

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, September 26, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, Jeff Friedman, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, Jeff Friedman Presiding

Board Members Present: Tim Steele, Mary Marks, Crystal Kennedy, John Steiner, Jeff Friedman, and Jake Metcalfe. Macon Roberts joined the meeting via telephone.

Others Present: Jan Christensen, Enid Hunter, Mike Henry, Patricia McRae, Jerry Sjolander, Leslie Vandergaw, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Ralph Feriani, Ray Amsden, Pam Chenier, Stan Syta, Jim Utter, Michelle Egan, Larry Wiget, LTC David Jones, William Johnson, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memo #46, East High School-Personalizing Education, be pulled for presentation at a later date.

Mr. Steele requested that ASD Memos #51 and #11 be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. He also requested discussion on ASD Memo # 53 from the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Friedman noted that the superintendent had indicated that she would like discussion on ASD Memos # 41 and #34 from the Superintendent's Report.

The agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crystal Kennedy extended Happy Birthday wishes to Tim Steele who is celebrating his 60th birthday. She presented him with a gift from the Superintendent and the Board.

Carol Comeau announced for the public that there is a Legislative Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, September 27th from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm in Room 320. In addition, a Joint School Site Selection committee

meeting is scheduled from 10:00 am - 11:30 am in Room 155 at City Hall on Thursday, September 29th.

Mr. Steele announced that the Boniface Dedication Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, September 30th from 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the Boniface Mall.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Crystal Kennedy presented the Recognition of Dimond High School Staff Student Safety Efforts. This award recognizes the efforts of the staff to keep students and spectators safe following a shooting in the Dimond High School parking lot. The following staff members were recognized for their quick thinking efforts that kept students safe: Rus Schreckenghost, Rob Galosich, Todd Whitehurst, Dale Evern, Cheryl Guyett and parent Cindy Sims.

Dylan Baker, a freshman at West High School, presented an overview of his Eagle Scout project. The project was the renovation of Crank Whimsy, a One Percent for Art sculpture at Rogers Park Elementary School. Dylan explained that the sculpture, consisting of seven pieces placed throughout the school, had begun to fall apart over the years. Dylan recognized that the sculpture was showing wear, not only from the passage of time, but also because of rough treatment at the hands of some students. He noted that the project involved not only repairing some of the features but also replacing some missing pieces and making some improvements to keep the pieces in working order. Dylan voiced his appreciation for the assistance of several professionals and the financial support of several community members. Ms. Comeau applauded Dylan's outstanding work and suggested that Dylan make presentations to the Rogers Park students about how much work it took to do this project. She hoped that the knowing how much work it takes to repair the sculpture would encourage the students to be more careful with it in the future. Ms. Comeau noted that this project brought to light the lack of a maintenance budget for our "One Percent for Art" projects. This has prompted some strategizing on how the need for maintenance can be discussed in a more public forum so that we can find a way to insure that funds set aside to maintain the projects.

Jeff Friedman presented the Recognition of Teacher's Lifesaving Efforts. This award recognizes the efforts made by staff members Luke Duffy and Pete Jenkins to rescue a grandmother and two young grandchildren when their raft flipped over in Campbell Creek.

Mary Marks presented the Recognition of National Merit Scholar Semifinalists. The Anchorage School District is proud to have 18 semifinalists for the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program. Each of these students received an award from the District acknowledging this great accomplishment. These 18 students are now among the approximately 16,000 semifinalists nationwide in competition for 8,200 Merit Scholarships that will be awarded next spring.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Feriani reported that the last meeting of the Student Advisory Board was held on Sept. 19th at Eagle River High School. He thanked Mr. Henry for attending that meeting. They were unable to hold elections due to the low number of attendees. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17th at 11:00 a.m. at a location to be determined.

2. Military Delegate

LTC Jones was unable to attend the meeting this evening.

3. M.E.C.C.

Mr. Johnson reported that the MECC held their last meeting on September 12, 2005. At that meeting the MECC decided, by unanimous vote, to maintain the current leadership team for the 2005-2006 school year. The Committee will be forwarding their new committee nominees and a name change to the board for approval. The next MECC meeting is scheduled for Oct. 20th at noon. The agenda will include committee goal development and Native Alaskan parental concerns.

Mary Marks thanked Mr. Johnson for the previously distributed End-of-the-Year Report. She appreciated knowing about the MECC's outreach efforts over the past year.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda is attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda Recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's office.**

1. Approval of Minutes

a. Special Meeting September 7, 2005 5:00 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum # 52 - Nomination for AASB Board of Directors

It is recommended that the School Board nominate Mary Marks for a seat on the Association of Alaska School Boards' Board of Directors for an additional term.

3. ASD Memorandum # 51 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Anchorage Education Association, 2005-2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and Anchorage Education Association which will establish terms and conditions of employment for teachers during the period between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.

4. ASD Memorandum # 54 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: HIV Prevention RARE-T

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the HIV/AIDS Prevention-RARE-T Continuation Grant in the amount of \$20,810 from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. This grant funds a peer education project to **Reduce AIDS Risk Effectively in Teens**.

5. ASD Memorandum # 11 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 332.3 Lottery Procedures - Open Enrollment (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 332.3 - Lottery Procedures on First Reading.

