

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

September 13, 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

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools

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

Mr. Ed McLain, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Mr. Todd Syverson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Rosie Reeder

Ms. Heather Resz

Mr. Justin George

Mr. Tim Peterson

Ms. Shirley Henley

Mrs. Sue Stansberry

Ms. Barb Vogel

Mr. Aaron Stansberry

Mr. Steve Jones

Mr. Brad Hibberd

Mrs. Patty Rich

Mrs. Linda Hibberd

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Arness called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Arness invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Joe Arness

Present

Mrs. Debra Mullins

Present

Mrs. Susan Larned

Present

Ms. Deborah Germano

Present

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross

Present

Dr. Nels Anderson

Present

Mrs. Sammy Crawford

Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of August 16 and Special School Board Minutes of August 19, 1999, were approved as printed.

## SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Aaron Stansberry, principal, and Mrs. Sue Stansberry, teacher, Bartlett Elementary/High School, presented a slide show highlighting the activities of students and staff at the school. Mr. Stansberry announced that there are 49 students enrolled. He announced that the school participates in the Lightspan Program, which is a technology project that teaches students math, English and reading. He stated that there are computers in all classrooms and that he uses the internet continuously in his teaching. He invited those present to visit the school website and thanked Mr. Phil Biggs for his assistance in developing the site. Mr. Stansberry explained the mentoring program and stated that it has been successful in raising the self-esteem of older students. Mrs. Stansberry explained the STAR project (Students of Tyonek Acting Resourcefully). She stated that the project includes The Star Gazer student literary magazine, The Star Duster student newspaper, Beach People Publishing, and schoolwide book projects. She stated that the school also participates in team and spirit building activities as well as creating a school yearbook. She noted that all students write for the newspaper and display their work throughout the school. Mr. Stansberry stated that the school has hosted several community moose feeds, carnivals, art and writing festivals and celebrated Chief Chickalusion Days. He reported that the school was visited by the Imaginarium, Star Lab and the Air Force band. Mr. Stansberry thanked the Board and administration for the new playground equipment and stage curtains. Mrs. Stansberry reported that money from a state remediation proposal grant funded the Tibughna Learning Circle, a reading project that was conducted in June. She reported that many of her students enrolled in the three-week program and that test scores indicate the project was a success. Mr. Stansberry thanked the Board for their support and stated that he has enjoyed making Bartlett Elementary/High School a better place.

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Trinket Gallien, Seldovia parent, read a letter asking the Board not to transfer a teacher from Susan B. English Elementary/High School. She stated that the proposed teacher reduction would make the school so academically weak that students will not receive an adequate education, thus preventing them from continuing on to higher education.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS:

Mr. Steve Jones, Susan B. English Elementary/High School principal, reported that he delivered approximately fifteen letters and three resolutions from Seldovia parents and community organizations to the Board. He reported that there is an agonizing concern for the state of Susan B. English School and the impact that a reduction in staff will create. He stated that the staff already struggles with a rotating schedule and the combining of classes and grade levels and yet they still deliver a quality education to students. Mr. Jones stated that he has never seen a community who supports their school as enthusiastically as Seldovia. He explained that Seldovia is in an economic decline, which the community is frantically trying to arrest and the school is one of the major selling points. He reported that last year 5 out of 6 graduates went on to four-year colleges and one will be attending a vocational/technology training program. He reported that the school has no discipline problems or vandalism. Mr. Jones assured the Board that if a teacher is transferred from his school, they will somehow make it work. He read letters from two students and a letter from Darlene Crawford, grandparent of children in Seldovia asking, the Board to reconsider their decision to transfer a teacher from Susan B. English Elementary/High.

Dr. Peterson announced that she received a letter and petition regarding Homer Middle School, a petition from Kenai Alternative students regarding a teacher reassignment, resolutions and letters from Seldovia, and a letter from AASA regarding the statewide superintendent convention October 7-9 in Kenai.

COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PETITIONS (continued):

Mr. Arness announced that he received a letter from the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., Alaska chapter, regarding project labor agreements.

Ms. Germano asked how many students attend the Kenai Alternative School and how many teachers are assigned to that site. Mr. Syverson stated that according to Mr. Dunn, the school is one student over the projected enrollment.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND/OR P.  
T.A., K.P.A.A., K.P.E.A., K.P.E.S.A.:

Ms. Patty Rich and Mrs. Linda Hibberd, representatives from Soldotna Middle School PTSA, presented Mr. Todd Syverson with a plaque of appreciation for his past years of dedicated service as school principal.

