

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
Borough Administration Building  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

February 19, 1996

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President  
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk  
Mr. Emery Thibodeau, Treasurer  
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member  
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member  
Mrs. Deborah Germano, Member  
Miss Aubrey Robinson, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Walter Bromenschenkel, Superintendent  
Mr. John Dahlgren, Associate Superintendent, Planning,  
Operations, and Technology  
Mr. Thomas Thorpe, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction  
Mrs. Sharon Radtke, Executive Director, Personnel  
Mr. Richard Swarner, Executive Director, Business Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. John Kistler	Mr. Steve Wright
Mr. Gene Dyson	Ms. Laura Norton
Mrs. Karen Mahurin	Mrs. Vickie Leach
Mr. James Simeroth	Mrs. Rosemary Reeder
Mr. Ron Drathman	Mr. Timothy Navarre
Mr. Drew Scalzi	Mr. Mike Wiley
Ms. Terri Woodward	Mrs. Marlene Byerly
Ms. Antonina Basargin	Mr. Nazary Basargin
Mr. Peter Chernishoff	Ms. Maria Martushev
Ms. Vaselisa Chernishoff	Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross	Present
Mr. Joe Arness	Present
Mrs. Susan Larned	Present
Mr. Emery Thibodeau	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer	Present
Mrs. Deborah Germano	Present
Miss Aubrey Robinson	Absent - Excused

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as printed with the deletion of Item 2a, Chapman School Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The School Board Minutes of February 5, 1996, were approved as written.

COMMUNICATION AND  
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross acknowledged receipt of letters from Port Graham parents and residents requesting an additional .5 staff person for their school. A petition signed by 40-50 Port Graham residents requested teachers not be reduced in the budget and that other areas of the budget bear the burden of reductions. Mrs. Gross commented she received letters from Linda Lewis and Dana Vessel encouraging the Board to retain funding for Kenai Alternative School. Mary Beaumont from McNeil Canyon urged that nurses not be reduced in the budget revisions.

VOZNESENKA PAC:

Mr. Nazary Basargin, Voznesenka PAC member, requested that the Voznesenka School be recognized as a K-12 school and be staffed accordingly. He noted the school held its first graduation last year, and the parents felt they should be considered a K-12 school instead of a K-8 school and should be treated equally. In response to Mrs. Fischer's question related to high school enrollment, Mr. Basargin stated there are 18 high school students at the school.

Mr. Peter Chernishoff, Voznesenka parent, expressed concern related to budget reductions, and he felt if Voznesenka students had to attend Homer High School they would drop out of school. He noted Homer High School is not set up as a bilingual school, and the observance of Russian holidays would create attendance problems for the students. He requested the school board take into consideration the parents' desire to preserve their language and culture by educating students at Voznesenka.

Miss Antonina Basargin, Voznesenka tenth grade student, told the Board it was important for the students to gain an education as well as persevering their culture. She felt more educational options should be available to the students at Voznesenka, and it was the students' desire to graduate from their own school. She noted some students have attempted to attend Homer High School, but returned to the village. She reported two students graduated in 1995-96 and two students will graduate this year. The following year there should be approximately 25-30 graduates.

Mrs. Maria Martushev, parent from Voznesenka, commented that she was the mother of seven children, and she looked forward to seeing all her children graduate from high school while preserving their culture in the village.

VOZNESENKA (cont.):

Miss Vasselisa Chernishoff, Voznesenka high school student, told the Board it is her goal to complete high school and attend college, possibly becoming a mathematics teacher. She expressed concern that if the village did not have a high school she might not be able to accomplish this. She felt traveling to Homer High School is difficult because of road conditions, and the Russian holidays and fast days would create attendance problems for the students.

SOLDOTNA ELEMENTARY PTA:

Mrs. Vickie Leach, Soldotna Elementary PTA Chairperson, presented a compilation of their survey to parents and community members related to budget reductions. Concerns of the PTA were maintaining a low PTR, particularly in K-3, the need and importance of schools nurses, not reducing special education teachers at the elementary level, the need for physical education and music teachers, and not cutting programs which affect students the most.

