

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

June 13, 1994

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President  
 Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Vice President  
 Mr. Michael Wiley, Clerk  
 Mr. Joe Arness, Treasurer  
 Dr. John Nels Anderson, Member  
 Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member  
 Mr. Emery Thibodeau, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Interim Superintendent  
 Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. John Kistler Ms. Kari Mohn  
 Mrs. Janie Lawley Mr. Timothy Navarre  
 Mrs. Beverly Berdahl Mr. Richard Harvey  
 Mrs. Kathy Heus Mr. Bill Kluge  
 Mrs. Lenoria Johnson Mr. Duke Hanson  
 Mrs. Catherine DeLacee Mrs. Karen Mahurin  
 Mr. Larry Willard Mr. Peter Marseipia  
 Mrs. Sena Berrig Mrs. Colleen Pillon  
 Mrs. Joan Crow-Epps 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.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Betty Obendorf Present  
 Mr. Michael Tauriainen Present  
 Mr. Michael Wiley Present  
 Mr. Joe Arness Present  
 Dr. John Nels Anderson Present  
 Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present  
 Mr. Emery Thibodeau Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of May 16, 1994 were approved with a correction. The minutes of the May 24, 1994 Special School Board Meeting were approved as written.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Obendorf reported a communication had been received from June Pinnell-Stephens, Co-chair Intellectual Freedom Committee, who wrote supporting the retention of the periodical *Dragon Magazine* at Nikiski Jr/Sr High.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS (cont.):

Mrs. Obendorf noted a letter from Kathleen Holt from Kasilof expressed concern about the trend to find fault with book after book and the trend to try to get them removed from school libraries. She urged the Board retain the magazine at Nikiski Jr/Sr High in its library.

A letter was received from Lynn McNamara, Librarian, Nikiksi Jr/Sr High, explaining the *Dragon Magazine* was selected from a survey of students as a choice for their library, and purchased with 30 funds which are collected from student overdue fines. She urged that the magazine be retained in the school's library for pleasure reading.

Mrs. Obendorf acknowledged the presence of Borough Assembly member Timothy Navarre at the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reported North Star Elementary School has been commended by the Alaska Division of Emergency Services, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, for their full-scale earthquake exercise held earlier this year.

He noted Phil Morin, Nikiski High School teacher, had been selected as the State Winner in the 1994 *Technology and Learning Magazine* Teacher of the Year Recognition Program.

Mr. Dahlgren reported the Soldotna High Boy's Track Team won the state championship. He noted there were outstanding performances by individual students at the tournament as well.

The Board extended congratulations to North Star Elementary School on receiving the Blue Ribbon Award. School representatives will travel to Washington, D.C. to receive the award later this year.

EXEMPT EMPLOYEES MEMORANDUM  
OF UNDERSTANDING:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a report on the exempt employees memorandum of understanding which would be on file in the superintendent's office to outline employment conditions for this group of employees. He noted the terms of employment were consistent with negotiated agreements in the district.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Swarner reported on the finances of the district for the period ending May 31, 1994.

BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT:

Mr. Swarner reported on Budget Transfers #381 through #899 for various schools and departments in the district.

