

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

July 6, 1998

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS:

Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer

Dr. Nels Anderson, Member

Ms. Deborah Germano, Member

Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Member

Mr. John Dahlgren, Superintendent of Schools

STAFF PRESENT:

Mrs. Melody Douglas, Director, Finance

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Mrs. Marita Parks

Mr. Bill Severson

Mrs. Sylvia Reynolds

Mrs. Anita Turkington

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Larry Semmens

Mrs. Sandra Taylor

Mrs. Leona Oberts

Mrs. Nan Spooner

Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER: Mrs. Gross called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Dr. Anderson, Mr. Arness, Ms. Germano and Mrs. Gross were in attendance. Newly selected, interim member, Mrs. Crawford was also in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 4:41 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the Board go into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. The purpose of the executive session was to conduct a student expulsion hearing. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:35 p.m., Mr. Anderson moved the executive session be adjourned. Mr. Arness seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Gross invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross Present

Mr. Joe Arness Present

Mrs. Susan Larned Absent/Excused

ROLL CALL: Dr. Nels Anderson Present

Mrs. Sammy Crawford Present

Ms. Deborah Germano Present

Mrs. Debra Mullins Absent/Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of June 8, 1998, were approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS: Mrs. Gross noted that she had received a thank you note from Mrs. Fischer and a letter from Governor Knowles concerning the passage of SB36, and thanking the Board for their hard work for Alaskan students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren reported that the Department of Education has mailed out several new regulations for review. He noted that two of the regulations hold special interest to the District: a regulation concerning correspondence and part-time students, and a regulation eliminating the use of 14 passenger vans to transport students. Mr. Dahlgren stated that a cooperative agreement must be signed for students taking correspondence courses out of their attendance area. He noted that the cooperative agreement can be protested but not for funding reasons. He noted that Sunday's Clarion published advertisements from the Galena and Copper River School Districts encouraging students to enroll in their correspondence courses.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that as of July 1 the District has entered into FY99 and that the budget must be adjusted to include the additional funds generated by the passage of SB36. He added that the District has recently converted to the new state accounting codes which has resulted in an enormous amount of work for the Finance Department. He noted that the District will conduct inservices on the use of the new account codes for all secretarial and administrative staff.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending May 31, 1998.

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Resignations, 1998-99 Teacher Assignments, 1998-99 Annual Agenda, Requests for Early Graduation, Boys and Girls Club Lease Agreement, Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule, Leave of Absence Request/Support, and 1998-99 Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignments.

Resignations:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year from Carol Norstadt, Grades 4-6, Port Graham School; Lynn Norstadt, Grades K-10, Port Graham School; Clark Chesbro, vocational education/general, Susan B. English School; Christine Bergholtz, science, Kenai Central High; Fabian Castilleja, principal, Susan B. English School; Brittany Nowak, librarian, Homer High; and Andrea Messenger, Special Education/ educationally handicapped, Seward High.

