

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Seward High School
Seward, Alaska 99664

October 5, 1992

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

- Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President
- Mrs. Marilyn Dimmick, Vice President
- Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Clerk
- Mr. Clifford Massie, Treasurer
- Mr. Joe Arness, Member
- Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, Member
- Mr. Michael Wiley, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

- Dr. Robert Holmes, Superintendent of Schools
- Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning, Operations, and Technology
- Mrs. Mary Rubadeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction
- Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel
- Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. Mary Daniels | Mrs. Ruth Mai |
| Mr. Roger Sampson | Mr. Malcolm Fleming |
| Mr. Glen Szymoniak | Mr. James Skogstad |
| Mrs. Arlene Wiley | Mrs. Linda Sewall |
| Mrs. Lynn Hole | Mr. David Dieckgraeff |
- Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Obendorf called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Obendorf invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Mrs. Betty Obendorf | Present |
| Mrs. Marilyn Dimmick | Present |
| Mr. Michael Tauriainen | Present |
| Mr. Clifford Massie | Absent - Excused |
| Mr. Joe Arness | Present |
| Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross | Present |
| Mr. Michael Wiley | Late - 7:50 p.m. |

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of September 21, 1992, were approved as written.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Mrs. Obendorf read a letter informing the Board of a teleconference on October 13 for the First National Satellite Town Meeting with Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander to be held 8:30 a.m. (EST). Discussion will include educational reforms in the America 2000 project. She advised board members to contact her if they were interested in participating in the teleconference.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

Dr. Holmes reported the current student enrollment for the district is 9,598 students. This enrollment is 133.5 below the projected enrollment for the 1992-93 school year.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of Extended Field Trip Requests, Early Graduation Request, Sick Leave Requests/Certified, Sick Leave Request/Support, Substitute Teacher Contracts, and Inservice Release Request.

**EXTENDED FIELD TRIP
REQUESTS:**

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve extended field trip requests for six Homer High School students to travel to Kansas City, Missouri, November 9-16, 1992, to participate in the National Floriculture Contest at the Future Farmers of America National Conference; and for eight Soldotna Jr. High School students to visit Washington, D.C., March 21-26, 1993, for a historical tour.

**EARLY GRADUATION
REQUEST:**

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve an early graduation request for a Nikiski High School junior to graduate at the end of the 1992-93 school year.

**SICK LEAVE BANK
REQUESTS/CERTIFIED:**

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve draws from the KPEA Sick Leave Bank for Mark Newton, Grade 1, Sears Elementary, 71 days; Laurie Moon, Grade 2, North Star Elementary, 11 days; and Leslie Bell, Language Arts, Homer Jr. High, 24 days.

**SICK LEAVE BANK
REQUEST/SUPPORT:**

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a draw of five days from the KPESA Sick Leave Bank for Vicki Fullerton, Administrative Secretary, Special Education.

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHER
CONTRACTS:**

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve contracts for 19-day substitute teachers Kelli Stroth, Grade 1, Sears Elementary; Teresa Toller, QUEST, Kalifornsky Beach Elementary; and Laura Beck, Grades 1-2, Nikiski Elementary School.

**INSERVICE RELEASE
REQUEST:**

Mrs. Rubadeau recommended the Board approve two inservice days for Skyview High School staff to work on accreditation, October 30, 1992 and January 15, 1993.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board approve the Consent Agenda items #1 through #6. Mr. Arness seconded

Motion carried unanimously.

**LETTER TO STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION/ALASKA
2000:**

Dr. Holmes stated the forty-nine Alaska 2000 recommendations had been discussed and reviewed at a worksession of the Board on September 21. He noted responses to the recommendations and a draft letter to the State Board of Education were presented for consideration by the school board.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved the Board forward the remarks to each recommendation and the letter to the State Board. Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

LETTER TO STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION/ALASKA
2000:

Mrs. Obendorf announced the two items, recommendations and letter, would be voted on separately.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amend the motion, Standard 2, to remove "KPBSD strongly opposes discipline based, content laden performance standards developed at the state level." and add, "Any state mandated performance standards would be acceptable only if they are developed with an open process and local districts have input into that process. Curricular content beyond state minimum standards should be locally determined and driven from local community school priorities and perspectives." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Mrs. Dimmick commented that some board members had concern about sending the recommendations to the State Board of Education in a negative manner, thus the change for discussion purposes.

