

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Borough Administration Building
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

March 16, 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: Mrs. Darolyn Brown Mr. Jim Dawson
Mr. Tim Navarre Mrs. Natalie Kohler
Mr. Jeff Kohler Mr. Fabian Castilleja
Mr. Rick Matiya Mr. Greg Paxton
Mrs. Rosanne VanRay Mr. Ron Drathman
Mr. Martin Galloway Ms. Debra Sanders
Mrs. Karen Mahurin Mr. Lawrence Colston
Mr. Larry Van Ray Mr. Todd Syverson
Mr. Dave Beckett Mr. Mike Navarre
Mrs. Margaret Gilman Mrs. Melody Douglas
Ms. Carolyn Cannava Ms. Peggy Cloninger
Ms. Denita Higman

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 the addition of awards and presentations to Roseanne VanRay, head secretary, Soldotna Middle School and Martin Galloway, head custodian, Soldotna Middle School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The School Board Minutes of March 2, 1998, were approved with the deletion of Mr. John Dahlgren as staff present.

SCHOOL REPORTS:

Mr. Dawson, principal, Mt. View Elementary, thanked the Board on behalf of the students for the opportunity to present their school report. He stated that tonight's presentation was completely student-produced. Mr. Dawson introduced Megan Kohler and Ashley Robin who emceed the presentation. The first group of students recited their school cheer, another group of students presented an analogy of their school and student council as compared to a bicycle tire. Students showed a video tape with interview responses from students, parents and teachers on the reasons for the positive climate at their school.

Miss Dixie Mapes stated that Mt. View Elementary is a nice place with nice teachers with different ways of teaching students. She added that she especially liked the school principal because he helps students with their work and supervises bus loading and off-loading.

The Learning Committee students shared a learning collage. Mr. Tom Benson described a chemistry experiment that was conducted with his teacher, Mr. Daniels. Mr. C.J. Henley told about community members coming into the classroom to teach about fur trading and trapping in Alaska. He stated that he hoped more community members would come to Mt. View Elementary to teach the students about Alaska and other topics.

The Technology Committee students told about the Macintosh and GS computer labs and stated that there is an average of six computers in each room. Miss Kira Matiya explained and demonstrated her electronic portfolio. She stated that the portfolio keeps an electronic record of activities and outstanding work that each student accomplishes during the year.

The Special Events committee students told about student council, the bus behavior incentive program, spirit days, sleep overs, raffles for sleep overs, recess choices, the DARE program and Turn Off TV week. The students concluded their presentation by reading the school mission statement from their school banner.

RECESS:

At 7:55 p.m., Mrs. Gross called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:

At 8:25 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Denita Higman, parent, Seldovia, stated that one of the reasons that Seldovia is a great place to raise children is because of the excellent school program. She urged the Board to reconsider Seldovia's staffing allocation. She stated that the Seldovia community is very involved in their school and they are concerned over losing teaching staff. She stated that students are having trouble enrolling in college because they lack the required courses on their transcript. She stated that Susan B. English Elementary/High is operating a "bare bones" program for students that wish to continue on to college. She stated that their foreign language courses were discontinued once the STAR/STEP program was eliminated. Ms. Higman referred to letters of appeal for teaching staff from the Seldovia community.

Mr. Fabian Castilleja, principal, Susan B. English Elementary/High School, stated that he appreciated the help their school has received in the past to maintain their current programs. He stated that the school has lost one-third of its staff since 1990, and in addition, have lost three aide positions, the music, fine arts and technology programs. He stated that his school has taken some major reductions and, with next year's cuts, will have to totally restructure. He stated that it is becoming very difficult to maintain the programs that they would like to offer their students.

Ms. Germano asked how the current staff was assigned. He replied that the current classroom breakdown is kindergarten through Grade 2 with 18 students, Grades 3 and 4 with 14 students, Grades 5 and 6, with 19 students, Grades 7 through 8 with 20 students, and Grades 9 through 12 with 28 students.