- 1998-99 Teacher Assignments: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve teaching appointments for the 1998-99 school year for Kathleen Abrams, Grades K-3, Port Graham School; John Abrams, Grades 6-10 (half-time), Port Graham School; Dawn Bowman, QUEST, Soldotna Middle; Michelle Carver, science, Nikiski Middle/High School; John Damberg, music (temporary), Seward High; Jason Fantz, science, Seward Middle/High School; Mark Fraad, social studies (half-time), Chapman School; Ann Heimbuch, Grades 4-6, West Homer Elementary; Mary Henry, Special Education/resource (temporary), Sears Elementary; Renda Horn, music, Paul Banks Elementary; George Kelso, physical education (half-time), Nikiski Elementary; Michael Lanegan, vocational education (.60 time), Skyview High; David Larson, English (half-time), Kenai Central High; Christopher Lau, generalist (temporary), Susan B. English School; Melissa Olver, art, Seward Middle/High; Joseph Rizzo, English, Nikiski Middle/High; Vickey Roney, generalist (half-time), Kenai Alternative; Jean Stockburger, multigrade elementary, K-Selo School; Michael Stockburger, Grades 9-12 generalist, Kenai Alternative; Jeffrey Szarzi, generalist, Homer Flex ; Sargeant Truesdell, social studies, Soldotna Middle; Troy Zimmerman, social studies, Nikiski Middle/High; and Jeffrey Moore, music (temporary), West Homer Elementary/McNeil Canyon Elementary.
- 1998-99 Annual Agenda: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the 1998-99 Annual Agenda. The Annual Agenda consists of dates on which routine items are presented to the School Board for approval.
- Requests for Early Graduation: Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve a request for two students to graduate early from Homer High School. One student will graduate at the end of the first semester, 1998-99, and the other student will graduate one year early at the end of the 1998-99 school year.
- Boys and Girls Club Lease Agreement: By memorandum, Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a lease agreement for the Boys and Girls Club for space at Kenai Elementary School.
- Substitute and Temporary Pay Schedule: By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the proposed pay schedule for substitutes and temporary employees for the 1998-99 school year.
- Leave of Absence Request/Support: By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year leave of absence request for the 1998-99 school year for Robert Harwood, driver/courier, Warehouse.

1998-99 Tentative Nontenure
Teacher Assignments:

By memorandum, Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative nontenure teacher assignment for the 1998-99 school year for Michael Williamson, math/science, Bartlett Elementary/High; Connie Wirz, Title I teacher (.5), Kenai Middle and Beverly Grogan, lead teacher, Bay View Charter. Mr. Arness moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Number 1 through 8 including addendums to Numbers 10a(1), 10a.(5) and 10a.(8). Dr. Anderson seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT EXPULSION:

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the following: "The Decision of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in the Matter of Expulsion of CM.

This matter was heard before the Board on July 6, 1998. The student and both parents were present. Sylvia Reynolds, the Soldotna High School Principal, and Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, were present and recommended expulsion of the student for being under the influence of marijuana on school grounds, in violation of Board Policy 5131.6.

The evidence presented showed that on May 28, 1998 the principal contacted CM's mother as CM was not in school. At about 9:30 that morning CM's mother brought CM to the principal's office, and the principal suspected CM was under the influence of a drug. She asked the nurse to administer a rapid eye exam on CM, which CM failed. The principal then asked CM's mother to take CM to CICADA for a urinalysis. Later that day the assistant principal, Mr. Norgren, questioned CM who admitted to consuming marijuana that morning and then returning to school. CM testified that he had come to school, left with some friends before school started, and returned to take his biology final exam. CM did not dispute at the Board hearing that he had consumed marijuana on the morning in question. Evidence presented also showed CM had been suspended in 1996 for violation of the District's former policy 007.12, subjecting students to suspension or expulsion for possession or being under the influence of drugs, alcohol and other substances on school premises. The principal also stated that CM does not have a history of problems with either attendance or discipline at Soldotna High School, with only one other minor infraction at that school.

STUDENT EXPULSION
(Continued):

