained to me that as conversation continued, it became apparent that there were numerous ways under the current rules that would allow students from Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna to play hockey. Mr. Matthews shared there was a consensus reached that all of the options allowing students from Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna to play hockey within the current rules should be explored, discussed and hopefully implemented at the local level before the ASAA Board of Directors were asked to make an exception to the existing rules.

Mr. Matthews and I then discussed the possible alternatives that would allow students from Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna to play hockey within the current rules. I will outline those possibilities below.

The first possible option mentioned by Mr. Matthews would be for the students to enroll and attend school at Homer High School. This would allow them to participate on the Homer High School Hockey team as long as they maintained a 2.0 grade point average.

The next option for these students would be for them to take classes through Connections which is the KPBSD correspondence program. In general, a student at Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo or Razdolna could enroll in at least five (5) semester classes in Connections, and designate Homer High School as their School of Eligibility. This would again allow them to participate on the Homer High School Hockey team as long as they maintained a 2.0 grade point average. I need to note that this option would carry some financial consequences to the District. Each student pursuing this option would be funded at eighty percent (.80) under Connections instead of being funded at one hundred percent (1.0) in their current school due to the way correspondence students are treated in the foundation funding formula.

Another option that Mr. Matthews pointed out would be for Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna to sponsor a cooperative team amongst the three schools. ASAA Rules specifically allow for 1A and 2A schools to do this when individual schools do not have an adequate number of student participants.

Mr. Matthews also noted that if any of these schools became "Alternative" schools, the students would then be able to compete at Homer High School. However, this is not an option I would propose as it carries dire financial consequences for KPBSD. This would mean that individual school would no longer be funded as a separate building, but would be melded into the largest school in the district for foundation funding. This would result in significant revenue loss to KPBSD.

Mr. Matthews concluded our discussion by explaining that the ASAA Board of Directors only likes to make exceptions when there are no other options available to students, and needs to take a statewide view when doing so. In this case, with multiple options available and the statewide significance of the exception that would be made, the discussion was concluded with a decision to send the matter back to the local level to examine and hopefully implement one of the available options.

From the local view, there is a concern that the cultural beliefs of the parents and students from Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna do not allow for any of the available options to work.

I have asked the Principals at Voznesenka, Kachemak-Selo and Razdolna to notify interested parents and players of the work session so they are aware of the meeting.

I will be available for discussion of this matter at your Board Meeting on Monday, September 8, 2008.