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

January 23, 1995

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President  
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Vice President  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk  
Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Member  
Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Member  
Mr. Emery Thibodeau, Member  
Miss Mandy Baldwin, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent  
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,  
Operations, and Technology  
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Interim Assistant Superintendent,  
Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel  
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Tamara Smid	Ms. Paula Williams
Miss Raegene Bartels	Miss Renee McCord
Miss Janelle Standifer	Mr. Larry Hawkins
Miss Tanya Koala	Miss Mary Jane Standifer
Mr. John Kistler	Mr. Jim Simeroth
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mr. Jason Carlson
Mrs. Janie Lawley	Mr. Mick Wykis
Mrs. Judy Downs	Mr. Paul Kubena
Others present not identified.	

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Obendorf called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Obendorf invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Jason Carlson, Kenai Central High School student body president.

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Betty Obendorf	Present
Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Mr. Michael Tauriainen	Late - 7:34 p.m.
Mr. Emery Thibodeau	Present
Miss Mandy Baldwin	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed.

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- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The School Board Minutes of January 9, 1995, were approved as printed.
- BARTLETT ELEM/HIGH SCHOOL REPORT:** Ms. Tamara Smid, Principal/Teacher at Bartlett Elem/High School, and student council members Raegene Bartels, Renee McCord, Janelle Standifer, and Larry Hawkins reported to the Board on activities taking place at their school. In addition to a slide presentation, Tanya Koala and Mary Jane Standifer from the primary class displayed a quilt made by the class as part of their winter activities unit.
- WELCOME:** Mrs. Obendorf welcomed students from Soldotna High School to the meeting.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:** Mrs. Obendorf noted a letter had been received from Mrs. Carol Griswold, parent, expressing her support of the QUEST Program at Seward Elementary School.
- She noted letters had been received in support of the Youth Risk Survey from Katherine Albertson, Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Carol George, Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Kathleen Scott, Healthy Communities-Healthy People; and Diane Borgman and Paul Epperson, curriculum department.
- Mrs. Obendorf announced the Board had been invited to attend the Mat-Su Alternative Education Conference on March 1-3 at Meier Lake Conference Center, Wasilla.
- Mrs. Obendorf announced the National School Board Association Conference will be held April 1-4. Members eligible to attend the conference would be Mr. Thibodeau, Mr. Arness and Dr. Anderson.
- BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:** Mr. Swarner presented the budget transfer report for transfers #112 through #277 for various schools in the district.
- FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ended January 9, 1995.
- CONSENT AGENDA:** Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Extended Field Trip Requests, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, Leave of Absence Requests/Support, Inservice Release Day, and Tustumena Furniture and Equipment List.

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EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUESTS:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for 4 Susan B. English Elem/High School seniors to travel to the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, March 19-27, 1995, to study the culture of the area; for 5 Homer High School students to participate in Close-Up Program activities, May 6-13, 1995, in Washington, D.C.; for 3 Nikiski High School students to travel to Washington, D.C., April 22-29, 1995, to participate in the Close-up Foundation Program; and for 15 Kenai Central High School band and choir students to travel to Spokane, Washington, February 16-19, 1995, to participate in the All-Northwest Honor Band/Choir/Orchestra Conference.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/  
CERTIFIED:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 1995-96 school year for Linda Rourke, Art/Quest, Homer Junior High.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/  
SUPPORT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for Joseph Deutsch, Vocational/Special Services Aide, Nikiski Jr/Sr High, effective January 30 through March 10, 1995; and Judy Carmichael, Accounting Specialist II, Business Office, effective February 6 through May 1, 1995.

INSERVICE RELEASE DAY:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve a request for an inservice release day for McNeil Canyon Elementary School on May 1, 1995. The inservice day would be used for the staff to evaluate their 1994-95 goals and begin setting goals for the next school year.

TUSTUMENA FURNITURE AND  
EQUIPMENT LIST:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the purchase of furniture and equipment in the amount of \$12,631.81 for the Tustumena Elementary School addition.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #2 through #5. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Item #1, Approval of Extended Field Trips. Mrs. Gross seconded.

CONSENT AGENDA (cont.):

Dr. Anderson commented that the extended field trips did not follow the guidelines as established by the Board. He stated he felt the Seldovia senior class trip to Mexico was inappropriate. Mr. Thorpe commented the Seldovia trip was a project which was supported by the community and the travel time had been revised to occur during spring break to be in alignment with district policy. Mr. Tauriainen commented that at nearly every meeting the Board received extended field trip requests which were not in compliance with Board policy, and that the Board should either tighten their approval or revise the policy. The Board directed the administration to review this issue with school principals to make sure the requests comply with policy.

Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT EXPULSION:

Mrs. Obendorf announced the Board concluded their deliberation on the expulsion hearing for a Skyview High School student which began on January 9. Written conclusions from the attorney were presented to the Board for adoption.

ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board adopt the proposed decision to expel MJ as a student in accordance with all the provisions of that decision. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Mrs. Obendorf excused the student representative from voting since that person is not part of the hearing process.

Motion carried unanimously.

INTERIM DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEDURES:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented interim disciplinary procedures as discussed with the Board and high school administrators at a worksession on January 12. The procedures stated that principals may recommend students for expulsion after a first offense of the following violations: 1) possession or distribution of alcohol or illicit substances as defined in AS 11.71.140-190, 2) possession of weapons as defined in the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994 on school properties, 3) assault or threatened assault upon employees of the school district, and 4) under the influence of alcohol or illicit substances as defined in AS.11.71.140-190. The hearing process was also explained and the recommended effective date was January 23, 1995. He noted the interim procedures already exist in the policy manual in various sections, however, this compilation makes it clear for administering.