Based on the evidence submitted at the hearing, the Board concludes the student has exhibited behavior of a serious nature which is inimical to the welfare, safety or morals of other students, that this is likely to occur again unless the student is removed from the school setting for a significant period of time, and that expulsion is warranted. These factors make it necessary to remove this student from the school by expulsion for the 1998-99 school year, except that the student may apply for limited readmission to the Alternative to Out-of-School program ("ATOS") for the first quarter of the 1998-99 school year if he provides a negative urine analysis test within ten days of this early readmission, and agrees in writing to submit to monthly random chain of custody urinalysis tests during the 1998-99 school year. All urinalysis tests shall be at the student's expense. Upon successful completion of the ATOS program for one quarter, negative urinalysis tests, and 40 hours of community service, the student may apply for early readmission to Soldotna High School after the first quarter of the 1998-99 school year. Any such early readmission shall terminate if any of the monthly urinalysis tests are positive, showing use of illegal substances, provided that the termination is approved by the Board. CM shall be immediately suspended pending Board hearing if a test is positive. The student shall not go on school grounds during the period of expulsion for any reason, nor shall he attend any school event or function whatsoever." Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Homer Electric Association
Fiber Optic Joint Letter of
Intent:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve a joint letter of intent with Homer Electric Association (HEA), to provide fiber optic cabling to District schools. He stated that he met with Mr. Norm Story, General Manager of Homer Electric Association, and subsequently a letter of intent was developed. Mr. Dahlgren explained that HEA will provide a fiber optic line for 16 District schools with the possibility of expanding to more schools in the future. He noted that the District will supply the additional end-use equipment necessary to establish the network and will apply for Universal Service Funds to finance a portion of the cost of acquiring the equipment.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that use of one-third of the fiber optic line will allow the District to have voice, data and media capabilities instantly. He stated that he would like to conduct a worksession with the School Board, HEA and the Data Processing Department in August to outline the costs and capabilities of the fiber optic line.

Homer Electric Association
Fiber Optic Joint Letter of
Intent (Continued):

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the signing of a joint letter of intent with HEA to provide fiber optic cabling to District schools. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mr. Arness asked why the letter of intent is necessary. Mr. Dahlgren stated that the letter of intent notifies the HEA Board of Directors of the District's interest in a cooperative agreement. He stated that Mr. Story has been asked by his board to obtain letters of intent from potential consumers. He assured the Board that the letter of intent is not binding.

Ms. Germano asked if the District will be considering other companies when purchasing fiber optic cable service. Mr. Dahlgren explained that HEA must competitively bid for services if the District is going to take advantage of the e-rate program. Ms. Germano stated that the phone company and HEA are very close in completing each of their cabling projects and will be looking for School District business.

Ms. Germano requested that the Board receive a concise list of real costs. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he had already made that request to Mr. Story. He stated that the schools are far from being ready to connect to the cable but that once it is connected it will provide the opportunity to offer interactive distance delivery and video teleconferencing throughout the District.

Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Appointment:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the appointment of Scott O'Tremba, principal/teacher, Voznesenka School.

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the appointment of Scott O'Tremba, principal/teacher, Voznesenka School. Ms. Germano seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

FY 1999 Budget Amendment: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve an amendment to the FY99 budget and to forward the amended budget to the Borough Assembly for approval. He explained that this budget includes \$2,428,075 generated by SB36, removes funding outside the cap and raises the local appropriation amount to the cap. He noted that the calculations were based on the projected enrollment and formulas contained in SB36.

ACTION Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the amended FY99 budget as outlined. Dr. Anderson seconded.

FY 1999 Budget Amendment (Continued): Dr. Anderson asked whether the District was assured funds for the State Quality Grant. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he has not been able to get answers from the Department of Education. He stated that Mr. McLain has been informed of changes in the state mandated assessment program. Mr. Dahlgren explained that the governor's Quality Schools Initiative allocates \$16 per student but he is unsure of how the money must be spent.

Mr. Dahlgren explained that the FY99 budget figures remain the same as the original budget except for the state foundation and local appropriation amounts and the addition of the State Quality Schools Grant.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he will send a letter to the Borough Assembly asking them to approve an ordinance adjusting the District budget at their next meeting. He added that he has spoken to the Assembly asking for a shortened hearing so that the budget adjustment can be voted on during their second meeting in August. He stated that he would explain to the Assembly how the District intends to spend the additional funds.

Motion carried unanimously.

FY 1999 Budget Expenditures Plan: Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve an expenditures plan for additional funds generated by SB36. He stated that the plan includes money for the District's retirement contribution for teachers; the governor's Quality Schools Initiative; charter school support; increased staffing; increased nursing services; textbooks/science supplies; data processing equipment upgrades; certified diploma remediation; extended contract days for librarians, counselors, athletic directors and other staff; soccer program support; and equipment/supplies.

