



# *Schooling on the Kenai Peninsula*





# **Schooling On The Kenai Peninsula**

Written by:

Dr. Fred Pomeroy, Superintendent  
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

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## **Preface**

Many social institutions have a rich heritage which has been recorded. Unfortunately, school districts have seldom enjoyed such status. Perhaps this is due to the frequent change of Board of Education members and superintendents. Regardless of the cause, this writing is an attempt to remedy the void within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.

This project was launched to record the history of schooling on the Kenai Peninsula beginning with the creation of the first school in Hope, Alaska in 1902. However, it soon became apparent that the task was beyond the scope of time necessary to complete such an ambitious undertaking. Therefore, the writing has been altered to a written record of schooling on the Kenai beginning with the formation of the Kenai Borough and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in 1964.

## The Players

In 1963, the Alaska Legislature passed the Borough Act which created nine boroughs. All local districts located within the newly created boroughs were merged into borough school districts.

The first team to take the field did so in January 1964. The first Board of Education involved the following individuals:

Edward Hollier, Chairperson  
Robert E. Cousart, Clerk  
Anna Wade Jackinsky, Treasurer  
Edward Rehder  
Jesse Robinson

Since that initial group of hardy public servants several players have guided public education within the school district.

1964 – Edward Hollier  
Robert Cousart  
Anna Wade Jackinsky  
Edward Rehder  
Jesse Robinson

1965 – Edward Hollier  
Robert Cousart  
Anna Wade Jackinsky  
Edward Rehder  
Jesse Robinson

1966 – Edward Hollier  
Robert Cousart  
Anna Wade Jackinsky  
Edward Rehder  
Jesse Robinson

On October 10, 1966, Elsa Pederson, newly elected board member was seated. On November 11, 1966, John Galea of Seward was appointed to replace Jesse Robinson.

1967 – Edward Hollier  
Elsa Pederson  
Anna Wade Jackinsky  
Edward Rehder  
John Galea

Ruth Kilcher, newly elected member, was seated October 9, 1967, replacing Edward Rehder. Elsa Pederson resigned December 18, 1967, and Ed Rehder was appointed to fill the position.

1968 – Edward Hollier  
Ruth Kilcher  
Anna Wade Jackinsky  
Edward Rehder  
John Galea

Harvey A. Ainsworth, newly elected member, was seated October 14, 1968, replacing Edward Rehder.

1969 – John Galea  
Wade Jackinsky  
Ruth Kilcher  
Edward Hollier  
Harvey Ainsworth

In May, 1969, the Board voted to expand to a seven member board. Therefore, In October, Dolly Farnsworth, Karen Hornaday, and Jerry Near joined Hollier, Kilcher, Jackinsky and Galea on the Board.

1970 – Edward Hollier  
Ruth Kilcher  
Wade Jackinsky  
John Galea  
Dolly Farnsworth  
Karen Hornaday  
Jerry Near

On July 6, 1970, O.O. Gerbitz of Homer was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ruth Kilcher. On October 19, 1970 Bridgett McBride replaced John Galea.

1971 – Wade Jackinsky  
Dolly Farnsworth  
Karen Hornaday  
O.O. Gerbitz  
Ed Hollier  
Bridgette McBride  
Jerry Near

On June 28, 1971, Bruce Tornberg was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation Bridgette McBride. On October 18, 1971, Carl Glick, Robert Love, and O.O. Gerbitz were seated following their election.

1972 – Dolly Farnsworth  
Robert Love  
Karen Hornaday  
O.O. Gerbitz  
Carl Glick  
Wade Jackinsky  
Jerry Near

On October 16, 1972, Jerry Hobart was seated following his election

1973 – Karen Hornaday  
Robert Love  
Dolly Farnsworth  
Wade Jackinsky  
O.O. Gerbitz  
Carl Glick  
Jerry Hobart

Karen Hornaday resigned June 4, 1983. Ed Hollier was appointed August 6 to fill the vacancy created by the Hornaday resignation. On November 19, 1973, Luther Abrahamson from Seward, Forrest Tressler, and Ed Hollier were seated following their election.