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- CONSENT AGENDA: Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, 1994-95 Teacher Assignments, Grant Applications, Extended Field Trip Request, Leave of Absence Request/Support, 1994-95 Tentative Non-Tenure Teacher Assignment, and 1994-95 In-Service Day.
- RESIGNATIONS: By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1993-94 school year for Dave Freeman, Grades 3-12, Science/Math, Nanwalek Elem/High; and Carol Peeples, Grades 3-12/Language Arts, Nanwalek Elem/High.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/  
CERTIFIED: By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence request for the 1994-95 school year for Henrietta Ledger, Special Education/Resource, Homer Junior High.
- 1994-95 TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended, by memorandum, the Board approve 1994-95 teacher assignments for Doug Emmerich, Grade 4, North Star Elementary, Temporary; Kelli Stroh, Kindergarten, Sterling Elementary, Temporary; and Amy Lakin, Anatomy/Physiology/ Health, Soldotna High.
- GRANT APPLICATIONS: Mrs. Rubadeau recommended, by memorandum, the Board approve grant applications to be submitted to the Department of Education for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Mathematics and Science Education Program in the amount of \$62,405; the Drug Free School Program for \$98,963; and the ESEA Chapter 2, Block Grant Program for \$81,430.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP  
REQUEST: By memorandum, Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for twelve Soldotna High School students to attend the Bonita Vista Christmas Basketball Tournament, December 16-24, 1994, in San Diego, CA.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST/  
SUPPORT: Mrs. Radtke recommended, by memorandum, the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 1994-95 school year for Elaine Kellum, Head Secretary, Skyview High, effective August 1, 1994.
- 1994-95 TENTATIVE NON-  
TENURE TEACHER  
ASSIGNMENT: By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a 1994-95 tentative non-tenure assignment for Leanne Krieger, Voznesenka Elementary.
- IN-SERVICE DAY: Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve September 2, 1994, as an in-service release day for Redoubt Elementary School staff to continue their cooperative learning training.

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CONSENT AGENDA (cont.): Mr. Tauriainen requested Item 10a (4), Approval of Grant Applications, be considered separately.

ACTION Mrs. Gross moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1, #2, #3, #5, #6, #7, and #8. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the grant applications. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Mr. Tauriainen expressed concern on statistics used in the Drug Free Grant and questioned whether the program was effective. The Board requested a worksession be held later in the year on this program.

Motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET TRANSFER: Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve Budget Transfer #900 in the amount of \$86,577 which would cover Board of Education expenses for the superintendent search, moving expenses for the new superintendent, legal costs for the Clouston case and increases in AASB dues.

ACTION Mr. Tauriainen moved the Board approve the budget transfer. Mr. Wiley seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

RECONSIDERATION OF  
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the recommendation of the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee to retain the *Dragon Magazine* in the Nikiski Jr/Sr High School library.

Mr. Peter Marseipia questioned whether the Board had a method to determine the amount of people or percentage of population necessary for the Board to devote their time to complaints. Mrs. Obendorf stated the process is established in policy and the Board must respond to all complaints, whether it is from one person or more.

Mrs. Sena Berrig spoke in support of the committee recommendation. She added that if reference is made to Satan, Satanic symbols, the occult and other things considered unchristian, then newspapers, history books, news magazines, psychology books, theology books, anthropology books, etc., should be banned from libraries. She felt the public school system prepares children for the real world and students should be able to choose their reading material.

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RECONSIDERATION OF  
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION  
(continued):

Mr. John Kistler commented *Dragon Magazine* is not demonic, but is a magazine devoted to help students think in terms of logic and skills. He stated he supported magazines which helped children think logically.

Mrs. Colleen Pillon, Nikiski parent, stated she felt it was her choice to decide what her children should read, and they should be allowed access to whatever they wished to read. She supported the committee's recommendation.

Mrs. Catherine DeLacee, Soldotna parent, stated she supported the review committee's recommendation and questioned the process where one individual could tie up the board's valuable time. She told the Board about her experiences as a librarian's granddaughter and censorship as she viewed it in previous years.

Ms. Kari Mohn, District Media Coordinator, stated she supported the committee's recommendation and noted the language arts curriculum supports recreational reading for students. She noted the *Dragon Magazine* falls within this realm and it is a fantasy periodical which students enjoy. She noted libraries need diverse collections in which students can make decisions on what to read. She felt the magazine met the school board's criteria established for libraries and she supported its retention in the library. On question from Mr. Tauriainen on the placement of books in libraries, she stated she felt she and he were coming from different points of view; her point of view was what to place in libraries and his was what to keep out of libraries.

Mrs. Beverly Berdahl stated she objected to the periodical and felt parents should stand up for morality and godliness in schools. She felt students could go to a public or city library to get materials of this type. She questioned whether there was a point of no return of cutting back on what is offensive to many. She read from material where suicide and cultism is associated to *Dungeons and Dragons*.