Mr. Dahlgren noted that if the Board wished to institute an art program some funds would be needed to purchase supplies and materials and would be included in the category titled, Equipment/Supplies. He stated that a more detailed list on the expenditures of the equipment/supplies money will be provided to the Board in the future.

Ms. Germano asked for a more specific breakdown of the use of the equipment/supplies allocation. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he will review school requests for health and safety items first and then appoint a committee of administrators to assess and evaluate the requests. Ms. Germano expressed concern that the requests for health/safety items could use up the entire amount allocated under equipment/supplies. Mr. Dahlgren reported that the District currently has approximately \$240,000 in the equipment budget.

FY 1999 Budget Expenditures
Plan (Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren stated that he would ask the Instruction Department to assist with the design of an art program.

Ms. Germano asked that the community also be involved.

Ms. Germano asked why the soccer program was being funded for \$47,364. Mr. Dahlgren responded that he calculated funds for 1 boys coach, and 1 girls coach at each participating school at the same range as the track coach (12 coaches at \$3,000 each plus \$1,500 per school for travel costs).

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve an expenditures plan for additional funds generated by SB36 as outlined. Ms. Germano seconded.

Ms. Germano asked whether the increased staffing mentioned in the plan would mean that the District will reinstate pool directors, theater staff, etc. Mr. Dahlgren replied that the regular classroom staffing formula will be reinstated which includes a .5 FTE at all 9-12 schools. He stated that the plan does not reinstate pool directors or other staff. Mr. Dahlgren added that the reinstatement of four .5 positions equals more than the \$44,000 figure that is used to calculate 1 position because the full amount of health benefit costs are calculated for four individuals.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve an amendment to the expenditures plan specifying "regular high school staff" and providing a detailed breakdown of expenditures under the increased staffing category. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Anderson, Crawford, Germano, Gross

NO - Arness

Amendment carried.

Dr. Anderson stated that he could not support the expenditures plan when soccer is being funded and gymnastics is not, especially when it is likely that they will have to be deleted in two years.

FY 1999 Budget Expenditures
Plan (Continued):

Ms. Germano stated that she felt that schools are obligated to take care of textbooks, supplies and instructional materials for their students and when additional funds are available the schools who do not have them are the winners and the schools who have spent their money wisely are the losers. Mr. Dahlgren reminded the Board that they have received quite a bit of criticism for the lack of textbooks and that the only way to deal with that criticism is to order textbooks through central office. Ms. Germano suggested that the schools that are lacking textbooks be made to purchase them and the schools that have already purchased textbooks be allocated money to spend on items that they have wanted but have not had the funds.

Ms. Germano expressed concern that much of the certified diploma remediation funds will be spent from the Special Services Department where there is no clear explanation of expenditures.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:

YES - Arness, Crawford, Germano, Gross

NO - Anderson

Amended motion carried.

1998-99 Board Goals:

Mr. Dahlgren presented five goals for accomplishment during the 1998-99 school year as a result of the Board June 9 planning session. The recommended goals are: 1) To develop criteria for the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District diploma certification through the expansion of the assessment program, the establishment of benchmark targets, and the development of remediation procedures; 2) to evaluate the elementary program as it relates to pupil-teacher ratios, specialists in reading, art and counseling; 3) to develop a facility plan for the Nikiski area, Soldotna Middle, Skyview High, Nikolaevsk Elementary/High, and Voznesenka School; 4) to develop a public relations effort between staff and community through asset building and community surveys; and 5) to develop an equipment replacement plan that will include an evaluation of the District's technology plan and possible technology bond.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve five goals and four other activities to be accomplished by reports and/or worksessions during the 1998-99 school year. Ms. Germano seconded.

Ms. Germano asked that all student discipline actions be reported to the Board. Mr. Dahlgren responded that the request could be accommodated.