1974 – Ed Hollier  
Carl Glick  
Luther Abrahamson  
Dolly Farnsworth  
Jerry Hobart  
Forrest Tressler  
O.O. Gerbitz

On August 19, 1974, Forrest Tressler resigned. On September 16, Marie Mott was appointed to fill the term of Tressler. October 14, 1974, O.O. Gerbitz, Carl Glick, Marie Mott, and Bruce Bartel were seated following their election.

1975 – O.O. Gerbitz  
Carl Glick  
Jerry Hobart  
Dolly Farnsworth  
Ed Hollier  
Marie Mott  
Bruce Bartel

On October 20, 1975, Carolyn Cannava, Jerry Hobart, and Mary Shields were seated following their election. On November 17, 1975, O.O. Gerbitz resigned, and on December 15, Ed Rehder of Homer was appointed to fill the vacancy of O.O. Gerbitz.

1976 – Carl Glick  
Jerry Hobart  
Marie Mott  
Carolyn Cannava  
Mary Shields  
Bruce Bartel  
Edward Rehder

On April 5, 1976, Bruce Bartel resigned effective June 7. On July 19, Sharon Brower was appointed to fill the vacancy of Bruce Bartel. On July 19, Marie Mott and Mary Shields resigned. On August 2, Fredric Kramer was appointed to fill the vacancy of Marie Mott, and on August 19, Sheila Owens was appointed to fill the vacancy of Mary Shields.

October 18, Sheila Owens, Sharon Brower, Sandy Morris, and Joyce Fischer were seated following their election.

1977 – Jerry Hobart  
Sandra Morris  
Carolyn Cannava  
Sheila Owens  
Carl Glick  
Sharon Brower  
Joyce Fischer

On November 7, Linda O'Brien and Carl Glick were seated following their election.

1978 – Carolyn Cannava  
Sheila Owens  
Sandra Morris  
Jerry Hobart  
Carl Glick  
Joyce Fischer  
Linda O'Brien  
Linda Main, Student Representative

1979 – Carolyn Cannava  
Sheila Owens  
Sandra Morris  
Jerry Hobart  
Carl Glick  
Joyce Fischer  
Linda O'Brien  
Kim Ambarian, Student Representative

On October 15, Joyce Fischer and Mary Hawkins were seated following their election. On November 5, Mary Anne Lee was seated following a run-off election.

1980 – Sheila Owens  
Jerry Hobart  
Joyce Fischer  
Carolyn Cannava  
Mary Hawkins  
Mary Ann Lee  
Linda O'Brien  
Ron Records, Student Representative

On July 7, Mary Anne Lee resigned. July 21, Sharon Brower was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Mary Ann Lee's resignation. On October 20, Jane Hammond was seated following her election. On November 17, Colette Yamamoto was seated following a run-off election.

1981 – Carolyn Cannava  
Joyce Fischer  
Jerry Hobart  
Jane Hammond  
Mary Hawkins  
Sheila Owens  
Colette Yamamoto  
Kris Albritton, Student Representative

On February 3, 1982, Sheila Owens resigned. February 16, Joe Arness was appointed to fill the vacancy created by Sheila Owens' resignation. On October 19, Carolyn Cannava, Jerry Hobart, and Debra Mullins were seated following their election.

1982 – Carolyn Cannava  
Joyce Fischer  
Jerry Hobart  
Jane Hammond  
Mary Hawkins  
Debra Mullins  
Colette Yamamoto  
Steve Toutonghi, Student Representative

On January 18, Colette Yamamoto resigned. February 15, Wayne Kessler was seated following his appointment to fill the vacancy created by the Yamamoto resignation. On October 18, the Homer sweep occurred. Three members, Wayne Kessler, Mildred Martin, and Keith Wise were seated following their election.

1983 – Carolyn Cannava  
Debra Mullins  
Jerry Hobart  
Jane Hammond  
Wayne Kessler  
Mildred Martin  
Keith Wise  
Keith Gain, Student Representative

On June 16, Keith Wise resigned. On July 18, Joe Harris was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Keith Wise. October 17, Jane Hammond and Joe Harris were seated following their election.

