

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

February 1, 1999

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

Ms. Deborah Germano, Treasurer

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Miss Charise Calvert, Student
Representative

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of
Schools

Mr. Patrick Hickey, Assistant
Superintendent, Operations and
Business Management

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant
Superintendent, Instruction

Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Assistant
Superintendent, Human Resources

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of January 18, 1999, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Paul Sorenson, Kenai Middle School principal, thanked the School Board for the opportunity to show case the school and for their continued support for the middle school concept. He extended an invitation to the Board to visit Kenai Middle School. He stated that the school enrollment has been stable for the past four years. He stated that he projects an increase for the next school year. He reported that his school receives approximately \$73,000 in Title I funds, which are spent entirely on staff. He stated that in reviewing the needs of the students, more instruction time was needed in the areas of math, reading and language arts. He stated that his school organized a summer school program. He stated that approximately 33 students participated in the Summer School Program and 25 of those students are now receiving passing grades. He stated that Title I money also funds the After-School Program which meets for an hour after school, three days a week. He reported that there are 58 students participating in the After-School Program with several more on the waiting list.

Mr. Sorenson reviewed CAT/5 assessment scores and stated that the school's strengths are in the areas of science, social studies, language arts and the weaknesses are in the areas of math computation and spelling. He stated that the goal for next year is to focus on the area of math computation.

Mr. Tim Peterson gave a computer-generated presentation and with the assistance of Mrs. Bird, highlighted the exploratory curriculum courses, which include band, physical education, home economics, technology, metals, drama and other classes for a total of 26 offerings. Mrs. Bird stated that the exploratory team consists of seven members who teach two exploratory classes to each grade level. She reported that exploratory class schedules are altered at certain times of the year to accommodate special activities. For example, band and choir students need rehearsal time prior to a concert, in the fall the physical education teachers conduct a four-week swimming unit and in February they also host Jump Rope for Heart. Mrs. Bird reported that the problem of enough planning time and lopsided classes are two of the obstacles the exploratory team faces. She stated that the use of e-mail can accommodate most of the communication problems and that lopsided enrollment in some of the classes has been assisted by allowing band and choir students to opt out of one semester of physical education. She stated that another problem is limited parent conference time. She stated that Kenai Middle School has a lot to offer 6th graders and does not feel that 6th grade is too early for middle school. She stated that there is a huge difference between entering 6th grade students and

departing 8th grade students.

SCHOOL REPORTS
(Continued):

Ms. Connie Wirz explained that the After-School Program is not a remedial program but rather a support program and a place for students to study and catch up in their classes with the assistance of tutors. She stated that six tutors assist with 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Students learn study and organizational skills and are excited with their progress causing their self-esteem to improve.

Ms. Wirz explained that last year the Summer Program offered language arts, math, reading and the ASSETS program.

The Kenai Middle School choir concluded the report by singing, "Spread Your Wings and Fly."

Awards and
PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Arness presented an award of appreciation to Mr. Brad Langvardt, Kenai Middle School head custodian, for his outstanding work and dedication to the District.

RECESS:

At 8:06 p.m., Mr. Arness called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:

At 8:15 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he had received a letter from the Kenai Peninsula Administrator's Association requesting to open negotiations with the Board and administration. The letter named Mr. Mark Norgren, Ms. Trena Richardson, Mr. Ralph Steeves and Mr. Glen Szymoniak as members of the KPAA negotiating team.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that budget hearings begin the week of January 31, at 7:00 p.m. according to the following schedule: Wednesday, February 3 at Kenai Central High; Thursday, February 4 at Homer High; Tuesday, February 9 at Seward High; Wednesday, February 10 at Soldotna High; and Thursday, February 11 at Nikiski High.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that more items will be posted on the calendar included in the Board packet as soon as a complete list is compiled.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that the School Board meeting scheduled for February 15, 1999 has been cancelled in observation of President's Day. He stated that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, March 1, 1999, in Homer.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Dr. Roland Good will give a presentation to the Board on the DIBELS Program on February 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the Borough administration conference rooms A and B. Dr. Good will travel to the Homer area for presentations the following day.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT (Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the Superintendent Search Committee will review applications beginning February 1 through 8. He stated that there will be a special School Board meeting on Monday, February 8, beginning at 5:30 p.m. to review applications and select semi-finalists. The Board will also conduct a special meeting on Friday, February 12, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. to select finalists to be interviewed on February 24-25.

