

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

John Dahlgren, Superintendent

April 5, 1999

NEWS IN BRIEF

School Reports — Carlton Kuhns, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High School principal, reported on the increased graduation rate and a follow-up of graduates who have continued on to further education. He presented assessment scores for analytical writing, math performance and CAT/5 reading, language, and math. He stated that all elementary students receive Russian language instruction each day and that they are completely fluent in both Russian and English by the 4th and 5th grades. He presented a video created by students showing the school facility, students in classrooms and participating in after-school activities. He stated that he will have six students graduate in May 1999.

Fred Deussing, Chapman Elementary School principal, cited parent support as the main reason why Chapman students perform incredibly well. He reported that the school instituted the Reading Mastery Intervention Program and that students have made enormous gains in the area of reading and language arts. Teachers Cindy Rasmussen, Barb Bechtel, and Elaine Velsko, explained the reading program in more detail and presented reading assessment scores that supported the program's success. Mr. Deussing presented a short video including demonstrations of students reading aloud.

Awards and Presentations — The Board presented awards of appreciation to Terry McBee, Soldotna Middle School and Donna Austin, Chapman Elementary School for their outstanding service to education and the District.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Dahlgren announced that schools in the Homer and Seward area have had difficulty with roof snow loads; however, borough maintenance crews have worked to ensure that all schools remain open and operational. He noted that parent-teacher conferences at Seward Elementary were moved to the high school for one day.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that the Pupil-Teacher Ratio grant has been completed and was submitted before spring break.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the positions of assistant superintendent for Human Resources and principal of Skyview High School have been readvertised.

Evaluation of High School Programs and Five-Year Plan — Mr. Dahlgren presented a report compiled from Homer High, Kenai Central High, Nikiski High, Seward High, Soldotna High and Skyview High Schools which outlined the direction of their schools for the next three to five years.

Leave of Absence/Certified — The Board unanimously approved a one-year, unpaid leave of absence for the 1999-2000 school year for Deborah Olson, special education/severe education, Seward Middle/Senior High School.

New Administrator Appointments — The Board unanimously approved administrator assignments for the 1999-2000 school year for Robin Williams, principal, Nikiski Middle/Senior High; Michael Wetherbee, principal, Ninilchik Elementary/High School; and Beverly Hunter-Gillaspie, assistant principal, Homer High.

Student Expulsion — The Board approved the one-year expulsion of a Kenai Alternative High School student for violation of Board Policy 5131.6, Alcohol and Other Drugs.

Disposition of Kenai Elementary Facility — The Board unanimously approved the transfer of the Kenai Elementary building to the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The transfer included the stipulation that the Kenai Alternative School be permitted full and continued access to the facility for as long as the building suits their needs. The recommendation further stated that should the facility be rehabilitated to allow the occupancy of school children, consideration be given to providing Aurora Borealis Charter School space within Kenai Elementary.

Nikiski Reconfiguration — The Board postponed action on a recommendation to approve the concept of a shift to the middle school model for the Nikiski area.

FY 1999-2000 Budget — The Board unanimously approved the FY1999-2000 annual budget in the amount of \$85,647,900. Included in the budget is a request for Kenai Peninsula Borough contributions for in-kind and local appropriation to the "cap" for the general fund in the amount of \$29,435,314.

POLICY/REGULATION REVISION — The Board approved changes to AR 5144, Due Process. The changes protect the identity of students who act as witnesses in due process situations and bring the District into compliance with current practice.

1999-2000 Tentative Meeting Dates — The Board unanimously approved a tentative listing of school board meetings and miscellaneous dates for the 1999-2000 school year.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING — The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, April 19, 1999, 7:30 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.