1984 – Carolyn Cannava  
Debra Mullins  
Jerry Hobart  
Jane Hammond  
Wayne Kessler  
Mildred Martin  
Joe Harris  
Tim Obendorf, Student Representative



## CHAPTER 2

# Support Team

Administrators in a school district are those who work most closely with the Board of Education. This section will simply recap the members of the support team during the past 20-year history of the district.

### Superintendents

On January 23, 1964, the Board of Education hired Dr. Carl E. Wagner as the first superintendent. A three-year contract was extended at the salaries of \$18,000, \$19,000, and \$20,000 respectively. Apparently this arrangement didn't work out because on March 7, Sterling Sears was hired as superintendent. Mr. Sears served the district for three years, submitting his resignation on November 18, 1967.

Ernest Presher was hired by the Board February 5, 1968. Mr. Presher served approximately one year, resigning November 15, 1969. His resignation became effective January 19, 1970.

Walter Ward was appointed interim superintendent January 5, 1970, and completed the school year in that capacity.

Walter Hartenberger was appointed superintendent February 16, 1970, but didn't assume duties until June of that year. On March 15, 1971, Mr. Hartenberger was reassigned to work on district needs assessment for the balance of the year. Walter Ward was assigned superintendent responsibilities until the end of the year.

Jack Hayward was appointed superintendent May 3, 1971, and assumed duties in July 1971. He served until June 30, 1975.

Dr. Paul Gallaher served as superintendent from July 1, 1975, until June 30, 1979.

Dr. Fred Pomeroy has served as superintendent from July 1, 1979, until the present, July 1984.

## Central Office Staff

The following individuals have served in various capacities at the Central Office level during the 20-year existence of the KPBSD:

- Frank Darnell – Assistant Superintendent, 1965-66 to 1967-68  
Mark Beauchamp – Assistant Superintendent, 1966-67 to 1969-70  
Roy Hayes – Director of Curriculum, 1965-66 to 1967-68  
Walt Ward – Assistant Superintendent, 1965-66 to 1982-83  
Paul Fischer – Director of Federal Programs, 1969-70 to 1970-71  
Dick Swarner – Business Manager, 1970-71 to present  
Harold Grams – Assistant Superintendent, 1969-70 to 1970-71  
Ricel Keith – Director of Curriculum, 1968-69 to 1969-70  
Bob Greene – Administrative Assistant, 1970-71  
Frank Heesacker – Research and Evaluations, 1971-72  
James Hall – Assistant Superintendent, Instruction, 1971-72 to 1979-80  
Don Kirkpatrick – Assistant Superintendent, Operations, 1970-71 to 1979-80  
Thomas Overman – Director of Personnel, 1979-80 to 1982-83; Associate Superintendent, Planning and Operations, 1983-84 to present  
Dennis Daggett – Director of Elementary Education, 1979-80; Associate Superintendent, Instruction, 1980-81 to present  
Dale Sandahl – Director of Elementary Education, 1980-81 to 1982-83; Director of Personnel, 1983-84 to present.  
Peter Larson – Director of Secondary Education, 1979-80 to present  
Richard Carignan – Director of Elementary Education, 1983-84 to present  
John Cook – Director of Federal Programs/Bilingual, 1979-80 to present  
Bill Schrier – Supervisor of Correspondence/Boarding Home Program, 1981-82 to present  
Stan Long – Supervisor of Correspondence/Boarding Home Program, 1972-73 to 1980-81  
Kris Rogers – Director of Special Education 1975-76 to present  
Richard Skinner – Director of Purchasing/Food Services, 1975-76 to present

## Principals

The troops on the front lines are the building principals. These individuals work daily with their constituents. The day-to-day pressures are no greater anywhere in educational administration than at the principal level.

