

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

October 17, 1994

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: 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: Mrs. Diane Borgman Mr. Paul Sayan  
 Mr. Paul Epperson Mr. Jim Simeroth  
 Mrs. Marita Parks Mrs. Catherine DeLacee  
 Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mr. John Kistler  
 Mrs. Lenoria Johnson Mrs. Lisa Kent  
 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.

OATH OF OFFICE: The Oath of Office was administered to newly elected school  
 board member Susan Larned by Notary Public, Barbara Jewell.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Betty Obendorf Present  
 Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Absent - Excused  
 Dr. Nels Anderson Present  
 Mr. Joe Arness Present  
 Mrs. Susan Larned Present  
 Mr. Michael Tauriainen Absent - Excused  
 Mr. Emery Thibodeau Present  
 Miss Mandy Baldwin Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 9d, Lake  
 Drive Bus Stop Report, and Item 10a (5), Approval of Teacher  
 Exchange Application.

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- REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:  
 ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Mrs. Betty Obendorf for President of the School Board.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross for Vice President of the Board.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Dr. Nels Anderson as Clerk of the Board.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Mr. Joe Arness as Treasurer of the Board.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- ESTABLISH MEETING DATE,  
 TIME, AND PLACE:  
 ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board establish their meeting date, time and place on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Room. Dr. Anderson seconded.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of October 3, 1994, were approved as printed.
- BARTLETT ELEM/HIGH SCHOOL  
 REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren announced that due to family illness Ms. Tamara Smid, Principal, Bartlett Elem/High School, was unable to attend the meeting. He noted this school report would be rescheduled at a later date. An invitation was extended to school board members to visit the Tyonek school whenever possible.
- COMMUNICATIONS AND  
 PETITIONS: Mrs. Obendorf reported the School Board had received an invitation to attend a celebration at North Star Elementary on Tuesday, October 18, honoring that school for receiving the Blue Ribbon Award in Washington, D.C. last week.
- Mrs. Obendorf noted the Association of Alaska School Boards Conference would be held in Anchorage, November 11-15.

KPESA: Mrs. Karen Mahurin, President of the Kenai Peninsula Support Association, expressed their organization's disappointment on the Board and administration creating the Director of Technology position. She stated KPESA supported the strategic plan and believed the Board when they said no district funds would be spent on any new central office positions. She noted hours for support employees in the grants department have been reduced, support employees have received no raises in three years with none negotiated for a fourth year, yet they continue to support lowering the PTR. She noted KPESA negotiated in good faith, but questioned whether the Board had negotiated in good faith.

KPEA: Mr. Paul Sayan, KPEA President, told the Board he would be taking a leave of absence from the presidency from November 18 through January, and Jim Simeroth will fill that position in his absence. He urged continued communication between the Board and teachers, which was one of the reasons for the teacher strike in Anchorage.

SOLDOTNA ELEMENTARY PTA: Mrs. Lisa Kent, Soldotna Elementary PTA Vice President, told the Board their major concern was the pupil-teacher ratio, and they wanted to start early to bring their concerns to the Board before the PTR is set for next year. They invited the Board to visit classrooms, particularly those with 30 or more students, and those classes with special needs children to see first hand the impact on the classroom. They felt prevention rather than remediation was essential to student learning.

REDOUBT ELEMENTARY PTA: Mrs. Catherine DeLacee, Co-President, Redoubt Elementary PTA, commented their group has not taken a formal vote on PTR because it is felt this is a "given". However, from her personal experience a fourth grade class at Redoubt Elementary is a large "bubble" class which has existed for five years. Parents are very concerned and frustrated about the PTR. Additionally, she noted Redoubt Elementary parents are concerned about the crowded situation at Soldotna Middle School. She urged the Board to take serious consideration to lowering the PTR at the elementary level. She noted invitations would be forthcoming to Board members to visit the school to review the PTR problem.

Dr. Anderson stated the Board was sympathetic to the PTR problem and would be happy to receive suggestions from the parents to resolve the problem.

