

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM #29 (2005-06)

August 22, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY ELMENDORF SCHOOL
BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

ASD GOAL: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, barrier-free schools and maximizing the opportunities for lifelong learning.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the following temporary attendance boundary for the 2005-06 school year for the Moose Crossing subdivision of Elmendorf Air Force Base (EAFB).

All housing areas on the Base have an assigned school with the exception of the new housing area, Moose Crossing. EAFB elementary students who move to housing areas where the boundaries are already set will attend the school for that area. Students currently enrolled in the District who are moving to Moose Crossing will attend the school they attended last year. New to the District students will attend Orion Elementary School as long as there is adequate space. If Orion Elementary reaches capacity, other schools on Base will be utilized.

PERTINENT FACTS:

During the 2001-02 school year, Elmendorf Air Force Base began Phase I of a project to upgrade, demolish, and build new on-base housing. As a result, a temporary boundary change was recommended and then approved by the Board for the 2003-04 school year (see Attachment A).

Phase II of the project began in the 2004-05 school year, which includes a new 590-unit housing subdivision, renovation of existing housing, and the demolition of 366 existing housing units by the end of 2005. EAFB expects 366 of the Moose Crossing units to be completed by fall 2005, and full build-out of the subdivision by fall 2006 (see Attachment B). In July 2005, base residents began moving into

the new housing as their current units were being scheduled for demolition or renovation (see Attachment C).

After the Phase II information was received in March 2005 from EAFB, the following people met with the EAFB housing officials to discuss Phase II construction and tour the new housing: Julie Ginder, Elementary Education Supervisor; Eunice Long, Elementary Education Supervisor; Linda Schwald, Transportation Planner; and Ophelia Dargan-Steed, Demographer.

In April, EAFB held 3 town meetings to inform its residents of the new construction, demolition and renovation of its housing. EAFB requested the District send representatives to the meetings to answer school-related questions. The following District staff attended meetings to provide information to students and parents: George Vakalis, Assistant Superintendent, Support Services; Patricia McRae, Executive Director, Elementary Education; Julie Ginder, Elementary Education Supervisor; Eunice Long, Elementary Education Supervisor; Steve Kalmes, Transportation Director; James Bell, Principal, Mount Spurr; Ruth Tweto, Principal, Orion; and Ophelia Dargan-Steed, Demographer.

ASD requested move information from EAFB, to include the demographics of families, to assist in determining boundary change proposals. On June 27, 2005, the following met to discuss the EAFB information: George Vakalis, Patricia McRae, Steve Kalmes, and Ophelia Dargan-Steed. It was determined in the meeting that students who moved to EAFB housing areas that were already assigned schools would attend the school for that area. It was also determined that more demographic information was needed for Moose Crossing.

On July 11, 2005, George Vakalis, Patricia McRae, Steve Kalmes, and Ophelia Dargan-Steed met to review the additional information provided by EAFB. However, with families being relocated, retiring, or moving off-base, it became evident that the family information was too incomplete to make boundary change proposals. Instead, it was decided that students currently enrolled in the District who move to Moose Crossing will attend the school they attended last year. New to the District students will attend Orion Elementary School as long as there is adequate space. If Orion Elementary reaches capacity, other schools on Base will be utilized.

Orion was selected because they are expected to be at 75% of program capacity for the 2005-06 school year. In addition, most of the housing demolition (214 units) for 2005 was within the Orion boundary.

Boundaries for middle and senior high schools will remain the same. Middle and senior high school students will attend Central Middle School and Bartlett High School.

CC/GV/SK/ODS/PM

Attachments

Prepared by: Ophelia Dargan-Steed, Demographer
Ray Amsden, Director of Facilities

Approved by: George Vakalis, Assistant Superintendent, Support Services