- VOZNESENKA PAC: Mr. Vasily Basargin, Voznesenka PAC member, told the Board next year's enrollment is projected to be 140 students, an increase from 132 students this year. He requested the Board consider relief to their crowded conditions with portable classrooms next year. Mrs. Germano questioned Mr. Basargin what staffing needs they were looking at. Mr. Basargin commented the school will lose one teacher under the proposed formula, but if it is a K-12 school they would be entitled to 2.5 additional teachers.
- KPESA: Mrs. Karen Mahurin, KPESA President, commented their organization had surveyed their members and sent budget reduction information to the central office, but it was not included in budget information presented to the Board in their afternoon worksession. She requested this be provided to the school board prior to their Tuesday morning worksession.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Bromenschenkel reminded the Board of the budget worksession on Tuesday, February 20 at 9:00 a.m. He noted the session would be held at the Soldotna City Hall Council Chambers. Due to limited parking, he urged members to car pool, if possible.
- FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Swarner presented the financial statement of the district for the period ending January 31, 1996.
- BOARD REPORTS: Mr. Thibodeau reported on accomplishments of the School-To-Work Partnerships in the district, and he outlined the functions of the Steering Committee which is responsible for this program.
- BOARD REPORTS (cont.): Mrs. Gross reported on attending a meeting of the distance delivery portion of the Technology Committee last week. She noted a list was formulated of things to happen in five years as well as use of technology within the next year. She noted the final report will be presented to the Board within two months.
- Mrs. Fischer commented she attended the first meeting of the Health Curriculum Committee. She reported the next meetings will be held March 7-8 at Soldotna Elementary School.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of 1995-96 Teacher Assignments, Budget Adjustment, and Extended Field Trip Request.
- 1995-96 TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 1995-96 teacher assignments for Suzanne Klaben, Grade 5, Redoubt Elementary (Temporary); Connie Miller, Bilingual Specialist, Districtwide (Temporary); and Martha Shirley, Special Education/Resource, Soldotna Middle (Temporary).
- 1995-96 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: Mr. Swarner recommended the Board approve a revised operating fund budget for 1995-96 in the amount of \$72,908,921. The \$462,940 decrease in revenues resulted from not meeting projected enrollment and a change in the eligibility requirements for receiving PL 874 funds. The reduction in foundation revenue also effected the amount allowed for the maximum contribution from the borough from tax sources.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items #1 through #3. Mr. Arness seconded

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 95-96-2: Dr. Bromenschenkel presented Resolution 95-96-2, Timber Harvesting and Allocation of Stumpage Fees to Public Schools, which was prepared at the request of the Board. The resolution encouraged the State of Alaska to fully investigate the possibility of funds to schools for unpaid distributions based upon past timber harvests.

ACTION Mrs. Fischer moved the Board approve Resolution 95-96-2 supporting educational funding through timber sales. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Larned commented she did not feel it was appropriate for the Board to take action at this time. She felt the Board needed additional information on this controversial topic.

RESOLUTION 95-96-2 (cont.): Mrs. Fischer stated the resolution spoke to funding for education as established in federal law, not to the topic of harvesting forests. She stated the Board had the responsibility of looking for education revenues and those sources that are dedicated to education.

Dr. Anderson stated this revenue source of dedicated funds would necessitate a change in the state constitution, and he did not feel the Board would accomplish this through the resolution.

Mr. Thibodeau questioned whether there were undistributed funds that have not been made. Dr. Bromenschenkel spoke to comments made by Mr. Red Smith that funds have not been redistributed to the borough from timber harvests on the Kenai Peninsula. The intent of the resolution, upon approval by the Board, is that the state would investigate the suggestion by Mr. Smith. Under code, a certain percentage of stumpage on federal lands are redistributed to school districts for support of education, and road services to the communities. Dr. Bromenschenkel commented he was familiar with this redistribution of funds when he worked in Southeastern Alaska. It was his understanding that any funds to the school district would be deposited for general fund operation.

Mrs. Germano felt more research of the code was necessary before she would vote for the resolution.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved to table the resolution. Dr. Anderson seconded.

VOTE TO TABLE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Thibodeau, Gross  
NO - Fischer, Germano

Motion carried.

POLICIES 4000/PERSONNEL: Dr. Bromenschenkel presented policy section 4000, Personnel, for adoption. He noted the Board had conducted two worksessions on the policies and appropriate changes had been incorporated in the policies as directed by the Board. The policies would become effective July 1, 1996.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Policies 4000. Mr. Arness seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Germano, Larned, Thibodeau, Gross  
NO - Fischer

Motion carried.

POLICIES 5000/STUDENTS: Dr. Bromenschenkel noted Policies 5000, Students, had been reviewed in worksessions and public hearings. He recommended policies series 5000 be adopted for implementation July 1, 1996. He noted changes requested by the Board were included in the policies.

ACTION Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve Policies 5000, Students. Mr. Arness seconded.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved to amend the motion to included in E5144.1 (a), II. A. "by phone and in writing". Also add the word "guardian". Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mr. Thorpe explained this document was a guideline/checklist for administrators to follow when notifying parents and guardians, and this is established in the due process policy. Mr. Arness commented this wording is further explained in the document and the policy. Mr. Thibodeau commented to make sure the policy is followed, this should be included in the checklist.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer, Germano, Thibodeau, Gross  
NO - Anderson, Arness, Larned

Amendment carried.