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- SOLDOTNA ELEMENTARY PTA: Mrs. Marita Parks, Soldotna Elementary PTA President, reiterated the PTA's position on the PTR situation. She invited Board members to visit the sixth grade class at Soldotna Elementary which contains 30 students in a small-size classroom. She noted the PTA would follow the budget process and requested that more parents be appointed to the budget committee.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren reported he traveled to Washington, D.C. last week with North Star Principal, Donna Peterson, and teacher, Sherry Matson, to accept the school's U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Award. He extended an invitation to the Board to attend a reception at North Star Elementary School on Tuesday, October 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m., where this information will be presented to the staff and community.
- He announced the current enrollment is 123 students over projection with 10,226 students in attendance at district schools.
- Mr. Dahlgren extended congratulations to the Soldotna High School football team for making it to the playoffs, and to the Kenai Central High School football team going to the semi-finals this past weekend. He commented it was pleasant to see so many families and the community rallying around the teams.
- FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Swarner presented the financial report of the district for the period ended September 30, 1994.
- BUDGET TRANSFERS REPORT: Mr. Swarner reported on Budget Transfers #1 through #111 for schools within the district.
- WEST HOMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren reported the West Homer Elementary School bond issue was approved on the October 4, 1994 ballot. He anticipated he would be meeting soon with borough officials to set forth a timeline for selling bonds, developing construction documents, going to bid on the project and establishing a construction timeline. He anticipated ground breaking for the next construction season.
- LAKE DRIVE BUS STOP REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren reported the transportation coordinator, risk manager, Seward bus coordinator, Seward PAC chairperson and he reviewed the turnaround problem at Lake Drive in Seward. For student safety, he recommended the students be picked up when the bus leaves Seward which would eliminate students crossing the highway.

## CONSENT AGENDA:

Items on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Resignations, Leave of Absence Request/Certified, 19-Day Substitute Teacher Contract, Inservice Request, and Teacher Exchange Application.

## RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective the end of the 1994-95 school year for Judy Ballentine, Special Education/Resource, Redoubt Elementary; Dorothy Besch, Grade 3, Mountain View Elementary; Sam Bushon, HOTS Specialist, Districtwide; Michael Christian, Social Studies, Kenai Central High; Phyllis Cooper, Library, McNeil Canyon/Paul Banks Elementary; Mary Daniel, Business Education, Seward Jr/Sr High; Barbara Dilley, Mathematics, Soldotna Middle; Joseph Dilley, Science, Skyview High; Virginia Hallmark, Grade 1, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary; Michael Heaphy, Vocational Education, Kenai Central High; Kathy Heus, Library, Kenai Middle; James Holcomb, Social Studies, Homer High; Jeanne Holcomb, Library/Reading, Homer Middle; Michael Hopson, Social Studies, Chapman Elementary; Charles Jackson, Physical Education, Redoubt Elementary; Elizabeth Johnson, Physical Education, Paul Banks Elementary; Pamela Jonas, Grade 1, Soldotna Elementary; Kelly Macaulay, Grade 3, Paul Banks Elementary; Carol Mack, Grades 1-2, Soldotna Elementary; Lois Massie, Language Arts/Quest, Kenai Central High; Jon McMichael, Work Coop, Districtwide; Sherry Nauta, Kindergarten, Sterling Elementary; Etta Mae Near, Home Economics, Soldotna Middle; Kevan Nye, English, Soldotna High; Scott Richmond, Mathematics, Kenai Central High; Elmer Schaetzle, Business Education/Social Studies, Ninilchik Elem/High; Margaret Simon, Library, Kenai Central High; Paula Standefer, Alternative Education; Keith Tanaka, French, Kenai Central High; Dawn Thorpe, Physical Education, Kenai Central High; Mary Toutonghi, Speech Pathologist, Sears Elementary; and Jack Walsh, Art, Homer High.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE/CERTIFIED:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for the 1995-96 school year for Deanne Pokryfki, Mathematics, Skyview High.

19-DAY SUBSTITUTE TEACHER  
CONTRACT:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a contract for 19-day substitute teacher Deb Nyquist, Science, Skyview High.

## INSERVICE RELEASE DAY:

Mr. Thorpe recommended the Board approve an inservice release day for Seward Jr/Sr High on November 14, 1994 to evaluate findings from their recent trip to Diamond High School.

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TEACHER EXCHANGE  
 APPLICATION:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve submission of a Fulbright Teacher Exchange application for Lorraine Crawford, Social Studies, Soldotna High School.

Mrs. Obendorf requested Consent Agenda Items 10a (1), Approval of Resignations, be considered separately.

ACTION

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

Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the resignations as presented. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Radtke commented there were 32 resignations rather than the 36 she spoke about previously. She noted three individuals were ineligible for the retirement and one employee requested having his name rescinded.