Mr. Richard Harvey stated that four articles were written in the Kenai Central High School newspaper on alternative lifestyles of Satanism and witchcraft. He questioned how much influence *Dragon Magazine* had on the young people. He recommended further study on *Dungeons and Dragons*.

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RECONSIDERATION OF  
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION  
(continued):

Mrs. Joan Crow-Epps, Sterling parent, noted that some of the speakers' comments assumed that childrens' minds were made of oatmeal, however, she felt children would not be influenced by a magazine unless they were already troubled. If troubled, many things could send the students over the edge. She urged to the Board to retain the book.

Mr. Duke Hanson, Kenai resident, called attention to the Waco, Texas massacre, which was committed all in the name of the Bible. He stated he and his friends played *Dungeons and Dragons* for many years and he subscribes to *Dragon Magazine* which he felt was an inspirational source of creativity. He stated the magazine and game helps in reading, writing and creativity, all disciplines needed in education. He noted 100% of his friends who played the game *Dungeons and Dragons* went on to prestigious colleges and universities, and all are successful individuals today. He urged the book remain in the school libraries.

ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the recommendation of the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Review Committee in keeping the *Dragon Magazine* in the library. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mr. Arness commented that as the board's representative to the Reconsideration of Instructional Materials Committee, it was discussed and the consensus of the committee was that the decision be left to the local school to determine which periodicals should be left in their library.

Mr. Tauriainen commented that the school district does not have the responsibility to make all materials available to students, and if it chooses not to buy or eliminate materials, they are not censoring, only simply saying it is inappropriate for the school district to provide it. He commented it was the school district's responsibility to provide good materials for students. He felt there was a subtle, if not strong, message that if material is in the school, it's okay.

Dr. Anderson commented the district has the constant problem of adjusting to what parents want and the need for diversity. He stated he did not see this particular magazine as a threat, but there were good arguments to limit some literature in the libraries.

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RECONSIDERATION OF  
 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION  
 (continued):

Mr. Wiley commented that based on the Nikiski High School librarian's recommendation, the method of selection by students and the subscription being paid from their local funds, he would support the committee's recommendation. He felt this was a local school level decision.

Mr. Arness commented he felt the general viewpoint on book reviews has been that some people want to restrict information in libraries, which from his viewpoint was counter productive. He corrected Mr. Harvey that the *Dragon Magazine* is not at Kenai Central High School, and the students must have received their information from other sources.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Gross, Thibodeau, Wiley, Obendorf  
 NO - Tauriainen

Motion carried.

WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY  
 SCHOOL/BOND ISSUE:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board request the Borough Assembly to place the West Homer Elementary School Project on an October, 1994 ballot for voter approval. The revised estimated cost for the project would be \$11,740,000. Representatives from Kluge and Associates were in the audience to respond to questions from the Board on the schematic designs. Mr. Dahlgren noted the cost amount was higher than originally anticipated and he had written to the Department of Education for an increase in this budget amount. This project would be funded on a 70%-30% basis by the Department of Education and Kenai Peninsula Borough, if approved by the voters.

Lengthy discussion followed related to increased costs above those for the Seward prototype school, soil conditions of the Homer site, need to approve the plans at the meeting for Borough Assembly consideration and placement with the borough clerk on the ballot, difference in funding between the West Homer project and the Tustumena project which was a state grant, and a breakdown of costs for the project. Mrs. Gross reminded the Board this project had one chance only on the ballot due to the new method of funding from the state. She urged her colleagues to support it for the ballot.

Mr. Richard Harvey stated he had visited the Homer schools and was supportive of this much needed project in Homer. He stated he would like to see it approved in October.

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WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL/BOND ISSUE (cont.):

Mr. John Kistler stated he felt the cost for the West Homer Elementary project was not unreasonable and urged the Board to request placement of the project on the ballot.