Mr. Dahlgren reminded those present that administrative meetings are also scheduled for February 24-25.

Mr. Dahlgren solicited suggestions and comments from those present regarding qualities desired for the new superintendent.

Mr. Arness explained the interview process and invited those present to provide input regarding qualities for the new superintendent.

MENTOR PROGRAM:

Mrs. Radtke referred to a brief summary of the Mentor Program included in the Board packet and added that it was a pleasure to be involved with the mentor program and work with the Staff Development team. Ms. Dorothy Gray, staff development specialist, gave a computer-generated presentation, which included the goals and objectives of the Mentor Program. She provided statistics regarding the teaching profession by the year 2000. She stated that approximately fifty percent of new teachers will leave teaching within their first seven years and that the entire teaching profession

will all but turn over during the turn of the century. Ms. Gray complimented Mrs. Radtke for laying the foundation for the teacher mentor program. She explained that the program includes new teachers as well as teachers new to the District. She introduced Mr. Sarge Truesdell and Mr. Dave Larson, participants in the mentor program.

MENTOR PROGRAM
(Continued):

Mr. Truesdell explained that the mentor program has helped him immensely during his first year of teaching. He read quotes from other teachers participating in the teacher mentor program. He explained that as part of his mentorship program, he was able to observe a master teacher at another school. He stated that he observed Mr. Ken Felchle. Mr. Truesdell stated that the visit was extremely helpful because Mr. Felchle teaches the same curriculum and had many helpful suggestions. Mr. Truesdell stated that each participant each keeps a journal that is discussed at monthly meetings. He said that during their meetings the group listens to brief presentations, problem-solves "sticky" situations and discusses the proper way to handle them.

Mr. Dave Larson, Kenai Central High School teacher, stated that the mentor program acts as a strong safety net for teachers new to the District. He stated that the mentor program builds professional networking and provides new teachers with a non-threatening environment to discuss current issues and difficulties. He stated that the program stimulates and motivates new teachers to put into practice (in practical ways) the methods learned in college.

Mr. Larson suggested that the program could be enhanced by having master teachers in each of the curriculum areas speak to the group about their area of expertise. He read more quotes from other mentor teacher participants, which complimented the program.

Mr. Larson concluded by saying that the mentor program gave him a leap forward in his ability to deal with his apprehension as a new employee and gain trust in those with whom he works.

Mrs. Mullins asked how many teachers are participating in the program. Ms. Gray responded that there are 14 districtwide participants in the Mentor Teacher Program.

Mrs. Larned asked how teachers are made aware of the program. Mrs. Gray explained that during the new teacher induction in the fall, the teachers are invited to participate in the program, which is ongoing throughout the year.

CONSENT AGENDA: One item was presented on the Consent Agenda: two certified resignations.

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations for Vince Wagner, speech pathologist, districtwide special services and Catherine Szabo-Bendock, Grade 6, Sterling Elementary.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Item Number 1.

ACTION Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM: Mr. Ed McLain recommended the Board approve the vocational and technical education curriculum for Grades 6-12. He pointed out that the document is intended as a guide for instruction and that it is cross-referenced to the State of Alaska Employability Standards, the National Occupational Skills Standards, and the Alaska Content Standards in math, reading, writing, and technology. He stated that the guide contains a listing of national standards as well as a listing of applied academic courses, which can be taken for vocational education credit. He thanked the Committee for its work and Donna Peterson for her leadership.

Ms. Germano asked whether the requirement for all 7th grade students to take keyboarding had been changed. Mr. McLain replied that the guide is as it was first presented. He stated he felt that the 9th grade requirement would be more of an implementation issue rather than a curriculum content issue.

