

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
148 N. Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

February 2, 1998

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President
Mr. Joe Arness, Vice President
Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Treasurer
Dr. Nels Anderson, Member
Mrs. Joyce Fischer, Member
Ms. Deborah Germano, Member
Miss Danielle Meacham, 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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Justin George Mrs. Karen Mahurin
Mrs. Sheryl Sotelo Mrs. Bonnie Clouston
Mr. Ed Sotelo Mr. John Mills
Mr. Mark Berezin Mrs. Sue Evanson
Mrs. Libby Berezin Mrs. Paula Christensen
Ms. Barb Vogel Mrs. Pauline Mills
Dr. Donna Peterson Mr. Dave Spence
Mrs. Shana Loshbaugh Mr. Greg Paxton
Mr. Doug Mallett Mrs. Lisa Stroh
Mr. Larry Rockhill Mr. Ken Meacham

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
Dr. Nels Anderson Present
Mrs. Joyce Fischer Present
Ms. Deborah Germano Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins Present
Miss Danielle Meacham Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved, with Awards and Presentations moved ahead of Public Presentations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of January 19, 1998, were approved as printed.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mrs. Lisa Stroh, principal, Tustumena Elementary School, reported that the school goals this year are to improve writing skills, improve social skills, and implement student portfolios. She reported that the school publication *Lynx Tales*, a compilation of student stories and illustrations, is almost ready for distribution. She thanked the PTO for raising the \$2,000 needed to print the book. She reported on the implementation of the Stop and Think program, which teaches students how to react to a situation rather than escalate it. She reported that the school is using technology to assist in the data collection used for student portfolios. The portfolios are being aligned with Alaska state standards.

Mrs. Stroh announced that the Battle of Books competition begins next week, Love of Reading Week will be the last week of February, intramurals for fifth and sixth grade are conducted during lunch and after-school activities will soon begin. She reported that their Intervention Team is in place to assist students who are having difficulties. Mrs. Stroh reported that the school Site Council and PTO have been working to clearly define the roles of each group. She reported that Dean Evans was recently hired as the Technology Coordinator and Beth Fowler was hired as the Parent Coordinator, a position funded from Title I monies. She thanked Gates Construction, Kasilof Mercantile and the many parent and community volunteers for their support of Tustumena Elementary School.

Ms. Tammy Massengill's kindergarten students sang two songs and Miss Marina Holt, a sixth grade student played the bassoon. Mrs. Sotelo's sixth grade students presented research information and demonstrated pneumatic devices they created for use by astronauts in space or on the space shuttle. The students presented a chart showing the different layers of the atmosphere and launched a balloon rocket.

Mrs. Stroh extended an invitation to the Board to visit Tustumena Elementary School.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented awards of appreciation to Paula Christensen, teacher, Soldotna Middle School, and Sheryl Sotelo, teacher, Tustumena Elementary School, for being selected as finalists for the 1997 Alaska Teacher of the Year, which is presented by the Alaska Department of Education. Flowers and gifts were also presented to Mrs. Sotelo by her students who were in attendance.

RECESS:

At 8:01 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

- RECONVENE AFTER RECESS: At 8:07 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mr. Dahlgren announced that the School Board and Administration will have a budget worksession with the Borough Assembly on Tuesday, February 3, 1998, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Ninilchik School, Ninilchik.
- Mr. Dahlgren reported the budget hearings will be held February 4 at Kenai Central High School, February 5 at Homer High School, February 10 at Seward High School, February 11 at Soldotna High School, and February 12 at Nikiski Middle/Sr. High School.
- Mr. Dahlgren announced that the deadline for participation in the retirement incentive program was Friday, January 30. He reported that 24 teachers, 3 administrators and 16 support staff have taken advantage of the retirement program.
- BOARD REPORTS: Ms. Germano reported that she attended the Vocational Advisory Committee meeting. She stated that the committee reviewed grant proposals submitted by the schools for Carl Perkins money.
- Mrs. Larned reported that the Middle School Review Team worked on developing a ninth grade student survey and a parent survey. She announced that the next meeting will be Monday, February 23, 1998.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Budget Transfer Number 000217, Substitute Teacher Contracts, Leave of Absence Requests/Support, Resignations, and Leave of Absence Request/Certified.
- BUDGET TRANSFER: Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve budget transfer number 000217 to the Alternative Schooling Program in the amount of \$23,300 to purchase Calvert programs being offered through Alternative Programs.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACTS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve 19-day substitute teaching contracts for Janet VanDriessche, Special Education/Resource, Seward Jr./Sr. and Vickie Roney, Special Education/Resource, Soldotna Elementary.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/SUPPORT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence for the 1998-99 school year for Cheryl Keegan, Secretary III, Seward Elementary, and Dawn Stetz, Administrative Secretary I, Districtwide Alternative Education.