Motion carried unanimously.

GAMING PERMITS:

Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve Resolution 94-95-3 which is a listing of 21 schools with their designated primary member in charge of gaming. He noted school board approval was needed prior to the schools applying for a 1994-95 gaming permit.

ACTION

Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve Resolution 94-95-3. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

AASB RESOLUTIONS:

Mrs. Obendorf stated the Board had conducted a worksession earlier in the day related to AASB Resolutions. She noted they had compiled a list of resolutions they did not wish to support, and this would give direction to their resolutions committee representative on how to vote on their behalf.

Mr. James Simeroth, Kenai Middle School teacher, commented he felt binding arbitration was better than teachers striking, and asked that the Board give thought to binding arbitration. Mrs. Obendorf commented that the Association supported the right to strike to draw to conclusion on things happening in Juneau, and after support of the issue, they requested that this be repealed.

## ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the listed resolutions except #5, #6, #11, #13, #14, #21, #29, and #30. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

## ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Belief Statements as recommended. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Obendorf announced the School Board President serves on the Resolutions Committee. The Board concurred with the appointment of Mrs. Gross as alternate to the committee.

FIRST READING, POLICY  
006.32, ASSESSMENT:

Mr. Thorpe noted a first reading to Policy 006.32, Assessment, was presented. He stated a worksession was conducted prior to the meeting, and recognized the suggestions from the School Board would be considered in a revised policy.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. John Kistler presented School Board Treasurer Arness with \$10.00 stating the money could not be spent to increase wages, not spent for activity sponsors, not spent for extracurricular activities, not spent for support personnel, not spent for equipment or repair, not spent for building or maintenance, not spent for transportation, not spent for supplies, not spent for special education, not spent for elective or secondary education classes, but must be spent to hire a first or second grade elementary teacher with one year or less experience. The last prerequisite was to find a way to spend the money, under the federal funding disparity cap, for this specific purpose.

## BOARD COMMENTS:

The Board welcomed Mandy Baldwin, Kenai Central High School student, as the Board's student representative for this year. The Board also welcomed its newest school board member, Susan Larned.

Mr. Arness commented he felt the position of Director of Technology was necessary to gain long-term direction for technology within the district. He objected to the characterization that other employees were wronged by the establishment of this position. He noted this topic had received lengthy discussion.

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BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Dr. Anderson commented he talked with Commissioner Covey who complemented the school board on its student inclusion policy which was approved in Homer. Commissioner Covey was hopeful the rest of the state would take the KPBSD's lead on that issue.

Dr. Anderson questioned if the facilities/transportation/boundaries committee was ready to be established so public input could be made before it was too late in the year.

He noted in establishing the strategic plan last year it was decided to have objectives written, and ironing out differences in it. He felt there should be discussion on this issue in the near future.

Mr. Thibodeau requested a report be made available for the next meeting on PTR by school and grade.

Mrs. Larned commented she was happy to be a member of the school board and it was obvious there was much to do, which she looked forward to.

Miss Baldwin stated she was excited to be the student representative on the Board, and was sure it would be a learning experience.

Mrs. Obendorf announced the *Clarion* reporter to the school board meetings, Janie Lawley, was a new mother of Taylor Wayne born on September 9.

Mrs. Obendorf thanked the parents in attendance at the meeting for expressing their concern on the PTR. She commented the Board was interested in parental ideas on how to reduce the PTR. She welcomed parents to attend budget meetings and talk to the members of the budget review committee.

Mrs. Obendorf announced Mr. Thibodeau had agreed to serve on the Policy Review Committee and the Calendar Committee.

Mrs. Obendorf questioned Mr. Dahlgren about establishment of the Facilities/Transportation Committee. Mr. Dahlgren responded that 26 individuals have applied for membership on the committee and the first meeting will take place around the first week in November, at the latest. He requested school board representation to the committee.

Mrs. Obendorf commented she was pleased there had been a request for objectives to the strategic plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:40 p.m., Dr. Anderson 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. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 9:15 p.m., Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board reconvene in regular session. Mrs. Larned seconded.

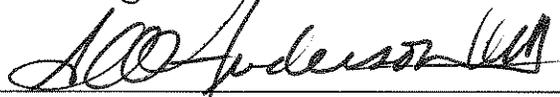
Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: At 9:16 p.m., Mr. Thibodeau moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Clerk

The Minutes of October 17, 1994,  
were approved on November 7, 1994,  
as written.