Ms. Margaret Gilman, parent, Sears Elementary, stated that she and her husband were both former students in the District and graduated from Kenai Central High. She stated that she and her husband were very well prepared for their postsecondary education as a result of their District schooling. She expressed her concern that Sears Elementary will be reduced to a one-half time librarian next year. She stated that, as a parent of three young children, this was unacceptable. She asked the Board to consider funding librarians and teaching staff for higher level classes so that students will be prepared to continue on to colleges or universities.

COMMUNICATIONS AND
PETITIONS:

Mrs. Gross stated that she had received 19 letters from the Seldovia community expressing concern for their staffing situation and a letter regarding the one-half time secretary reduction at Soldotna Elementary.

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

Ms. Peggy Cloninger, representative of the Seldovia Parent Advisory Committee and president, Seldovia Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern about the staff reduction next year. She stated that the Chamber of Commerce is concerned that the community will shrink in population because the school cannot adequately educate the children of the area. She stated that with the reduction of teaching staff, fewer classes can be offered. She stated that the school does not offer music or higher level classes. Ms. Cloninger told the Board that a Seldovia senior was told she will have to apply for a waiver in order to attend college because she was not able to take a foreign language. She stated that even though Seldovia is a small community, Susan B. English Elementary/High School has produced some outstanding students; and she asked the Board not to forget them.

Mrs. Gross acknowledged Borough Assembly Members, Ron Drathman and Tim Navarre, who were in the audience.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Mrs. Gross presented an award of appreciation to Roseanne VanRay, head secretary, and Martin Galloway, head custodian, Soldotna Middle School, for their outstanding service to education and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Dahlgren announced that Tustumena Elementary and Soldotna Middle School Battle of the Books teams won first place at the state competition. He added that the Soldotna High School team won second place.

Mr. Dahlgren announced that on Thursday, March 19, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers, Lieutenant Governor Fran Ulmer will present Governor Knowles' proposed Smart Start for Alaska's Children Initiative. He stated that this time period has been reserved especially for all District employees and Board members to ask questions about the proposal. A public hearing covering the same topic will be held later that evening at 7:00 p.m.

1998-99 BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Mr. Hickey presented the 1998-99 School District budget to the Board. The Board will consider adoption of the budget at their April 6, 1998, meeting. He noted that the document was a third draft and asked the Board to pay attention to page Number 2, Goals and Objectives of the Strategic Plan. He stated that the focus of the budget document was to establish a budgeting process which will involve the borough administration, assembly and public. Mr. Arness clarified that the Goals and Objectives were from the Board of Education and not the Strategic Plan. Mr. Hickey and Mrs. Gross expressed appreciation to the staff for their countless hours of work.

- FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Hickey presented the financial report of the District for the period ending February 28, 1998.
- CONSENT AGENDA: Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Extended Field Trip Request, Leave of Absence Request/Support, Leave of Absence Requests/Certified, Substitute Teacher Contract, and 1998-99 Tentative Tenure Teacher Assignment.
- EXTENDED FIELD TRIP REQUEST: Mr. Ed McLain recommended the Board approve an extended field trip request for 15 students from various District schools to travel to Mountain View, California, to participate in the U.S. Space Camp.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/SUPPORT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a one-year, unpaid leave of absence request for the 1998-99 school year for Merry Zogas, Special Services/aide, Hope Elementary School.
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUESTS/CERTIFIED: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve unpaid leave of absence requests for the 1998-99 school year for Jeannette Sorrels, Special Services/preschool, Sears Elementary and Atz Kilcher, music, McNeil Canyon/West Homer Elementary.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CONTRACT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a 19-day substitute teaching contract for Stephanie Mullaly, math/physical education, Susan B. English Elem/High School.
- 1998-99 TENTATIVE TENURE TEACHER ASSIGNMENT: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve a tentative tenure teacher assignment for the 1998-99 school year for Anne Kendall, Nikiski Elementary.
- ACTION
Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 5. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.
- 1997-98 RESIGNATION/ ADMINISTRATIVE: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve the resignation of Jeffrey Harriman, principal/teacher, Hope Elementary School, effective March 20, 1998.
- ACTION
Mrs. Mullins moved the Board approve the resignation of Jeffrey Harriman, principal/teacher, Hope Elementary School, effective March 20, 1998. Mrs. Larned seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.
- BOARD POLICY REVISIONS: Mrs. Radtke recommended the Board approve revisions to BP 4116, Nontenured/Tenured Status and BP 4117.6, Nonretention, to bring the District into compliance with the requirements of HB 465.