INTERIM DISCIPLINARY  
PROCEDURES (cont.):

The Board expressed concern that the interim disciplinary procedures be sent to students, principals, and parents. Dr. Bromenschenkel assured the Board all appropriate persons would be notified. On question from the Board, Dr. Bromenschenkel explained the interim procedures would be used until the policies are revised by the beginning of the 1995-96 school year.

Mr. Jim Simeroth, Kenai Middle School teacher, felt the policy was not clear with the wording of "may," and he questioned the length of expulsion as specified in policy. He questioned where the students would go when expelled, and whether the alternative school had enough room to house a large number of students.

Ms. Debbie Burns, parent and staff members at Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, expressed concern on the hearing arrangements and the time period of expulsion. She felt the policy should be fair and consistent to all students involved. She also expressed concern about students not being in school since the teachers are sometimes the only people who care about the students.

Ms. Kathy Savage, parent involved in Kids Stuff and Coalition for Drug Free Schools, expressed concerns about the ambiguity of "may" in the interim procedures. She spoke about the ripple effect to the student and community with expulsion of students. She felt some alternatives should be coordinated for students after expulsion. Mrs. Obendorf responded that in her nine years on the Board there have always been recommendations for treatments, continuing education, etc. in the expulsion recommendations.

Ms. Margaret Morgan, Supervisor of Public Defender Agency, told the Board they had the responsibility to think through their action, and questioned if the policy "ain't broke, why fix it." She felt the deterrence from the policy would not work with children since they do not always think through the consequences of their actions. She asked the Board to consider the other side of the issue on what would happen to students. She felt their circumstances after expulsion should be carefully considered, and noted expulsion is devastating to them. She felt some other action was needed other than expulsion for a first offense.

Mr. John Kistler, parent, commented that young people will push the rules as much as possible, and the Board should approve the interim discipline procedures as of the date it is approved. He advised that the information be sent home to parents or guardians for review and signature.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Interim Disciplinary Procedures. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Dr. Anderson commented he liked the "may" portion of the procedures, and the Board had been assured by the principals that students would get equal treatment. He added he did not want to see the expelled student out of the school system, but a way needed to be provided for them to graduate, yet out of the system creating problems. He noted this is a trial period and the board policies can be adjusted accordingly. He added that all students should receive a copy of the procedures, return the signed procedures so the administration will know they have been notified and informed.

Mr. Tauriainen stated he agreed with Dr. Anderson's comments, but expressed concern on the wording "may" where some students would not be expelled, and the next student would expect the same treatment.

Mr. Thibodeau commented he agreed with the interim measures which reiterated what is already in the policy manual. He expressed concern about the hearing process in that one hearing would be eliminated. Currently, three hearings would be allowed - one with the principal, one with a hearing officer, and a third with the school board.

ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved to amend the motion to revise the sentence to read, "Students found to be in violation of the above and other behavior expectations will be granted a hearing as presently outlined in Policy 007.2." Mrs. Gross seconded.

Mr. Thibodeau stated this would protect students where principals do not agree with them, and would protect students who do not have a guardian or parent to speak in their favor.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the amendment, "A hearing will be held unless waived by the parents, guardian or student who has reached the age of majority." Mrs. Gross seconded.

Mrs. Gross expressed concern that all persons involved should know of the hearing procedures available to them. She felt the policies should remain as they are on the books.

INTERIM DISCIPLINARY  
 PROCEDURES (CONT.):

Dr. Bromenschenkel commented the Board was getting away from their direction to the administration, and if the policy is to be rewritten this would take more time. The direction was to approve interim direction to the principals, until the policy is rewritten.

Mr. Tauriain withdrew his amendment with approval of the second.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Gross, Thibodeau

NO - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Tauriainen, Obendorf

Advisory Vote: YES

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriain moved to amend the motion to add to Item #2 "except as sanctioned activities." Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Mr. Tauriainen commented this would allow the biathlon team to continue.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the motion to make the interim procedures effective February 1, 1995. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Mr. Arness commented he felt there was no need for the interim procedures since they were stated in existing policy.

Mrs. Obendorf commented she was concerned about providing a safe school environment, and the interim procedures would give principals support in enforcing existing policies.

Miss Baldwin stated there should be some drastic action taken with those student abusing drugs and alcohol. She supported a stricter policy in the future.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Anderson, Tauriainen, Thibodeau, Obendorf

NO - Arness, Gross, Larned

Advisory Vote - YES

Amended motion carried.

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BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Gross commented she was pleased with the work of the Budget Review Committee and impressed with the list of reduction suggestions, not that all of them were workable or palatable.

Mrs. Obendorf announced a Budget Hearing would be held in Seward on Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. at Seward High School.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 9:30 p.m., Mrs. Gross moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 10:11 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the Board reconvene in regular session. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

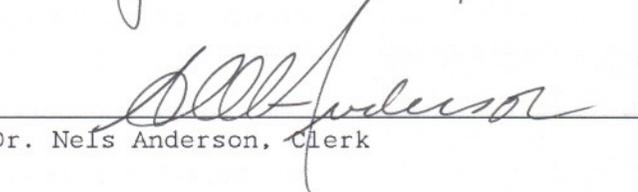
ADJOURN:

At 10:12 p.m., Mrs. Gross moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

  
Dr. Neils Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of January 23, 1995,  
were approved on February 6, 1995,  
as written.