Ms. Germano stated that she would like to see the schools follow the curriculum requirements and not interpret them differently.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he did not feel the curriculum required everyone to take keyboarding. He explained that he interpreted the curriculum language to mean that students must have keyboarding skills and, if not, they will be required to take the course.

Ms. Germano stated that elementary school parents have expressed a desire for 6th grade students to learn keyboarding. She expressed concern that students be placed according to their skill level and not required to take redundant courses.

Mr. McLain stated that there is a wide range of entry level technology skills among students, either well above or well below grade level. He stated that school staff needs to consider the individual students' needs and readiness.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the vocational education curriculum.
Ms. Germano seconded.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
CURRICULUM
(Continued):

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to the vocational and technical education curriculum guide to add the text, "students be placed where it is appropriate for them to be placed." And on page 13, Computer Applications, to strike the wording "recommended for all freshman," and include "students will have computer skills as a prerequisite."

Mrs. Mullins asked for a clarification of Ms. Germano's amendment.

Ms. Germano stated that she didn't want students placed in inappropriate classes. She stated she would rather students be placed in programs suitable for their needs.

Dr. Anderson suggested that the language be changed to say, "recommended for all freshman who need these skills." He agreed that students should not be forced to take classes that they do not need.

Ms. Germano reworded her amendment to add, "9-12 grade" and "Computer Applications I or placement."

Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that every student has the option to test out of any class. He stated that students are usually placed according to skill level in each computer application class. He recommended that the scope be amended to say that students should be placed according to their skill level.

Mr. McLain suggested that the new wording be placed at the end of the second sentence on page ii: "... student needs and demonstrated abilities. Course placement will be made based on student needs and demonstrated skills."

Ms. Germano withdrew her amendment with the permission of the second.

Dr. Anderson expressed concern over a situation where a student was forced to take a keyboarding class but did not need it.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to the vocational and technical education curriculum guide to add the text at the end of the second sentence on page ii: "... student needs and demonstrated abilities. Course placement will be made based on student needs and demonstrated skills." Mrs. Larned seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
CURRICULUM
(Continued):

Dr. Anderson expressed concern that the Vocational Education Committee stated that the guide was the best they could do with the resources the District has rather than the best they could do. He stated that he will vote for the curriculum guide but felt that it needed improvement.

Ms. Germano stated that she shared Dr. Anderson's concern and appreciated the Committee's work on the Vocational Education Curriculum. She stated that she would like to see schools offer classes in each area of the vocational curriculum.

Advisory Vote: ABSTAIN

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Social Security
Modification for
Student Workers:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve agreements with Social Security that will allow the District to exempt student hires from future Social Security and Medicare reporting, effective June 30, 2000. Mr. Hickey stated that, if approved, the District would not have to deduct for FICA and Medicare from student employees and they would not have to contribute to Social Security.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve agreements with Social Security that will allow the District to exempt student hires from future Social Security and Medicare reporting, effective June 30, 2000. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Reconsideration of
Board Directive 99-
01:

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board reconsider their action on Board Directive 99-01.

ACTION

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Larned, Mullins, Arness

NO - Germano

Advisory Vote: YES

Motion carried.

Dr. Anderson said that he appreciated the discussion regarding the Board directive and stated that he had thought about changing it from a mandate to a suggestion. He suggested that under the circumstances, the Board should vote against it.

Ms. Germano stated that she also appreciated the discussions concerning the Board directive and added that she hoped the site-based councils would continue to discuss staffing, scheduling and other issues.

Reconsideration of
Board Directive 99-
01 (Continued):

Mrs. Larned thanked those who spoke to the Board about the directive. She stated that many good points were addressed and much research was shared. She agreed with Ms. Germano's comment that the discussions were beneficial and appreciated.

Mr. Arness clarified that the main motion to approve Board Directive 99-01 was before the Board.

Motion failed.

POLICY REVISIONS BP 3310.1, Equipment Fund Transfer and BP and AR 5145.12, Search and Seizure:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve the adoption of BP 3310.1, Equipment Fund Transfer. The policy provides language that governs the use of the equipment reserve fund.