ACTION Mrs. Germano moved to amend the motion to pull sections BP 5113 (a) through AR 5113 (b). Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mrs. Germano commented issues on truancy were unresolved, and she felt the Board needed to further discuss this. Dr. Anderson stated he felt there was a conflict and the Board was looking for alternative ways for truanancies rather than automatic suspensions. He felt more work needed to be done in this area.

Amendment carried unanimously.

ACTION Mr. Thibodeau moved to amend section E 5144.1(a), IV. f. add "within three days of the hearing." Also add "guardian". Mrs. Germano seconded.

Dr. Bromenschenkel commented the document is an exhibit and checklist for administrators to follow, not a policy. Mr. Thorpe added the time limit is already established in the due process policy. Mr. Thibodeau felt there were some differences in the policy, and would like the number of days in the exhibit which would give better direction to the administrators.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

YES - Fischer, Germano, Thibodeau  
NO - Anderson, Arness, Larned, Gross

Amendment failed.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

POLICY 6187/CHARTER  
SCHOOLS:

Dr. Bromenschenkel presented Policy 6187, Charter Schools, which had been heard on two readings and a worksession. He recommended the Board approve the policy which would be used to complete the charter schools process.

Mr. Wiley stated it was his hope that the charter school program would create some innovative educational programs and push education beyond the public school system. He noted his comments should probably go to the state which put limitations on the charter schools. He did not see anything different in charter schools than what already is happening in public schools, and it appeared the district was only complying with state requirements. He urged the Board to work toward eliminating some of the limitations.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved the Board approve the Charter School Policy. Mr. Arness seconded.

ACTION

Mrs. Germano moved to postpone action on this until March 4 with a worksession prior to the meeting. Mr. Arness seconded.

Mrs. Germano commented that a brief worksession had been conducted on this, but she wanted additional information on the purchasing procedures and the accounting methods.

ACTION

Mrs. Fischer moved to amend the motion to table it. Amendment withdrawn.

POLICY 6187/CHARTER SCHOOLS  
(continued):

VOTE ON MOTION TO POSTPONE:

YES - Germano, Larned, Thibodeau  
NO - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Gross

Motion failed.

Mrs. Fischer questioned whether the Board would be sending a message if it decided not to have a charter school policy in view of the stringent guidelines set forth by the state. Dr. Bromenschenkel responded the law requires each school district to have in place by June 30, 1996 its policy, applications, and procedures. He noted this is the first of four steps in the entire charter school process. He addressed the question of purchasing and accounting procedures by stating the Board has custodial responsibility of the taxpayer's money which includes all money used by the schools whether they be charter schools, regular schools, or alternative schools. He noted the district is required to use generally accepted procedures by the state and federal government. These requirements need to be followed for auditing procedures, which includes purchasing procedures. He urged the Board to move ahead with the process and felt there would be opportunities to revisit the issue later when the legislature learns of the frustrations with the charter school law.

Mrs. Germano inquired what the intention was for charter schools to use the district for accounting. Mr. Swarner commented this was a possibility. Mrs. Germano commented that perhaps the wording could be changed in that the charter schools would use an accepted accounting and purchasing method, not necessarily that of the district. She felt perhaps a charter school parent familiar with accounting could be used. Mr. Swarner stated the issue is that the school board is responsible for those funds, and professionally these should not be handled by an outside person. He felt the district was more efficient and cost effective in its operation than separate operations. Mr. Swarner responded to a question from Mr. Thibodeau that the charter school funds would be included in the district audit.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Thibodeau, Gross  
NO - Germano

Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING OUTSIDE  
THE CAP:

Dr. Bromenschenkel commented that the Board had discussed the item regarding funding for three items outside the cap. He recommended the Board approve a \$996,000 request to the borough assembly for funding outside the cap for hazardous bus routes in the amount of \$130,000, equipment replacement expenses in the amount of \$680,000, and funding for completion of the local area network system in the amount of \$186,000. The request further outlined provisions which the board would follow if funding was approved. This funding would be for the 1996-97 school year.

Mrs. Gross commented she was pleased to see several borough assembly members in attendance at the meeting to hear from the Board on this funding request.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve the request for funding outside the cap. Mrs. Larned seconded.

VOTE:

YES - Anderson, Arness, Fischer, Larned, Thibodeau, Gross  
NO - Germano

Motion carried.

SKYVIEW SBDM WAIVER:

Dr. Bromenschenkel recommended the Board approve a waiver from Skyview High School for School Based Decision Making at their school. He commented this was a very good School Based Decision Making Council.