Mr. Tauriainen stated he was not in attendance at the worksession on September 21, but felt the board should keep their comments as positive as possible. He noted some of the comments should be changed from "do not support" to "support with modifications".

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved to amend the amendment to rephrase the first sentence, "Any state mandated performance standards should only be developed with an open process and local districts having input into that process." Mrs. Gross seconded.

Mr. Arness stated he felt the amendment would allow local school districts an opportunity to participate in development of mandated performance standards, and would eliminate the "acceptable" portion of the amendment.

Amendment to amendment carried unanimously.

Amended amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amend the motion to Standard 3, to delete "Strongly oppose the development of a statewide assessment test" and add, "Any statewide assessment test should be aligned with minimum standards. Districts should be encouraged to go beyond minimums." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Mrs. Dimmick stated she was not as concerned about testing, but with developing standards, and added she was nervous about the entire Alaska 2000 process. Dr. Holmes commented that perhaps the school board and administration could send separate letters to the State Board of Education because of differing points of view and the administration not having input into the revised recommendations. He noted it was fine to have differing points of view, and reserved the right for the administration to send its own recommendations. Mr. Wiley

LETTER TO STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION/ALASKA
2000 (continued):

responded that the board and administration should be unified in their responses and as positive as possible. The recommendations would then be "hassled out" in the political arena in Juneau. He added it would be even better if the board sent the positive responses and omitted the negative ones. Dr. Holmes disagreed stating that sending only positive responses would blindly indicate support, and he felt it was the administration's responsibility to provide educational expertise to the recommendations. The lack of support on some of the recommendations did not indicate disloyalty or lack of support for the general Alaska 2000. He felt that education in Alaska is facing problems because people are just going along with ideas, not voicing objections or better solutions. Mrs. Obendorf commented there was no time for another worksession since all comments were due by October 9. She noted she had no objection to the board and administration sending separate comments on the Alaska 2000 recommendations.

Mrs. Rubadeau stated that prior to the Alaska 2000 Summit it was impossible to comment on the recommendations because there was little information presented. She stated that after sitting in the committee sectionals it was evident that many excellent ideas and suggestions had not been taken as recommended by the committees. She felt the recommendations from the KPBSD administration were not reflecting a negative perspective on performance standards. The district supports high standards. She also noted that the State Board of Education was not operating with the same definition of "standards." Alaska 2000 recommends that standards are tied to curricular areas, whereas, the administration felt standards for high student performance should be tied to outcomes. She noted vast amounts of education funding could be wasted by the state on the development of a statewide competency test and state curriculum. She stated that funds should be provided to districts to develop their performance testing, such as Kenai's analytical writing assessment, and school districts, like Kenai, would be willing to share this information with the state. She noted many state-of-the-art suggestions were presented by the committees, but were not reflected in the Alaska 2000 recommendations.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amend the amendment to move the "X" and add to the second sentence, "but support the concept proposed in the original recommendation of the Standards Committee." Motion died for lack of a second.

Mrs. Dimmick withdrew her amendment. The second concurred.

Mr. Wiley commented he could understand Mrs. Rubadeau's point of view, but was concerned that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District would be going on record not supporting standards. He felt the district should support standards since it is already involved in the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and its own process through CRT's. Mr. Arness disagreed and

LETTER TO STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION/ALASKA
2000 (continued):

noted the district already was doing state mandated ITBS. If there is a state mandated CRT then the state would give the district a state mandated curriculum. He felt districts should not be involved in state mandated curriculums.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amend Choice I, adding a middle sentence, "KPBSD Board policy changes and decisions in recent years have resulted in an ongoing effort to increasingly involve parents and communities in school decision making without penalizing school communities which are slower to respond." Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Dimmick stated she had concerns about charter schools which could affect regular school education. She noted there were many positive things happening in education and this should be recognized.