Mr. Timothy Navarre, Borough Assembly Member, told the Board it was necessary to have the project approved by July for placement on the ballot. He noted this construction project was the school board's #1 priority and the only school project approved with funding by the state. The cost could be adjusted when the final bids are complete. He felt any delay would increase costs in the future and this was a definite need for an old, decrepit facility.

## ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved the Board request the Borough Assembly to place the West Homer Elementary School project on an October, 1994 ballot. Mr. Wiley seconded.

## ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion to change the amount of \$11,530,000 to \$11,740,000 for the project. Mrs. Gross seconded.

## RECESS:

At 9:37 p.m., Mrs. Obendorf called a recess.

## RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 9:56 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Dahlgren explained the cost estimates for the project as submitted by Kluge and Associates.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board request the Borough Assembly to fund a prioritized capital projects list as follows: Sterling Elementary re-roof project, \$133,000; Homer Intermediate re-roof project, \$29,900; Susan B. English Elem/High re-roof project, \$60,030; Kenai Central High School re-roof project, \$90,300; Soldotna High girl's pool lockers replacement, \$13,270; Districtwide lead/cooper corrosion study, \$110,000; Soldotna High fire doors replacement, \$15,000; and Soldotna High pool and deck re-grout project, \$6,000.

Mr. Kistler questioned why the fire doors replacement was prioritized lower than the re-roof projects. Mr. Dahlgren responded the re-roofing projects were prioritized for protection of the structures, whereas, the fire doors are for security within the building, but are fireworthy.

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ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the capital projects list. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

1994-95 KPSAA HANDBOOKS: Mr. Dahlgren presented changes to the elementary, junior high and high school KPSAA handbooks. He noted the Board had reviewed the changes in a worksession during the afternoon. He suggested the Board approve the handbooks separately at each level.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved to approve the elementary KPSAA handbook revisions. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

ACTION Mr. Wiley moved to amend the motion, page 9, Section 2, User Fees, add "Individual school site councils may review user fees to determine appropriateness." Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Thibodeau, Wiley

NO - Anderson, Arness, Gross, Tauriainen, Obendorf

Amendment failed.

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION Mr. Tauriainen moved the Board approve the recommended changes to the junior high co-curricular activities guidelines. Mr. Arness seconded.

ACTION Mrs. Gross moved to amend the motion, V.E.3., Holiday Practices, delete "practice or", to read, "Under rare exceptions, music, drama, and dance activities may have performances on Sundays with building administrators approval." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved to amend the amendment to delete "rare exemptions" from the amendment. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT:

YES - Arness, Thibodeau, Obendorf

NO - Anderson, Gross, Tauriainen, Wiley

Amendment to amendment failed.

1994-95 KPSAA HANDBOOKS  
(continued):

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Gross, Tauriainen, Wiley  
NO - Thibodeau, Obendorf

Amendment carried.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved to amend the motion page 12, #1., Participation Fee, rewrite the section to read, "A participation fee may be charged for co-curricular activities subject to approval by site councils." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Tauriainen, Thibodeau, Wiley  
NO - Anderson, Arness, Gross, Obendorf

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved to amend the motion Section V.E.4, rewrite section to read, "Special schoolwide rules affecting co-curricular participation beyond the rules established by the KPSAA Committee must be included in the individual school's student guidelines and reviewed by the KPSAA Committee." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the amendment to change the wording to "SPECIAL SCHOOL RULES," "Special School rules..." "established by KPSAA", "approved by site based council and submitted to KPSAA for information." Mr. Wiley seconded.

Mr. Dahlgren commented the district sets rules above the state standards, and it is necessary for building administrators to enforce the rules. He noted that it is important for site councils to be informed but they do not respond to grievances and appeals. Grievance and appeal rules are in place at the building administrator level, KPSAA administrator level, the KPSAA Board level, and finally, the School Board level, if necessary.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT:

Yes - Wiley  
NO - Anderson, Arness, Gross, Tauriainen, Thibodeau,  
Obendorf

Amendment to amendment failed.