Mrs. Fischer commented she noticed there was no community member on the council. Mrs. Byerly responded the original Board did not have a community member on the committee, and the current council felt it worked well with the current membership.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve the Skyview High School SBDM waiver. Mr. Thibodeau seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND READING/POLICIES  
7000, NEW CONSTRUCTION:

The Board conducted a second reading on policy series 7000, New Construction.

SECOND READING/POLICIES  
8000, SCHOOL BASED DECISION  
MAKING:

The Board conducted a second reading on policy series 8000, School Based Decision Making.

SECOND READING/POLICIES  
9000, BYLAWS OF THE BOARD:

The Board conducted a second reading on policy series 9000, Bylaws of the Board.

FIRST READING/POLICIES 6000,  
INSTRUCTION:

The Board conducted the first reading on policy series 6000, Instruction.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Nazary Basargin inquired whether the Board had received their letter requesting a change to a K-12 school at Voznesenka. Mrs. Gross responded that the Board had received the letter. Mr. Basargin expressed appreciation to the community members who attended the meeting as a show of support to their request. Mr. Thibodeau asked Mr. Basargin why students would not be able to graduate as addressed by some of the speakers. Mr. Basargin responded that students might have to be bused to Homer, but high school students would have an attendance problem because there would be conflicts with religious days. In response to a question from Mrs. Germano, Mr. Basargin stated the distance to the bus would be a mile and for some students it would be closer.

Miss Vaselisa Chernishoff, on behalf of the Voznesenka student council, invited Mrs. Gross, Mrs. Germano and other school board members to a Russian buffet lunch on Wednesday, February 21 at noon at their school.

Mr. Mike Wiley, Seward resident, felt item #3, Fees and Charges, for opt out of classes should be removed from the budget reduction list. He noted the opt out provision was a compromise with the community for the health curriculum. Mrs. Gross commented that the title should be changed because this was not the intent of the committee.

Mr. John Kistler, Kenai parent, commented that with the change in class periods at KCHS and in an effort to not disrupt her four-year curriculum plan, his daughter opted out of the health curriculum to take a foreign language. She takes the health course by correspondence in an effort to maintain her schedule. He noted there are no "bubbles" to address these situations where students pay for classes that are mandatory, but must adjust their schedules for other courses. Mrs. Gross commented it appears that students are opting out of the health curriculum to make up for extra classes they need.

Ms. Laura Norton, Voznesenka School secretary, spoke in support of retaining school nurses. She noted school secretaries must take over these responsibilities when the school nurses are not in the schools.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mrs. Larned commented the Board received a letter from Gene Dyson related to budget advisory committees established in the Anchorage School District. She noted committees meet on various budget areas prior to the budget process and advise the administration on possible reductions. In her discussions with Anchorage people, they indicated this was successful. She suggested this be considered next year for the district's budget process.

Mr. Thibodeau questioned how close the Board was on following the policy 9123, Treasurer. He noted the last check he received did not have signatures of current school board officers. Mr. Swarner responded that as soon as the facsimile plates arrive the officers' signatures will change.

Mr. Arness commented he felt the Board might be in conflict with Policy 5144.1, and such changes of this nature should be discussed in worksessions.

Mrs. Fischer thanked the Nanwalek community for the key chains, "It takes a whole village to educate a child."

She expressed appreciation to the people from Voznesekna for expressing their concerns as well as staying for the entire meeting.

Mrs. Fischer questioned whether follow up studies are made on EH students after graduation. Mr. Thorpe responded there is no formal procedure on follow up of special service students, although there is a lot of follow up and support in preparing them for post secondary education.

Mrs. Germano reported she and Mrs. Larned attended the AASB Fly-In at Juneau last week. She commented it was a good conference and they received information on current legislation. She noted she stayed two additional days in Juneau at the invitation of the Borough Assembly to continue listening to legislative issues related to education and the borough. She requested time be set aside in a worksession at the next meeting to discuss legislative issues and the board's positions on them.

Dr. Anderson announced Mr. Maynard Gross, husband of the KPBSD School Board President, will receive the Silver Beaver Award on Thursday, February 22. He noted this award is the highest award in the Boy Scouts organization. Congratulations were extended to the Gross' for their work in scouting.

BOARD COMMENTS (cont.):

Mrs. Gross extended appreciation to the parents and residents of Voznesenka for attending the meeting.

Mrs. Gross reported she traveled to Seldovia and Nanwalek last week. While in Seldovia she attended their PAC meeting.

ADJOURN:

At 9:13 p.m., Mr. Arness moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

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Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of February 19, 1996,  
were approved on March 4, 1996,  
with a correction.