

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

148 N. Binkley Street

Soldotna, AK 99669

Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent

March 5, 2001

NEWS IN BRIEF

SCHOOL REPORTS: Mr. Rick Ladd, West Homer Elementary principal, reported that the school goal is to improve reading achievement through various motivational-type resources and activities. He reported that the school invited the Junior Great Books Foundation to conduct a two-day training for staff. He stated that the school continues to institute the Accelerated Reader Program and now has 2200 books with tests that are located in the library. He reported that the library has 10,000 books with a circulation of over 5,000 books per school year. He reviewed reading assessment scores. He announced that the 5/6 grade students won the District Battle of the Books. Mr. Ladd reported that the school instituted a listserv of 170 parents and community members who receive the school newsletter. He reported that the school website provides various information including schoolwide announcements, classroom instruction, daily lessons, guidelines, and school rules. He stated that the school also uses an electronic report card system. He stated that beginning March 8 through April 26, seven different computer classes will be offered in the evening for parents. He announced that West Homer Elementary was recently identified by *Family PC* magazine and *The Princeton Review* as one of the best 100 wired schools in the United States. He announced that Ms. Espenshade, Kenai Peninsula Youth Court director, conducted youth court training with West Homer Elementary students in January. Ms. Espenshade and Dr. Peterson presented certificates for 36 West Homer Elementary students who had completed the Youth Court training and Judge Frances Neville administered the oath during a brief swearing in ceremony.

Ms. Karen Wessel, Homer Flex principal/teacher, reported that reading is the school goal and that each student improved at least one grade level over last year. She reported that many students rediscovered the love of reading and that their comprehension scores have improved. She announced that last school year out of the 14 students that graduated 5 were parenting teens and 7 students enrolled in college. She stated that she expects 14 more students to graduate this year and invited those present to attend the ceremony on May 19. Mr. Jeff Szarzi introduced Miss Taya Trago and Miss Nicole Jones who presented a Power Point presentation explaining the school's small furniture business called Flexwood. Miss Jones reported that Homer Flex students operate Flexwood and that recycled materials are used to create the furniture. She described the process of making the furniture and noted that \$5,000 of Carl Perkins grant money was used to purchase tools and supplies. She stated that Flexwood's future goal is to create a survey to help market their furniture and to update their website. She thanked the many people and organizations for their assistance in making the small business a success.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS: The Board presented Golden Apple awards to Ms. Carolyn Venuti and Ms. Ceil Manchester for their dedication to students and to the District. The Board presented certificates of appreciation to Mr. Kurt Racicot for being selected the District Vocational Education Instructor of the Year and to Gail Thomas for being selected for the Barbara Berger Award for Excellence in Health Education.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Dr. Peterson reported that six students and a chaperone from the District attended the Democracy in Action conference in Washington D.C. She stated that specific guidelines were used to select the students and that the trip included a meeting with Senator Stevens and other U.S. congressional officials. She announced that the Long Range Planning community meetings will begin on March 8 at Soldotna High; March 12, at Seward High; March 13 at Homer High; March 14 at Kenai Central High; and March 15 at Nikiski High. She announced that the meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. (3:30 p.m. in Homer) and will provide another opportunity for public input. She announced that the administration has had several meetings with the Kenai Peninsula Borough legislative delegation and that prior to the Board meeting the administration met with Senator Torgerson and Representative Lancaster. She announced that West Homer Elementary was recently identified as one of the best 100 wired schools in the United States. She announced that Mr. Malcolm Fleming, Seward Middle/High School principal, was chosen as the Middle/High School Principal of the Year.

2001-2002 BUDGET PRESENTATION: Mr. Hickey presented the 2001-2002 School District budget to the Board.

New Teacher Assignments 2000-2001: The Board unanimously approved teacher assignments for Christopher Lau, generalist (temporary), Spring Creek School; and Sheryl Cook, Middle School Coordinator (temporary), Kenai Middle School.

Leave of Absence Request – Support: The Board unanimously approved a leave of absence request for Tom Hindman, custodian I, Nikiski Middle/High School.

Long-Term Substitute Teacher Contract: The Board unanimously approved a substitute teaching contract for Susan Hatch, special education/resource, North Star Elementary.

ResignationS: The Board unanimously approved resignations (effective at the end of the 2000-2001 school year) for Lloyd M. Tappana, science/photography, Soldotna High; Fred Colvin, principal/teacher, Tebughna Elementary/High; Kathryn Cross, school psychologist, districtwide special services; and Teresa Orr, principal/teacher, Cooper Landing Elementary.

Bond Package Project Designers: The Board unanimously approved authorization for the Borough Assembly to directly award services for consulting and design document development of school facilities to avoid the need for revisiting each individual project.

2000-01 Administrator Assignment: The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Sam Stewart as curriculum and assessment director.

Request for Sabbatical: The Board unanimously approved a request for an unpaid sabbatical without benefits for the 2001-2002 school year for Ms. Jennifer Tabor, home economics, Skyview High School.

BP 4132, 4232, 4332, Publication or Creation of Materials: The Board unanimously approved revisions to BP 4132, 4232, 4332, Publication or Creation of Materials. He stated that the revisions require that the development of copyrightable materials by employees or students during, or in part during, the work/school day must be approved by the superintendent or designee.

BP 3522.6, Violent and Aggressive Conduct: The Board unanimously approved the adoption of BP 3522.6, Violent and Aggressive Conduct. The policy addresses behaviors categorized as violent and aggressive that will not be tolerated on school district property and will result in immediate corrective action.

BP 3522.5, Campus Disturbances: The Board unanimously approved the adoption of BP and AR 3522.5, Campus Disturbances. The policy and administrative regulation requires the development of a school plan to be implemented in the event of a campus disturbance.

BP 1313, Willful Disruption of the School: The Board unanimously approved the adoption of BP 1313, Willful Disruption of the School. The policy addresses situations in which adults who violate the safe learning environment and appropriate standards of conduct while on school district property are instructed to conduct themselves in a proper manner or leave school district property.

BP 3313, Contracts, Leases and Agreements: The Board unanimously approved the revision of BP 3313, Contracts, Leases and Agreements. The revision adds contracts, legal review of contracts, leases, and agreements where appropriate and includes a nondiscrimination clause.

BP 5030, School Discipline and Safety and BP 5040, AR 5040, Student Handbook: The Board postponed action on revisions to BP 5030, BP5040 and AR 5040.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: The next regularly scheduled School Board Meeting is Monday, April 2, 2001, 7:30 p.m., Borough Administration Building, Soldotna, Alaska.

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