The principals and assistant principals\* who have served in the district since 1964 are:

### ANCHOR POINT ELEMENTARY

Glen Erickson	Jerry Thomas	Serve Wilson
Bob Greene	John Jones	

### E.L. BARTLETT ELEM/HIGH – Tyonek

Richard Rast	Jay Nelson	Bill Hall
Frank Dunlap	Mike Wiley	Bill Hatch
Neal Menschel	John Brown	Cliff Koivisto
Bob Stokes	Cliff Myers	

### COOPER LANDING ELEMENTARY

Ken Bartell	Ken Bartell	Sheryl McMichael
Anna Head	Joyce (Gail)	John Szajkowski
John Endes	Schimberg	
	Gary Woodburn	

### ENGLISH BAY ELEM/HIGH

Mr. Black	Ray Stephens	Tom Thorpe
Arnold Melsheimer	John Stoner	Chuck Hoelscher
Thomas Crandall	Jim Brickey	Ken Farr
Mike Wiley	Ken Marlow	Bill Manley

HOMER HIGH

Don Ronda	Tom Maughan	Larry Nauta*
Don Kirkpatrick	Vic Varick*	Daryl White*
Jim Milne	Lee Winn	

HOPE ELEMENTARY

Vee Specking	Susan Baxter	Ken Farr
Sarajustine Black	Caroline Strong	

KALIFORNSKY BEACH ELEMENTARY

Gary Jackson

KENAI CENTRAL HIGH

Harvey Stroud	Jim Martin	Greg Daniels*
Ed James	Colin Morse	John Dahlgren
Charlie Griffin	Chuck Hunsdon	Dean Otteson*
Stan Long*	Jamie Savedoff*	Dick Hultberg*
Al Besch*	Gary Deutschlander	

KENAI ELEMENTARY

Newsome Maples	Roger Schmidt	Richard Carignan
Marc Beauchamp	Dale Sandahl	Rick Boudreau
Ricel Keith	Dillon Kimple	

KENAI JUNIOR HIGH

Rodger Schmidt	Dick Hultberg*	Bill Hatch*
Bill Brown*	Jim Strandlie*	
Richard Carignan*	Dean Otteson	

McNEIL CANYON ELEMENTARY

Diane Borgman

MOOSE PASS ELEMENTARY

Mr. English	Ray Stevens
Jim Clymer	Steve Wilcox

NIKOLAEVSK ELEM/HIGH

John Jones	Bob Moore
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NIKISKI ELEMENTARY

Jerry Jordan	Bob Greene	Marc Beauchamp
Glen Erickson	Ricel Keith	
Don Mack	Harold Grams	

NINILCHIK ELEM/HIGH

Tom Chapman	Bill Wimmer	Gary Jackson
Tom Overman	Stan Friese	Daryl Kellum
Harvey Stroud	Rick Boudreau	
Bob Stokes	Dave Dickerson	

PAUL BANKS ELEMENTARY – Homer

Gene Williams	Mary MacMillan	Lewis McLin
Ernie Suoja	Steve Hikel	

PORT GRAHAM ELEM/HIGH

Mr. Cameron	Mike Lockwood	John Szajkowski
John Fant	Larry Nauta	Ralph Hensley

RAZDOLNA ELEMENTARY

Bob Bell

SEARS ELEMENTARY – Kenai

Dale Sandahl	Virginia Maesner
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SEWARD ELEMENTARY

Mr. Davies  
Marion Wright  
Leonard Olson

Glen Erickson  
Barry Campbell  
Charles Craig

Elizabeth Richardson  
Roger Sampson

SEWARD HIGH

Larry Bourger  
Jack Hatcher  
Don Gilman

Jim Martin  
Charles Booth  
Jim Martin

Dale Sandahl  
Greg Moo

SOLDOTNA ELEMENTARY

Charlie Griffin  
Dillon Kimple

Clark Whitney  
Leonard Olson

Dave Dickerson

SOLDOTNA HIGH

James Strandlie  
Dean Otteson\*

Lee Johnson\*  
Daryl Kellum\*

Fran Garrity\*  
Paul Epperson\*

SOLDOTNA JUNIOR HIGH

Leonard Olson

Art Motz

Margo Kaleva\*

STERLING ELEMENTARY

Mr. Dinkins  
Fritz Hall

Charlie Griffin  
Vic Varick

SUSAN B. ENGLISH ELEM/HIGH – Seldovia

Tom Chapman  
Robert Saucerman  
Glen Erickson  
Don Gilman

Jon McMichael  
Tom Overman  
Cliff Myers

Cliff Koivisto  
Hank Savage  
Steve Wolf

TUSTUMENA ELEMENTARY

Charley Prescott  
Mike Wiley

Frank Dunlap  
Al Besch

## Happenings

### THE EARLY YEARS: 1964-67

The early years, 1964-67, constituted a time of change. Seventeen different communities were about to become a single entity. Given the Alaskan spirit of independence, this was a major undertaking. The legislature had deemed it so, therefore, no choice existed but to get on with the show.