1998-99 Board Goals
(Continued):

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to add Goal Number 6, to review Special Education Department expenditures and report to the Board. Ms. Germano seconded.

ACTION

Amendment carried unanimously.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Revisions to BP 3541.1,
School-Related Trips:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 3541.1, School-Related Trips, that adds language allowing students to drive themselves to alternate sites during the school day with parent permission. Transportation of students by other students is prohibited.

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve revisions to BP 3541.1, School-Related Trips. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of BP 5134, Student Production of Services and Materials:

Mr. Dahlgren recommended the Board approve the adoption of BP 5134, Student Production of Services and Materials which requires that a waiver of liability and assumption of risk form be completed prior to receipt of items for which student labor is involved. Mr. Dahlgren noted that a revision has been made as a result of the first reading to exclude student products or services that are deemed to have a negligible potential for product liability risk.

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the adoption of BP 5134, Student Production of Services and Materials. Mr. Arness seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

Aurora Borealis Curriculum Change:

Mr. Dahlgren presented a request from the Aurora Borealis Charter School to change from the Calvert curriculum to the use of the scope and sequence of the Core Knowledge Program.

Mrs. Oberts requested the Board approve an amendment to the original Aurora Borealis school proposal in the following sections:

Section VI:

"The Calvert School curriculum will be utilized as the core curriculum." was changed to read, "The scope and sequence of the Core Knowledge program will be the foundation for the core curriculum."

"The parent receives a teaching manual which will allow them to keep track of where pupils are with their assignments." was deleted.

Section X:

Aurora Borealis Curriculum Change (Continued):

"The Aurora Borealis School will use the Calvert School curriculum as its core curriculum." was changed to read, "The Aurora Borealis School will use the scope and sequence of the Core Knowledge Program."

Ms. Germano asked how the change of curriculum will affect the grant money. Mrs. Oberts stated that she did not think the grant money would be affected since a big portion of the grant was teacher planning time to implement the program, develop an Alaskan history and multicultural unit and develop a method to assess their goals and objectives. She stated that the school will still spend their grant money on technology, office supplies, school furniture and other items that were specified in the grant.

Mr. Dahlgren stated that upon Board approval he would write a letter to the Department of Education requesting their approval, and suggested that the motion state that the words "Calvert Curriculum" be replaced with the Core Knowledge Program throughout the entire proposal.

ACTION

Ms. Germano moved the Board approve the Aurora Borealis curriculum proposal including the administrative recommendation that the words "Calvert Curriculum" be replaced with "Core Knowledge Program throughout the entire proposal. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Dr. Anderson stated that he felt that the Core Knowledge Program was excellent and he would support the school proposal amendment.

Mr. Arness stated that with enthusiastic teachers and engaged parents any curriculum would be successful.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Gross commended the Aurora Borealis staff for a fine presentation.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Sandra Taylor thanked Mr. Dahlgren and the Board for allowing the Aurora Borealis Charter School to change their curriculum.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Crawford stated that she was excited about the Aurora Borealis curriculum change and is eager to see the results. She added that she was glad to be on the Board.

**BOARD COMMENTS
(Continued):**

Ms. Germano thanked Mr. Patton for a fine job accommodating evacuees and their fish during the recent fire in Homer.

Dr. Anderson thanked the Board for preventing him from working on the District graduation requirements during the June meeting. He stated he recently had an interesting conversation with his nephew from Houston, Texas, where advanced algebra is required for graduation and with his daughter-in-law who stated that a school district in Utah cannot find teachers for 600 students who want to take chemistry and a similar number who want to take physics. He stated that he will continue to encourage science and math.

Mrs. Gross stated she was impressed with the curriculum presentation by the Aurora Borealis Charter School staff and thanked them for their efforts.

At 8:43 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Ms. Germano seconded.

ADJOURN:

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of July 6, 1998,

were approved on August 3, 1998,

as written.