VOTE:

YES - Dimmick, Wiley, Obendorf
NO - Arness, Gross, Tauriainen

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amended the motion to add under Choice 4, "The Alaska Ready to Work has established that business and industry will be happy to train new employees for jobs provided they have basic knowledge and a desire to work." Mr. Arness seconded.

She noted the Board needed to reinforce the fact that the district has been working cooperatively with business and industry for the past several years.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mr. Wiley moved to amend the motion, Choice 4, to delete "Strongly oppose as written, however, we strongly support vocational and academic integration and ready to work goals." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Dr. Holmes commented this was contrary to current literature and it was the duty of the board to apprise the State Board of that fact. He noted this is the time for school district comments. Mrs. Rubadeau added that the district has been fortunate in receiving Ready to Work Grant funds which have been successful in developing numerous programs throughout the schools which are effective in training students about the work world.

LETTER TO STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION/ALASKA
2000 (continued):

VOTE:

- YES - Wiley,
- NO - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Tauriainen, Obendorf

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amend the motion to add to Choice 4, "We strongly recommend the dissemination and use of the model recently developed with Ready to Work State Grant funds." Mr. Wiley seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the motion to Finance 5, change "Do not support" to "Support". Mr. Wiley seconded.

Mr. Wiley commented that the district had requested and the law was changed where in some circumstances, i.e., Russian village schools, the student contact time could be adjusted to hours to fit their holidays. He questioned why the district did not support this recommendation. Mrs. Rubadeau responded that pupil accounting for all students by hour would be astronomical. Mr. Tauriainen stated he felt if any time options are available to school districts these would have possible benefits. Dr. Holmes commented there was no additional information to explain expectations of this recommendation. Mr. Wiley stated the district was not consistent in its beliefs on the recommendations. He noted the district did not want state mandated curriculum, but when student accounting by hours was an option it did not desire these. He urged the board to support the amendment.

VOTE:

- YES - Arness, Tauriainen, Wiley
- NO - Dimmick, Gross, Obendorf

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the motion on Finance 7, Rental Provision, to change "Do not support" to "Support", and add, "Rental costs should come from capital funds." Mr. Wiley seconded.

Mr. Tauriainen noted the minority opinion of the Facilities Committee was that schools should be allowed to lease or rent facilities and funds should come from capital costs rather than operating costs. Thereby, districts faced with the need for more classroom space could secure space from capital funds. Mrs. Dimmick questioned where the money would come from in the state when few projects are funded from lists of many school needs. Mr. Tauriainen stated he would like the

LETTER TO STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION/ALASKA
2000 (continued):

flexibility to acquire additional classroom space when needed. Mr. Dahlgren commented the school district does rent space in remote areas such as Beluga, Razdolna and for the two flex schools. Under these arrangements for a limited amount of students, this is more cost effective and can be covered under the foundation formula. Since regulations are unknown at this time, he felt he could not support the recommendation.

VOTE:

- YES - Tauriainen, Wiley
- NO - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Obendorf

Amendment failed.

RECESS:

At 9:00 p.m., Mrs. Obendorf called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER
RECESS:

At 9:15 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amend the motion to change Laws 4, to add, "Current timelines could be a safety factor to prevent sound regulations." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amend the motion in Workforce 5, Teacher Tenure, add "...but would support an extension from two to three years service prior to awarding tenure." Mr. Tauriainen seconded.

Dr. Holmes explained this motion was moot since it was contained in comments #1-4.

Motion withdrawn.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend Workforce 5, Teacher Tenure, to delete #5 "The District opposes expiration of tenure after 7 years." Mr. Wiley seconded.

Mr. Tauriainen commented he believed the district could counsel and persuade poor teachers to find another line of work, and this has not effectively been accomplished in the past. Dr. Holmes stated he felt the recommendation of supporting tenure status after three years of service was a better alternative.

