

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Homer High School  
Homer, AK 99603

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent

November 5, 2001

NEWS IN BRIEF

**SCHOOL REPORTS:** Mr. Pete Swanson, McNeil Canyon Elementary principal, stated that the school staff is attempting to implement standards-based instruction for every student. He stated the school has developed an educational program that stimulates and challenges students to extend their learning in every discipline. He stated that core academic areas are emphasized by lowering the pupil-teacher ratio and standards in other disciplines are taught by teachers with talent in those areas. He stated that the technology/media person (funded by grant money) assists in the classroom and computer lab. He explained that the school received new Dell computers as part of Year Two of the Technology Plan. Mr. Swanson reported that the school added French, art, world language, library skills and is continuing to offer physical education, music, band and choir and the bilingual program. He stated that volunteers staff the school library every day and the Title I tutor, bilingual instructor and technology/media person assist students after school. Mr. Atz Kilcher concluded the report by directing the student choir in a song titled, *Spirit of Flight 93*.

Mr. Randy Creamer, Kachemak Selo Elementary principal/teacher, stated that commuting to the school is challenging because it is extremely remote. He explained that students speak only Russian when they attend kindergarten. He presented a graph showing students' ability to name English, and Russian letters in the beginning of first grade. He explained that technology is weak (new computers are two years away) – a community desire. He presented a graph comparing students' knowledge of the English language by grade level and noted that according to the Peabody Vocabulary assessment students have caught up by 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. He noted that by the eighth grade all students are fluent in Russian and English. He noted that the school offers a preschool program for four year old children. He commented that Kachemak Selo students are extremely creative because of their culture; the girls learn to sew and the boys build houses and boats. He noted that the students have won many art contests. He stated that the school participates in the Battle of the Books competition and placed third at the high school level. He noted that the school has scored slightly higher in the Analytic Writing Assessment against other Russian schools in the District and credits the success to the teachers and that fact that the village is extremely remote.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:** The Board presented Golden Apple Awards to Dan Calhoun, Homer Middle teacher; Wayne Clark, retired teacher; Deborah Meganack, Homer area volunteer; and Deborah Smith, West Homer Elementary teacher. The Board presented the Alaska Counselor of the Year Award to Shawnie Olson, Homer High School counselor.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Peterson reported that Mr. Stewart is testifying about the waivers and appeals for the High School Qualifying Exam. She stated that she and local business partners recently gave a presentation at the Partners in Education Symposium. She noted that the October 24 Administrator Meeting was successful. She announced that she will attend the Alaska Distance Education Technology Consortium meeting on November 7. She reported that the District received a charter school application of intent for a Central Peninsula Montessori school.

**New Teacher Assignments 2001-2002:** The Board unanimously approved teacher assignments for the 2001-2002 school year for Foley Weems, generalist (temporary), Port Graham School; Jennifer Harvey, special

education/preschool (temporary), Sears Elementary; Louise Heite, speech therapist, districtwide special services; Robin McSheehy, special education/resource, Kenai Middle School; Matthew Widaman, (temporary), vocational education, Skyview High School.

Leave of Absence Support: The Board unanimously approved a one-year unpaid leave of absence request from Vicki Hollingsworth, Title I tutor, grants instruction (effective December 17, 2001).

Primary Sponsor of Gaming Permit: The Board unanimously approved a list of primary and alternative members in charge of gaming for those schools applying for gaming permits for 2001-2002 and a change of primary and alternative member for Nikiski Middle/High School.

Resolution 01-02-12, Arctic Winter Games: The Board unanimously approved Resolution 01-02-12 supporting the bid by the Kenai Peninsula to host the 2006 Arctic Winter Games

Request for Sabbatical: The Board unanimously approved an unpaid sabbatical for the 2002-2003 school year for Marina Bosick, Grade 3/4, Ninilchik Elementary/High School.

Resignation: The Board unanimously approved the resignation of Roderick Ladd, principal of West Homer Elementary.

Budget Preparation Calendar: The Board unanimously approved a draft calendar to be used as a guideline for preparation of the 2002-2003 School District budget.

AASB BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION: The Board unanimously approved the nomination of Ms. Deb Germano to the AASB Board of Directors.

Enrollment Projections for 2002-2003: The Board unanimously approved the 2002-2003 projected enrollment at 9,725 students.

Administrator Appointment: The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Richard Putney as director of Human Resources, Central Office.

Resolution 01-02-11: The Board unanimously approved Resolution 01-02-11, Supporting Year Two Recommendations of the Task Force on School Funding.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, November 19, 2001, 7:30 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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