RESIGNATIONS:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve resignations effective at the end of the 1997-98 school year for Jimmy Standefer, Art/Science, Nikiski Jr./Sr.; Marilyn Standefer, Language Arts, Nikiski Jr./Sr.; Elaine Sandoval, Science, Ninilchik; Leanne Krieger, Language Arts/Social Studies, Voznesenka; Mary Beaumont, Grade 4/5, McNeil Canyon; Marc Berezin, Technologist, Districtwide Special Services; John M. Bundy, Math/Science, Homer High; Gary Horwath, Math, Soldotna Middle; Vickie Lund, Grade 2, K-Beach; Michael Murray, Principal, Voznesenka; Sally Oelrich, Grade 3, K-Beach; Greg Paxton, Assistant Principal, Soldotna Middle; Marlene Thiel-Pearson, History, Nikiski Jr./Sr.; Mary Jo Sanders, Coordinator, Districtwide Migrant Education; John Steckel, Physical Education, Soldotna Middle; Robert Ammerman, Vocational Education, Homer High; Stan McKnight, Psychologist, Seward; Beverly Chapman, Home Economics, Seward Jr./Sr. High; Dorothy Cline, Music/Library, Paul Banks Elementary; Michael Cline, Grade 4, West Homer Elementary; Sharon Irvin, Art, Seward Jr./Sr. High; Lawrence Rockhill, Grade 6, Redoubt Elementary; and Larry Wheat, Grade 5, Sterling Elementary.

ACTION

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
REQUEST/CERTIFIED:

Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a leave of absence request for the remainder of the 1997-98 school year or until the District receives confirmation of disability retirement or the employee has a release from her doctor to return to work for Suzie Stafford-Hawker, Special Education/Resource, Seward Jr./Sr. High.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP
REQUEST/MAGADAN:

Mr. Ed McLain presented an extended field trip request from Larry Rockhill and Ken Meacham to take approximately ten Redoubt Elementary students to Magadan, Russia, on March 21 to March 29, 1998. Larry Rockhill, sponsoring teacher, stated in a letter that the focus of the sixth grade social studies curriculum is the study of Alaskan history and the interdependence of the people and cultures of the Pacific Rim. The students will experience hands-on, in-depth activities; exposure to high quality, relevant, multicultural literature; and knowledge related to the states, past and present.

Mr. Dahlgren reported that additional information concerning the request was included in the Board information packets and stated that the trip does not comply with the advanced time notification required by District policy.

EXTENDED FIELD TRIP
REQUEST/MAGADAN (Continued):

ACTION

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve an extended field trip request from Larry Rockhill and Ken Meacham to take approximately ten Redoubt Elementary students to Magadan, Russia, on March 21 to March 29, 1998. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Mr. Arness asked about elementary students traveling overseas. Mr. Dahlgren responded that it has always been a concern. He stated that the result of Board discussions last year was that sixth grade students and older could travel overseas.

Motion carried unanimously.

CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST:

Mr. Dave Spence presented a listing of legislative capital improvement/major maintenance projects for 1999.

He explained that the list is a compilation of site visits to all 40 schools in the District. The list was categorized into three groups; Health/Safety, Maintenance and Recognized Needs.

Ms. Germano asked how each item was prioritized. Mr. Spence explained that the items were categorized based on the amount of need. He explained that some projects have been deferred for years and therefore received a higher priority rating. He stated that the Borough administration assists in making that determination.

Ms. Germano asked about playground equipment removal. Mr. Spence stated that new equipment has replaced the removed items. Mr. Hickey stated that he is preparing a report for the Board on playground equipment.

Mr. Hickey urged the Board to take action on these legislative lists so they can be forwarded to the Borough Assembly for consideration at their next meeting.

Ms. Germano asked why items labeled as a recognized need would be higher on the list than a health/safety item. Mr. Hickey explained that Mr. Eagle, Director of Borough Maintenance, had some of the items scheduled on the Borough's repair/maintenance list. He further explained that the items on the Borough's priority list are not all funded but some will come from in-kind money the District expects to receive from the Borough for FY 99. He added that most of the items would be paid for from capital improvement money.

CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST
(Continued):

Mr. Dahlgren explained that some items are considered preventative and not major maintenance expenses, such as refinishing gym floors. He stated that, generally, Borough Maintenance has scheduled in their preventative maintenance program the refinishing of two gym floors a year. Mr. Dahlgren stated that each year the Borough requests a list of maintenance items and so does the legislature. Some items on the list are maintenance projects that have to be done. Capital projects lists generally do not include items under \$25,000; otherwise, they are considered minor maintenance.

Ms. Germano asked whether the water situation was addressed. Mr. Hickey stated that it is addressed on line two of each list, and it is his personal top priority.

Mr. Hickey explained that bottled water is used at schools where lead and copper content exceed health standards. He stated that some schools choose to buy bottled water even though their water passes the lead and copper tests. Mr. Dahlgren stated that he does not feel that the water at Voznesenka Elementary school is appropriate for District employees to drink so bottled water is provided. Mr. Dahlgren stated that some schools collect money from staff members or other outside sources and pay for their own water cooler.

Dr. Anderson noted that the lists did not add up to the \$29 million listed on the summary page. Mr. Spence explained that the summary was compiled from a 43-page document that was not included in the Board packet.