Mr. Arness welcomed Ms. Shirley Henley, who was present as a representative from the Retired Educators Association.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Peterson notified the Board that the District is 156 students below the projected enrollment and noted that staffing changes are being made in schools that are over staffed. She reminded the Board of the Administrators' meeting on September 14 at Solid Rock Bible Camp and the Technology Work Group meeting on September 28 at the Borough Administration Building.

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending August 31, 1999. Mr. Hickey noted that the District is facing a \$1.4 million shortfall and may take advantage of an alternative count period, which would take place after the permanent fund dividend checks are distributed.

Ms. Germano asked how many students were enrolled in the Galena home school program. Mr. Hickey responded that there were 600 students enrolled last year and approximately 800 students are enrolled this year.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

Mrs. Gross reported that she attended the National School Boards Association President's Retreat in North Carolina and that the conference featured some very interesting speakers.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were 1999-2000 Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignment, 1999-2000 New Teacher Assignments, ASBO International Director Seat, Resolution Number 99-00-1 and Early Graduation Requests.

1999-2000 Tentative Nontenure Teacher Assignment:

Mr. Syverson recommended the Board approve a nontenure teacher assignment for the 1999-2000 school year for Virginia Bucher, reading specialist (temporary), West Homer Elementary.

1999-2000 New Teacher Assignments:  
ASBO International Director Seat,  
Resolution Number 99-00-1:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a resolution in support of the election of Melody Douglas to the Association of School Business Officials Board of Directors (ASBO).

Early Graduation Requests: Mr. McLain recommended the Board approve early graduation requests for two Homer High School students.

ACTION Ms. Germano moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Mullins asked whether the District should put a freeze on the recommended hiring of new teachers. Mr. Syverson stated that the teachers on the new assignment list are already teaching for the District and are not additional teachers. He stated that the Department of Education and Early Development Certification Department is behind in their processing, which is why the list did not come to the Board sooner.

Motion carried unanimously.

AASB RESOLUTIONS: Mrs. Gross asked the Board to consider the 1999 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions. A worksession was conducted earlier in the day to discuss the statements and resolutions in more detail.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the 1999 AASB Belief Statements and Core Resolutions. Ms. Germano seconded.

ACTION Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve an amendment to continue support for Resolution 2.11, Pupil Transportation/Hazardous Routes, which AASB is recommending for deletion. Mrs. Gross seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve an amendment to oppose Resolutions 1.1, Opposing Mandated School Consolidation and 1.2, Opposition to Mandated Borough Formation. Mrs. Crawford seconded. Ms. Germano requested a separation of the amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT OF AASB RESOLUTION 1.1:

AASB RESOLUTIONS (continued):

YES - Anderson, Arness

NO - Crawford, Germano, Gross, Larned, Mullins

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT OF AASB RESOLUTION 1.2:

YES – Anderson, Germano, Larned, Mullins, Arness

NO - Crawford, Gross

Amendment carried.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Larned thanked those from Seldovia and Tyonek for attending the meeting and stated that she hoped the Board and administration is able to solve the staffing issue at Susan B. English Elementary/High School.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. and Mrs. Stansberry for their school report. She noted that she attended the Bartlett School graduation ceremony last year and commented that there is a great amount of pride in their school. She extended congratulations to Mrs. Douglas for her nomination for election to ASBO Board of Directors.

Ms. Germano thanked those from Seldovia and Tyonek for attending the meeting. She commented that she appreciated the recent school lunch calendar. She expressed her concern for the use of the health curriculum waivers.

Mr. Arness appointed Mrs. Crawford and Ms. Germano to the Language Arts Committee, Ms. Germano to the AASB Resolutions Committee, and Mrs. Larned to the Calendar Committee. Mr. Arness confirmed that the Board representative on the Certified Diploma Committee will remain the same and announced that the next meeting will be September 21 at Soldotna Elementary.

Ms. Germano asked to have meeting announcements sent via email to all Board members.

ADJOURN: At 8:35 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mr. Joe Arness, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of September 13, 1999,  
were approved on October 4, 1999,  
as written.