

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

John Dahlgren, Superintendent

January 4, 1999

NEWS IN BRIEF

School Reports - Mr. Maurice Glen, Nanwalek Elementary/High principal/teacher, stated that this year the school is concentrating their emphasis in the areas of reading and math. He explained the Book-Link and Reading Buddies programs. He reported that students are participating in the Youth Area Watch Program, Native Youth Olympics, and are incubating salmon eggs in the classroom. He stated that the school has one of the most exceptional Bilingual Programs throughout the state and that he has noticed a substantial increase of his students' knowledge of their native culture and language. He thanked the administration for their support and asked for continued assistance to enable them to increase their assessment scores.

Awards and Presentations - Mr. Ben Eveland and Mr. Harry Lockwood presented an award to Mr. Drew O'Brien for being selected to receive the Vocational Education Service Award. Mr. Arness presented awards of appreciation to Ms. Barbara Ralston for her dedication to education and the District and to Ken Tarbox for his outstanding community volunteer service to the District.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Dahlgren reported that the Port Graham Elementary/High School is not in session because roofing trusses are separating. He stated that the Borough Public Works Department hopes to have the problem solved before Monday, January 11, 1999. He noted that school will be held on Saturdays until all of the missed days are made up.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that legal council has advised the District administration to allow middle school girls to participate in wrestling. He stated that the KPSAA board will make a recommendation to the Board to act on the recommendation allowing middle school girls to wrestle.

Mr. Dalgren announced that the ARCTIC Program has accepted Mr. Darren Jones' application for technology training. He also announced that Paul Sorenson, Kenai Middle School principal, has been selected as the Region III 1998-99 Secondary Principal of the Year and that his nomination will be forwarded to the state level.

Kenai Elementary Facility Review Report - Mr. Hickey presented a report assessing the viability for reopening the Kenai Elementary building. The report included five distinct areas of concern, which were building code/life safety, environmental, handicap accessibility, functional/educational program and maintenance. The cost of each area of concern totaled \$2,582,182.65.

1998-99 Teacher Assignment - The Board unanimously approved teaching appointments for the 1998-99 school year for Heidi Farrand, (temporary half-time) music, Seward Elementary; Susan Howard, (temporary) Grades K-3 at Port Graham Elem/High; and Kristina Owens (temporary, three-quarter time) Grades 7-10 math/science, Port Graham Elementary/High.

Resignations - The Board unanimously approved resignations for Kathleen Abrams, Grades K-3, Port Graham (effective 1/1/99); John Abrams, Grades 6-10 generalist, math/science, Port Graham (effective 1/1/99); Nancy Tapsfield, language arts/drama/art, Seward Middle/Sr. High (effective 1/15/99); Lawrence Colston, math, Seward Middle/Sr. High (effective 1/15/99); and Taryn Holmes, math, Skyview High (effective 5/27/99).

Early Graduation Request - The Board unanimously approved an early graduation request for a Nikiski High School student.

Student Expulsion - The Board unanimously approved the one-year expulsion of a Kenai Alternative High School student for violation of BP 5131.7, Weapons and Dangerous Instruments.

Resolution 98-99-5, Support of Challenger Learning Center - The Board unanimously approved Resolution 98-99-05 supporting the use of a parcel of land adjoining the Kenai Central High School campus for the construction of the Challenger Learning Center and a covered ice arena. The land is currently owned by the Alaska Mental Health Trust. Negotiations are ongoing to allow an exchange of Borough property for the Kenai property.

Charter School Budget adjustments for FY99 - The Board unanimously approved budget transfers to Aurora Borealis Charter School for \$1,453; to Bay View Charter School for \$455; and to Homer Charter School for \$5,746. These adjustments were made based upon their actual enrollments.

KPSAA Handbook Revision - The Board unanimously approved a revision to the Kenai Peninsula Student Activities Association (KPSAA) handbook to comply with eligibility requirements set by the Alaska School Activities Association. Students must now meet the following criteria to participate in a KPSAA sponsored activity: 1) be enrolled in a minimum of four semester units in the school of that interscholastic activity that lead to the granting of credit toward graduation from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District; 2) be enrolled in a minimum of four semester units in a district correspondence program, flex or alternative

school, or charter school that lead to the granting of credit toward graduation from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District; and 3) students attending a flex, alternative or charter school may only participate in the school within their attendance area.

Budget Adjustment - The Board unanimously approved a revision to the FY99 budget to accommodate a revenue shortfall of \$1,498,153. Reductions were made in the categories of teacher-unallocated, textbooks, data processing equipment, equipment, in-kind-Kenai Peninsula Borough, certified diploma, substitute allocations, and salary/fringe benefits.

First Reading of Policy Revisions - The Board heard a first reading of BP and AR 5145.12, Search and Seizure. The proposed revisions clarify that searches may involve vehicles, lockers, or other property on school grounds, owned or controlled by students; identify conditions to be considered in determining if a search is warranted; clarify that students are expected to cooperate with school officials conducting a reasonable search as described or allowed by this policy; direct school officials to make reasonable efforts to notify parents; and provide penalties for refusal to permit a reasonable search as described and allowed by this policy.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, January 18, 1999 at 7:30 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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