ACTION

Mr. Arness moved the Board approve a listing of legislative capital improvement/major maintenance projects for 1999. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Mrs. Mullins asked why West Homer Elementary would have \$1,200 worth of Health/Safety items since it is a new school. Mr. Hickey explained that they requested fencing, a fire alarm volume adjustment, a garbage disposal, and some other minor incidental items not covered by the contractor.

Mr. Spence explained that the lists are generated by each school and are screened by himself, Mr. Hickey and the Borough Administration during their site visits.

Motion carried unanimously.

XEROX BUSINESS SERVICES
CONTRACT:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board approve a proposal to modify the existing agreement with Xerox Corporation and extend the contract length. He stated that the information was shared with the building administrators. He called the Board's attention to the appendix, Exhibit II Performance Standards, and the last page including a table comparing the current state of service responses to the proposal. He reminded the Board that the District retains the option to return to the existing contract at any time.

Mrs. Larned moved the Board approve a recommendation to modify the existing agreement with Xerox Corporation and extend the contract length. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Dr. Anderson asked whether the District was obligated to generate 13 million copies for \$.017 per copy. Mr. Hickey explained that copies 1 through 13 million will be billed at \$.017 per copy; and after 13 million, each copy will be billed at \$.014 per copy. Mr. Hickey stated that he will provide to the Board the estimated number of copies generated each year Districtwide.

Mrs. Fischer asked what the reaction from building principals was concerning the proposed contract. Mr. Hickey reported that there was some hesitancy at first but after further explanation felt that most administrators supported the idea. Mr. Hickey stated that principals expressed fear that this contract would be another way to implement cost cutting and reduce their supply budgets. He assured them that the intent was to take \$300,000 worth of lease expenses that are currently spent on copiers and transfer the control of that money back to the schools.

Ms. Germano asked what happens to schools that own their own copying equipment. Mr. Hickey explained that the District will not do anything that is detrimental to the schools. He stated that he will meet with those schools individually to determine whether it is cost effective for them to participate in the proposed contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson stated that some clean up work needed to be done to the District Policy Manual. He reported that a student had expressed unhappiness at being required to read a book that he objected to but did not want to file a formal protest. Dr. Anderson stated that he was concerned that there were no alternatives for people who objected to instructional materials other than requesting a formal review.

Mrs. Larned expressed her appreciation for the Tustumena Elementary School presentation.

Mrs. Larned announced that the Village Fair Workshop will feature "What Do Kids Need to Succeed" conducted by Derek Peterson from AASB, Friday, February 6, 1998, at the Kenai Central High School Little Theater. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the workshop times are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The workshop is sponsored by Healthy Communities/Healthy People and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

Mrs. Fischer thanked the Tustumena Elementary students for their presentation. She asked for an excused absence during the February 16 School Board meeting.

Mr. Arness reported that the District Negotiating Team recently met to plan negotiations strategy. He stated that, in compliance with HB 465, a hearing must be conducted to allow public input. He suggested the Board convene the February 16 School Board meeting one hour earlier, at 6:30 p.m. to allow for public input.

Ms. Germano asked what information would be provided. Mrs. Radtke explained that the first step is to provide the public an opportunity for input. The current negotiated agreement is available for the public to review during the hearing. She stated that after public input has been taken a proposal is prepared and made available to the public. Mrs. Radtke stated that she would send an announcement to the news media advertising the hearing date. Ms. Germano asked that the advertisement be sent to the Homer and Seward news media announcing that the documents would be available for public review at the local libraries.

Mrs. Gross declared that a special meeting would be conducted Monday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. to provide a public hearing for the purpose of negotiations.

BOARD COMMENTS (Continued):

Mrs. Mullins expressed her appreciation to the Tustumena Elementary staff and students for the time and effort involved in coordinating their school presentation. She paid tribute to retiring Nikiski teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Standefer and Ms. Marlene Thiel-Pearson. She stated that she was sorry that they will be leaving the District.

Mrs. Mullins announced that there will be a legislative hearing February 3, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Legislative Information Office to discuss SB 36 and other education legislation. She urged those present to attend and let their voices be heard. She thanked the Clarion and Shana Loshbaugh for the recent articles on schools and funding.

Miss Meacham thanked Tustumena Elementary School for the presentation. She thanked the Board for approving the extended field trip request from Redoubt Elementary School to travel to Magadan. She stated that she had participated in a similar trip while a student at Redoubt Elementary and it impacted her life. She stated that she is studying Russian and returned to Magadan last summer.

Ms. Germano asked the Administration to distribute a press release announcing that teacher and principal evaluation documents are available for public comment. Mrs. Radtke stated that principals were directed to share that information with parents and community members through their school newsletters. Mrs. Gross concurred with Ms. Germano and asked that the public be made aware of their opportunity to comment on teachers and principals evaluation forms.

ADJOURN:

At 8:47 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Mari-Anne Gross, President

Mrs. Susan Larned, Clerk

The Minutes of February 2, 1997,
were approved on February 16, 1998
as written.