On June 30, 1965, the Kenai City School District conducted its last official meeting. Its final action was:

Ed Hollier moved, Clarice Kipp seconded, “The Kenai City School Board be adjourned for the last time, leaving its important education responsibilities and opportunities to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education with our sincere good wishes.” Motion carried.

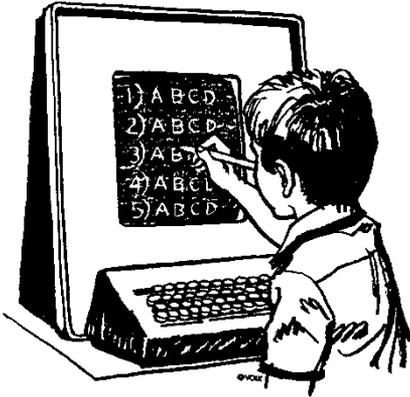
Conrad Potter was the acting superintendent during the initial transition to the borough school district. He and John Rehder were active in making arrangements for the appointment of Sterling Sears as first KPBSD superintendent. Mr. Sears guided the district during these early days until his resignation in November 1967, which became effective at the end of the 1967-68 school year.

The consolidation effort continued. November 11, 1966, the State Board of Education assigned the Port Graham School, English Bay School, and Tyonek School to the KPBSD. The BIA funding ceased.

In other areas of the borough business carried on as usual. In May of 1966, Homer High School completed a rigorous review process and was officially accredited by the Northwest Accreditation Association.

In March 1966, the Board of Education voted to have elections in all communities for Advisory School Committees. This was an obvious attempt to assure the different communities that they would have a voice in the operation of their local schools.

The district began to mature in terms of program offerings during these early days. In March of 1967, parents came to the Board of Education to request kindergarten for their children. The following month the Board took action to initiate a driver's education program. Parental concern for alcohol abuse was also expressed during these sessions.



## CHAPTER 4

# Happenings

### GROWTH YEARS: 1967-69

As the Kenai Peninsula population began to boom, the need for school facilities increased significantly. During this period the Board of Education and the staff were continually planning for the new schools to accommodate the growth.

For example, in January 1967, the Borough Assembly and the Board of Education met to review a “five Year Construction Plan.” This action was to launch a planning process that would be continuous for years to come.

The press of business during these growth years forced the Board of Education to begin meeting twice a month. This practice was also to become a standard practice.

Ernie Presher assumed the superintendency in July 1968. The contribution made to the district by Sterling Sears during the early years was recorded via the naming of the new elementary school in Kenai the “Sterling Sears Elementary School.”

In the late 60’s open space classrooms, team teaching, modular scheduling, etc. were in the limelight in American education. This concept reached Alaska and became a reality in Seldovia and Seward. In 1969, the new school concept was gaining momentum. The Northwest Regional Laboratory was contracted to work with the district to develop this program. Ultimately, new schools were constructed in Seldovia and Seward designed to accommodate these new concepts.

Another important citizen was to be remembered by her community. On June 22, 1970, the Board of Education approved a Seldovia City Council recommendation renaming the Seldovia school “Susan B. English School.”

As school growth continued, plans for new Kenai Junior High were approved in August 1969. At the same time, plans for Homer High School received approval.

The southern end of the Peninsula was giving birth to a new community in the fall of 1969. It was reported that there were 22 students who belonged in school at a community by the name of Nikolaevsk. "Education consisted of reading the Bible in Russian," it was stated. In February 1970, the Board approved moving a trailer to Nikolaevsk for the balance of the school year. Access to the "village" in those days was by foot or snow machine in the winter. John Jones and Bob Moore were early teachers that undertook this effort.

In Tyonek, the Board was working with the village to establish a junior high program. A program for grades 7-9 was approved March 2, 1970.