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve the adoption of BP 3310.1, Equipment Fund Transfer. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 5145.12, Search and Seizure. He stated that some of the language had been rewritten at Board request. He noted that Mrs. Colette Thompson, Borough Attorney, was present to answer questions.

ACTION

Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve revisions to BP and AR 5145.12, Search and Seizure. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Ms. Germano questioned the student notification portion of the search and seizure policy. Mr. Dahlgren noted that two statements in the policy address the issue of written notification. He added that this information is mentioned in the student handbook and on the handbook test.

Ms. Germano stated that she was confused by the language in the regulation that states, "'Notice' of this policy shall be deemed provided if the school official has advised the student, either verbally or in writing..." She clarified that if the school fails to give the search information to the student in writing, giving the information to them orally is acceptable. Mr. McLain cited a scenario where students might transfer from another district during the school year. He stated that the new language places an expectation on the administrator to make sure that new students understand that refusing a search will result in penalties. Ms. Germano stated that she felt that it was an awfully big loophole.

POLICY REVISIONS BP
3310.1, Equipment
Fund Transfer and BP
and AR 5145.12,
Search and Seizure
(Continued):

Mr. McLain stated that the intent is to put an additional expectation on the administration to ensure that the student knows the search and seizure policy. Mr. Arness clarified that the notice is given at the time the search and seizure issue came up. Mr. McLain stated that the administration wants to make certain that students know that they are expected to allow the search, and if they do not, there will be penalties.

Ms. Germano expressed concern regarding previous lawsuits. She noted that at least one of them related to what was in writing and what was not.

Mrs. Colette Thompson responded that the lawsuit being referred to dealt with the expulsion of a student based on a new drug procedure that had not been formalized as a policy. She stated that the issue surrounding the lawsuit was the ability to expel a student based upon an administrative policy as opposed to a Board-approved policy. She stated that the purpose of the statements in the search and seizure policy is to ensure that students have actual notice before steps are taken to suspend or expel them.

Mrs. Mullins asked whether it was reasonable to search a student merely because another student has accused that student of doing something against Board policy. Mr. Dahlgren cited an example of a student accusing another student of taking his wallet and advised the Board that such a scenario would be cause for a search. Mrs. Thompson added that the principal would have to consider the facts to determine reasonable suspicion.

Mrs. Larned expressed concern about the 45-day discipline sanction. Mr. Dahlgren stated that currently, if a student refuses a search, it is treated as an admission of guilt. He added that there should be no reason why a student shouldn't submit to a search if there is reasonable cause.

Ms. Germano asked about parent notification. Mr. McLain stated that the sentences in question are part of the existing policy and not new language. He explained that whenever reasonably possible, parents are notified prior to a search but there are times when this is not possible. He stated that in those cases the administration is required to notify the parents as soon as possible after the search.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Larned, Mullins, Arness

NO - Germano

Advisory Vote - YES

Motion carried.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 3120, Transfer of Funds. Mr. Hickey explained that the proposed revision changes the reporting of budget transfers to a quarterly cycle. He explained the problems that occur at the

end of the year with the expenditure of reserve money. He stated that administrators may spend reserve funds after budget transfers, but it is very difficult for the Accounting Office to ensure that there are no negative account variances. He stated that the proposed policy revision would allow more time and that the report would be given in July.

BOARD COMMENTS :

Mrs. Larned thanked the Kenai Middle School students, staff and parents for their school presentation. She stated that she enjoyed the singing, hearing about the exploratory classes and reviewing the artwork displayed on the walls.

Ms. Germano asked for the concurrence of the Board to request information from the administration regarding curriculum waiver requests made by the schools.

ADJOURN: At 9:37 p.m.,
Dr. Anderson
moved the
School Board
Meeting be
adjourned.
Mrs. Mullins
seconded.

Motion
carried
unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Joe Arness, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of February 1, 1999,
were approved on March 1, 1999
as written.