VOTE:

- YES - Tauriainen, Wiley
- NO - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Obendorf

Amendment failed.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amend the motion, New Programs, to add, "We fully support the concept of increased time with our students but only with commensurate increased funding." Motion died for lack of a second.

ACTION

Mr. Tauriainen moved to amend the motion on student contact time, to strike the existing comments and add "Oppose increase in student contact time." Change "X" to "Do not Support." Motion died for lack of a second.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS:

- YES - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Obendorf
- NO - Tauriainen, Wiley

Amended motion carried.

Mrs. Obendorf opened comments on the letter to the State Board of Education which would accompany the list of recommendations.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to change #4, Early Childhood Education, and add, "This concept has been left out of the State Board's recommendations. We support revisiting the recommendations of the Early Childhood Committee." Mr. Wiley seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION

Mrs. Dimmick moved to amend the motion to add to the letter, page 2, "A number of the recommendations while they appear to be conducive to a better education for students, also appear to be very costly. The concept such as charter schools would appear to reduce the amount of money left in the annual appropriations for the schools we already have." Mrs. Gross seconded.

Mr. Arness commented the phrase did not flow with the contents of the letter and should not be included in the letter.

VOTE:

- YES - Dimmick, Gross, Obendorf
- NO - Arness, Tauriainen, Wiley

Amendment failed.

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION ON APPROVAL OF LETTER:

- YES - Arness, Dimmick, Gross, Wiley, Obendorf
- NO - Tauriainen

Amended motion carried.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Wiley stated he attended the Skills for Excellence session last week in Soldotna. He looked forward to future meetings on conflict resolution and consensus building.

He stated he felt the comments on the Alaska 2000 were "colored" by a lack of trust, and he was concerned about the politics of the issue which led members to getting off track on ideas. He hoped the Board would have taken a more positive view of the issues.

Mr. Tauriainen stated he had enjoyed the past three years serving on the Board. With elections on Tuesday, he was hopeful he would return to the Board.

Mr. Arness stated that in all good conscience he could not avoid commenting that he felt it was the first time the administration did not follow through with the Board's directions, this being the Alaska 2000 recommendations. He felt it is the Board's responsibility to speak for the school district. Dr. Holmes responded that it was the intent of the administration to clarify the situation. He noted it was the first time the Board and administration were co-signing a letter and he wanted to make sure each group was given an opportunity to express their views. He did not feel it was an effort to usurp the board's responsibilities, and instead, were different ways of viewing it. It was not his intent to do anything divisive.

Mrs. Gross stated she felt the KPBSD would be in trouble if the district sent two different messages to Juneau. She noted she was pleased with the end consensus results on the Alaska 2000 recommendations.

She noted she enjoyed visiting Seward and the various schools along the way.

Mrs. Dimmick stated she felt Mr. Arness's and Mrs. Gross's comments were appropriate. She added if there was any doubt that the board did not work toward consensus, they could look to the metropolis to the north of the peninsula.

Mrs. Obendorf expressed appreciation to the administrative staff for the tour of the schools during the day and to the people of Seward for their hospitality.

She commented that the PTA/PAC Convention in Kenai was an excellent opportunity for parents to receive information on many topics. She extended appreciation to the organizers of the convention for their hard work.

Mrs. Obendorf called attention to Mrs. Audrey Pearson's letter which was presented to the Board two weeks ago. She requested board members give her their comments on the letter.

BOARD COMMENTS
(continued):

Mrs. Obendorf announced the reappointment of new policy committee members who are Robert Dover, Wanda Bonillas, Ken Meacham, Marilyn Dimmick, Clifford Massie and Judy Queen.

She announced the next school board meeting would be held at the Borough Administration Building in Soldotna at 7:30 p.m. on October 19, 1992.

ACTION

At 9:45 p.m., Mrs. Dimmick moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mr. Wiley seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betty L. Obendorf
Mrs. Betty Obendorf, President

Mike Tauriainen
Mr. Michael Tauriainen, Clerk

The Minutes of October 5, 1992,
were approved on October 19, 1992,
with a correction.