In Kenai, the bid for the new junior high school was awarded in the summer of 1970 in the amount of \$2,980,000.

Activity was also occurring in Hope. In August, 1970, the Board took action to reopen the Hope School with 12 students. This action continued the ongoing opening and closing of the Hope facility.

The Hope School was operated by the Bureau of Education from 1902 until 1922. The school was closed from 1923 to 1932. From 1933 to 1957, it was open again under the territory. The school again ceased to operate in 1958 until opening in 1970.

During the 1969-70 year the administrative plan of area directors was initiated. An administrator was appointed for a geographic area of the school district to coordinate administrative functions. The plan was short lived and abandoned after one year.



## Happenings

### YEARS OF UNREST: 1970-71

America saw a great deal of unrest during the late 60's and early 70's. The KPBSD did also. But the unrest did not involve the youth movement as much as it did the rapid change of Board members, administrators, and philosophy in education within the school district.

Superintendent Ernie Preshler resigned in January 1970 and Walt Ward became interim superintendent, and completed the school year. Walt Hartenberger, the change agent, assumed the position in June 1970, and held the post until March 15, 1971, when he was reassigned to "district needs assessment." Back to the helm came Walt Ward, who again filled the position until Jack Hayward came on Board in July 1971.

In August 1970, major budget problems confronted the district. Working relations with the Borough Assembly were shakey at best. Superintendent Hartenberer recommended that school not open that fall if the assembly would not appropriate the necessary funds. This type of activity was not uncommon during this brief period.

## CHAPTER 6

# Happenings

### STABLE YEARS: 1972-79

This section is termed the “stable years” because system and order again prevailed. The unrest and uncertainty of the prior two years slowly faded. Good management and significant efforts in the area of organization were evident.

A principal’s salary formula was adopted. The Advisory Committee Manual was revised. A plan to hold two meetings in Homer and Seward annually was initiated.

Building needs throughout the district continued to be a priority and plans for a two-classroom and multi-purpose room at Moose Pass received attention. Up the road at Cooper Landing, plans for a 2,905 square food unit was approved at the cost of \$49.70 per square foot.

As early as January 1972, the Board instructed the administration to formulate plans for a high school in Soldotna.

Also, in this same year there was interest expressed in a junior high school in North Kenai. However, Superintendent Hayward indicated he “could not recommend such action.”

In Seldovia, plans for the “new” program were well underway and the Board contracted with Westinghouse Learning Laboratory to conduct a workshop with the staff on individualized instruction.

Building needs were ever present. In April 1972, the Ninilchik Advisory Committee recommended additional space for gymnastics, band, and a swimming pool.

In May, the Board discussed a 996,000 square foot addition to Kenai Central High School. Later in the year, the notion of holding the high school facilities to a capacity of 800 was to receive discussion.

The first formal agreement for cooperative program planning between the School District and the Kenai Peninsula Community College was created in June. A shared use of common facilities and student access to various programs became a reality.

In early 1973, another step toward systemizing management occurred with the adoption of a teacher staffing formula.

Although progress was being made toward stability during these years, all was not well. In April 1973, during the budget process, the Assembly passed a resolution expressing displeasure with the school district.

In the fall of 1973, another bargaining unit was recognized. The Kenai Peninsula Administrator Association was created to represent its membership in conferring with the Board of Education regarding wages, hours, and working conditions.

The negotiations process was a hot item during this period. A landmark case for Alaska was litigated at this time. The case was filed by the Kenai Peninsula Education Association and challenged “what was negotiable.” In February 1975, the Board adopted a labor relations policy in an attempt to clarify the entire negotiations process.

The mantle of leadership shifted on July 1, 1975, from Jack Hayward to Paul Gallaher. Gallaher, a veteran administrator from Ohio, continued the stability that had begun in the area of management.

In October 1975, voters approved a new Seward High School.

Cooper Landing received statewide recognition during this year when Gary Woodburn was named Teacher of the Year for Alaska.

Labor relations continued to occupy a great deal of attention within the school district. In November, 1976, a certification election was held to determine who would represent the teachers within the district. The Kenai Peninsula Education Association garnered 63% of the vote and the Kenai Peninsula Federation of Teachers polled 36%.