BOARD POLICY REVISIONS:

Dr. Anderson moved the Board approve revisions to BP 4116, Nontenured/Tenured Status and BP 4117.6, Nonretention, to bring the District into compliance with the requirements of HB 465. Mrs. Fischer seconded.

ACTION

Motion carried unanimously.

FIRST READING OF POLICY REVISIONS:

The Board heard a first reading of BP 6153, School-Sponsored Trips and AR 6153, School-Sponsored Trips.

Mr. McLain stated that the proposed changes clarify current practice, streamline forms and address water travel. He explained that the current policy does not allow students to participate in field trips involving non-motorized vessels such as canoes and kayaks. He noted that the proposed changes allow field trips with reasonable caution and care of students but does not allow wilderness travel. He noted that a packet containing the policy as it would look with the additions and deletions was contained in their information packet.

Mrs. Gross asked whether a field trip down the Johnson Lake canoe trail would be denied. Mr. McLain stated that some wilderness travel would be eliminated.

Susan Larned asked whether students were required to buy extra insurance to participate in field trips abroad. Mr. McLain explained that parents must show proof of medical insurance for the student for the duration of the trip.

Mrs. Fischer commented on the timeline for submitting extended field trip requests to the Board for approval. She suggested that the requirement be changed or eliminated. Dr. Anderson suggested that field trips be submitted for Board approval at least three months prior to excursion and also suggested that District personnel be aware that Board approval must be secured prior to raising funds. He stated that the Board has consistently granted exceptions and the policy should either be followed or changed.

Dr. Anderson asked that the opportunity for students to travel on canoe trails without a motorized vessel be included in the water policy statements. Mrs. Gross asked Mr. McLain to explore the possibilities of making that change.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Peggy Cloninger submitted a petition containing 62 signatures.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Dr. Anderson congratulated the Soldotna High cheerleaders for winning the region cheerleading competition. He commented that the boys' basketball team and others from the Soldotna area were in attendance to cheer on the cheerleaders. He stated that Soldotna High had more supporters present than any of the other schools combined, even though the competition was held in Wasilla.

Mrs. Larned stated that she was looking forward to Spring Break and hoped the warm weather would continue.

Ms. Mullins commented that the Mt. View Elementary School report was impressive. She commended the students who presented to the Board and expressed her appreciation for all the work the students put into their presentation.

Mrs. Mullins asked for an excused absence from the April 6, 1998, School Board meeting. She will be attending the National School Board Association convention.

Mrs. Fischer thanked the students from Mt. View Elementary for a fine presentation. Mrs. Fischer stated, for the benefit of the Seldovia parents in the audience, that the Board discussed the staffing difficulties during the worksession earlier in the day. She reassured them that their appeal was not falling on deaf ears.

Miss Meacham congratulated the Soldotna High School cheerleaders for their first place win. She noted that Soldotna High was the first Peninsula school to win the regional competition and announced that Homer High received second place. She expressed her appreciation for the Mt. View Elementary presentation.

Mrs. Gross announced that the Homer High, Nikiski High and Seward High Schools girls' and the Kenai boys' basketball teams will compete in the state tournament.

ADJOURN:

At 8:40 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 March 16, 1998,
were approved on April 6, 1998,
as written.