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1994-95 KPSAA HANDBOOKS  
 (continued):

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Thibodeau  
 NO - Arness, Gross, Tauriainen, Wiley, Obendorf

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion, Page 13, Travel Limitations, 1., Vehicles, "Students traveling to or from District-sponsored practices or contests not held at your home site, must do so in school provided vehicles, unless specifically released in writing by their parent or legal guardian to travel by some other method.

Home site is defined as the location where your school is hosting an event or where all schools share a site. (e.g., Central Peninsula Sports Center, participation in mass band/choir)." Mrs. Gross seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER LEAVES  
 MEETING:

At 11:17 p.m., Dr. Anderson left the meeting.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Arness, Gross, Tauriainen, Thibodeau, Obendorf  
 NO - Wiley

Amended motion carried.

ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve the high school KPSAA handbook as amended by the KPSAA Committee. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the motion, VI, 1, Travel, Vehicles, "Students traveling to or from District-sponsored practices or contests not held at your home site, must do so in school provided vehicles, unless specifically released in writing by their parent or legal guardian to travel by some other method.

Home site is defined as the location where your school is hosting an event or where all schools share a site. (e.g., Central Peninsula Sports Center, participation in mass band/choir)." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

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## ACTION

Mrs. Gross moved to amend the motion to change V.E.3, Holiday Practices, to delete "practice". Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

## VOTE:

YES - Arness, Gross, Tauriainen, Wiley  
NO - Thibodeau, Obendorf

Amendment carried.

## VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Arness, Gross, Tauriainen, Thibodeau, Obendorf  
NO - Wiley

Amended motion carried.

## ADMINISTRATOR ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve 1994-95 administrator assignments for Todd Syverson, Soldotna Junior High Principal; Robert Boyle, Seward Elementary Principal; Frank Garrity, Chapman Elementary Principal; Glen Szymoniak, McNeil Canyon Elementary Principal; and Lincoln Saito, Districtwide/Homer Area Bilingual Coordinator.

## ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved the Board approve the administrator assignments as recommended. Mr. Wiley seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Kistler commented that in listening to the discussion on the KPSAA Bible, this appeared to be a religious activity.

## BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Thibodeau requested the Board hold a worksession on the status of each school's Site Based Council and the duties of the councils. The Board requested this be held after the Board Goal Setting Sessions, which are scheduled for August 2 and 3.

Mr. Thibodeau reported the administration has been working on the Kenai Middle School road crossing area and this has been included in the road plans with flashing lights and possibly a stop light.

Mrs. Gross expressed pleasure on the Board requesting the Borough Assembly to place the West Homer Elementary School project on the October ballot.

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BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mr. Tauriainen requested a clarification on what correspondence the Board acknowledges. Mrs. Obendorf responded she shares all communications with the Board unless the communication deals with personnel.

Mr. Wiley commented he would like the administration to notify the Board on issues which they have received communication.

He commented on an enjoyable Nikolaevsk graduation. He was particularly pleased with the graduation date of May 31, which was after school was dismissed for the summer.

Mr. Wiley stated he was disappointed the Seward Wellness Clinic had only one KPBSD person in attendance, particularly when there were staff from throughout the state in attendance.

Mr. Arness stated he was impressed with North Star Elementary School's Blue Ribbon Award. He noted the school is a first class school.

Mrs. Obendorf reiterated the Board will hold their Goal Setting Sessions on August 2 and 3.

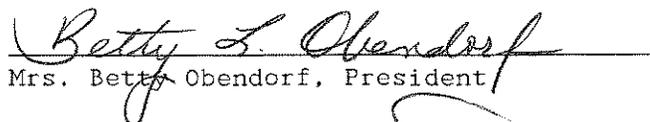
She announced the next school board meeting will be held on July 11, 1994.

ADJOURN:

At 11:37 p.m., Mrs. Gross moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
 Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

  
 Mr. Michael Wiley, Clerk

The Minutes of June 13, 1994,  
 were approved on July 11, 1994,  
 with a correction.