Four months later the Board recognized the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Classified Association as the representative of the classified employees and agreed to meet and confer on wages, hours, and working conditions.

Building needs within the district remained a priority. In September 1975, the Board awarded a contract for the new school in Nikolaevsk. In February 1976, a bid was let for a major addition to the Bob Bartlett School in Tyonek. Also, at this time three mobile homes were moved to Tyonek to accommodate teacher housing needs.

In the spring of 1976, the decision was made to house grades K-3 at Sears Elementary in Kenai and grades 4-6 at Kenai Elementary. A bond election was held January 25, 1977, which included additions at Homer High School, Anchor Point, Sterling, Tustumena, and a new Soldotna High School. The election failed.

The Board proposed this same package plus a second elementary school in Soldotna again in October 1977, and this time the issue passed.

Changes were occurring in Port Graham and English Bay during this period, but the changes related to programs primarily. In the fall 1976, the Port Graham Advisory Committee voted to expand the program to include grades 9 and 10. It was determined that students would board outside for grades 11 and 12. In English Bay, however, the Parent Advisory Committee voted to have a full high school program at that village.

A significant contribution made to the organization of the KPBSD occurred when the Board approved an administrative reorganization plan in December 1978. Dr. Paul Gallaher, superintendent, completed this task prior to his departure in June 1979. The plan called for the following:

- Associate Superintendent – Instructional Services
- Associate Superintendent – Planning and Operations
- Executive Director – Business Management
- Executive Director – Personnel Management

Reporting to the Associate Superintendent – Instructional Services were the positions of:

- Director of Elementary Education
- Director of Secondary Education
- Director of Pupil Personnel Services
- Supervisor of Bilingual/Federal Programs
- Supervisor of Correspondence/Boarding Home Program

Reporting to the Associate Superintendent of Planning and Operations were the positions of:

- Supervisor of Food Services
- Supervisor of Purchasing

This administrative reorganization set the stage for appropriate administrative services for several years. The growth of the District has managed well under this arrangement.



## Happenings

### GROWTH YEARS AND MATURE YEARS: 1979-84

This period in the history of the KPBSD saw unprecedented growth. The student population expanded at the rate of 6-8% a year or 400-500 young people annually. Constructing facilities to accommodate this growth became a major effort. Several other factors were at play during this same period. Increased emphasis in curriculum planning occurred. Personnel practices matured. Management by objectives became a standard operating process within the district. Dr. Fred Pomeroy was appointed superintendent in 1979 and remained in the position during this period.

Dr. Pomeroy inherited a gigantic bond issue project which went to the voters in October 1979. The issue totaled \$22,000,000 and included the following projects:

North Kenai Junior High  
Nikolaevsk Addition  
New Homer Elementary  
North Kenai Elementary Addition  
Homer High School Phase 2 Addition  
Homer Middle School Addition  
Kenai Central High School Auditorium  
Soldotna Junior High Addition

The bond issue failed. The voters were asked to approve the entire issue in one vote. No option by the project was presented.

The management by objectives philosophy guided the district during these years. The Board of Education adopted annual goals which were pursued by the district-at-large. 1979-80 goals were:

1. Review the basic subject area of the secondary curriculum
2. Evaluate 15 extracurricular activities as to participation, time, and cost.
3. Meet the facility needs of the district via a bond issue
4. Establish a systematic program of public relations

5. Evaluate special services, especially gifted and talented.

The management by objectives process was implemented by the total administrative staff. All building principals and central office staff members worked with the superintendent in this process.

In June 1980, the teacher evaluation system was revised and approved by the board. At this time, a central office salary schedule was adopted to systemize the business of salary calculations.

Board of Education goals for the 1980-81 years involved:

1. Complete the development of the elementary art and physical education curricula.
2. Complete the development of the elementary language arts and math curricula
3. Complete the development of the secondary elective courses.
4. Assess the data gathered regarding extracurricular activities.
5. Review the structure for administration of the 25 separate schools
6. Implement the curriculum as adopted by the Board of Education during the 1980-81.
7. Devote special attention to vocational education.
8. Review various methods of student scheduling.

In October 1980, the voters approved additions to Ninilchik and Nikolaevsk schools using unexpended bond funds from previous issues.

Board of Education goals for the 1981-82 year were ambitious. They set the course for the district that year and continued emphasis begun earlier. They are as follows:

1. Develop curriculum reference test instruments for established curriculum
2. Develop a long range plan for continued curriculum review
3. Develop a long range plan for staff inservice training.
4. Develop a vocational education philosophy statement and program review.
5. Develop a long range plan for data processing services.
6. Provide for the facility needs of the district.

7. Develop a graduate follow-up study and drop-out study.
8. Review staffing formula, and supply and equipment formula.
9. Analyze media center space requirements.
10. Review staff evaluation procedures, develop superintendent evaluation format and Board of Education self-evaluation format.

In October of 1981, a bond issue passed which called for additions at North Kenai, Anchor Point, Cooper Landing, and a new school at McNeil Canyon.

Inservice training for administrators was established this year in the form of Project Leadership. This effort allowed administrators to identify areas of interest for staff development and then structure sessions to deal with those areas.

The citizens in Homer honored one of their own residents by renaming East Homer Elementary the “Paul Banks Elementary” during this year.

In February of 1982, a first occurred in Soldotna when Soldotna High School hosted the district’s first State Basketball Tournament.

Board of Education goals for 1982-83 were less extensive than the previous year:

1. Provide for the facility needs of the district.
2. Review the areas of science, social studies, and health within the curriculum review cycle.
3. Develop curriculum reference tests for the three areas above.
4. Focus on the language arts areas of writing and spelling.

In October 1982, the voters in the district approved the largest bond issue in the district’s history. The \$53,535,857 package provided for a new Kalifornsky Beach Elementary, Kenai Central High School Auditorium, Homer High School, plus additions at Seldovia, Sterling, and Tustumena.

The district encountered difficulties with the State Department of Education at this time regarding space requirements for the new Homer High School. This was to be but the first of several problems that confronted this project. It was even determined at one point that the building was too high since its 70 fly loft exceeded a Homer ordinance that limited building height to 35 feet.

In the spring of 1983, employee relations with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Classified Association suffered. Bargaining, an employee relations policy, and litigation were activities that consumed a great deal of staff and Board of Education time.

In the spring of 1983, the district enjoyed two outstanding achievements. Soldotna Junior High School and Soldotna High School were named exemplary schools in a nationwide search of secondary schools exemplifying excellence. Participation by the school principals, superintendent, and Board of Education president at a recognition ceremony in Washington, D.C. resulted from this recognition.

In 1983-84, the Board of Education adopted three continuing goals and four new goals. Continuing goals were:

1. Provide for facility needs of the district.
2. Review math, music, and art with the long range curriculum cycle
3. Complete the policy manual revision process.

New goals were:

1. Review graduation requirements.
2. Concentrate on language arts areas of writing and spelling.
3. Complete a central office organization study.
4. Improve working relations with all employee groups.
5. Complete a reclassification study of classified employee positions.

Voters in the district continued to support the facility needs of the district by approving a bond issue in October which included additions to Soldotna Junior High School, English Bay, Port Graham, Paul Banks Elementary (Homer), and additional funds for Homer High School.

During this year, Homer High School was selected by the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development as one of 22 schools to participate in a network to examine schooling for the future.

In the spring of 1984, the Board of Education approved a Five Year Plan for Enrollment Projections and Construction Needs which did not call for an October bond issue. This would be the first time in five years voters were not asked for approval to continue construction. However, the plan did identify seven projects that would appear before the voters in October 1985.

The district received high honors again in June 1984. Kenai Junior High School was Alaska's only school to be selected in the national Secondary School Recognition Program.

Student Population growth during this period of time was significant. District enrollment ballooned from 5,888 in 1978-79 to 7,537 in 1983-84.



## **20-Year Conclusion**

An interesting aspect of organizations is that normally they continue to exist regardless of the players. This is particularly true of social, public institutions. Public school districts are clearly woven into the fabric of American society. Therefore this brief 20-year capsule of education within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is but a beginning. Twenty years from now the history will only be richer because of the lives of boys and girls that have been influenced by the educational process.