6. ASD Memorandum # 43 - Personnel Report

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Personnel Report.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele
seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting September 7th and ASD Memoranda #52, #54, and #43.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,
Friedman, Steiner,
Metcalf

Nays: None

Absent: Roberts (lost connection)

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 51 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Anchorage Education Association, 2005-2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and Anchorage Education Association which will establish terms and conditions of employment for teachers during the period between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele
seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve ASD Memorandum #51, adoption of the Tentative Agreement between ASD and AEA.

Ms. Comeau reported that the District is very pleased to be able to bring this agreement to the Board for approval. Although we had some very difficult times through the negotiation process, 83% of the members of the teachers union who attended the recent meeting have ratified the contract. She strongly urged unanimous support for this contract. Ms. Comeau noted that we have had a great start to the school year and, regardless of the negotiation tensions, she has nothing but the highest regard for the work that the teachers, the principals, all the support staff and all of our

employees did to get school started. The focus remained on students which she believes is a real tribute to the professionalism of all of our staff.

Mr. Steele had a question regarding Contract Item 205(C), the contribution that the District makes to health benefits and the method used to communicate health contribution. He noted that we don't have an indication of what the amount would be for participants using the method spelled out in 205.C. Mr. Tollefsen reported that we have some estimates using those calculations based on figures from last year. Accurate numbers should be available in a couple of weeks, but Mr. Tollefsen noted that he approximates \$815, adding \$115 to the current \$700 to compensate for the waivers.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,
Friedman, Steiner,
Metcalf, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 11 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 332.3
Lottery Procedures - Open Enrollment (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 332.3 - Lottery Procedures on First Reading.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele
seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To approve School Board Policy Revisions to Section 332.3, Lottery Procedures - Open Enrollment, on first reading.

Mr. Metcalfe recommends that this policy revision be sent back to the Policy Subcommittee. He reported that he had just been made aware of amendments to the main motion. He feels that the administration should have time to review and be involved in the discussion of these amendments. The committee can then make a recommendation to the main body with consideration and discussion. As chairman of the Policy Subcommittee, Mr. Metcalfe requested that these revisions, along with the recommendations, go back to the committee before First Reading,

believing that action to be the better procedural method of considering the amendments. Ms. Comeau asked if the proposed changes are different than the ones currently in front of the Board. Mr. Metcalfe explained that there are additional amendments that the Board has not seen yet. His understanding is that the changes are not substantive but he has not had an opportunity to adequately review them. In addition, the administration has not yet seen the proposed amendment. He believes that it is better policy method to return the amendments to the committee.

SUBSIDIARY MOTION:

Moved by: Jake Metcalfe
seconded by: John Steiner

To refer ASD Memo # 11 back to
the Policy Subcommittee.

Mr. Steiner noted that he had shared with Mr. Metcalfe some things that had occurred to him while he was reading the memo. He noted that he had drafted some ideas which he had hoped would clear up some ambiguities within the policy, but he really did not want to propose them as amendments here. He appreciates the opportunity for the Policy Subcommittee to take a look at them and will be supporting the motion to refer the memo back to the committee.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,
Friedman, Steiner,
Metcalfe, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 44 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of August 29, 2005 through September 16, 2005.

2. ASD Memorandum # 42 - Facility Change Order Report and Completed Projects for the Month of August 2005

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of August is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

3. ASD Memorandum # 53 - Update on Security and Emergency Preparedness Project

ASD's broad emergency preparedness initiative is really a collection of smaller projects with different funding sources. The component projects are: Containers and Emergency Supplies; Slabs and Septic Vaults; Truck Modification; Disaster Preparation Phase One; School Boiler Upgrade; and School Generators and Electrical System Upgrades.

Ms Comeau requested that Mr. Mark Mew and Mr. George Vakalis provide a review and update on the Security and Emergency Preparedness Project. She explained that this project is very timely and that our preparation over the last three years leaves us in a very good place in light of what is happening in the Gulf Coast area right now. This is a good time to reassure the community and the Board that the District is moving ahead in a very good way to be prepared to shelter our students up to at least 72 hours in our schools.

Mr. Vakalis reviewed the process taken over the last few years in order for the District to be prepared to deal with a major disaster. Early in the process an outside firm was contracted to make an assessment of where the District stood in terms of emergency preparedness. Special emphasis was placed on shelters, due to the concern about the amount of time children are in our care. Recommendations from that study resulted in the development of the Security and Emergency Preparedness Project that we have been actively implementing over the past three years. The District bonded approximately \$2.6 million for this project. In addition, dollars were set aside in the operating budget over a four year period of time to take care of the items which did not qualify for bonding. The project called for twenty-one shelters, made up primarily of high schools and middle schools, augmented by elementary schools at select locations. Shelter locations were decided upon based on geotechnical information pertaining to seismic stability, population density, and the condition of the facilities in the identified areas. Mr. Vakalis reported that significant progress has been made since the initial plan was approved by the Board. All of the sites now have their shelter containers and each container is uniformly stocked and inventoried, allowing for easy relocation should that become necessary.

Mr. Vakalis reported on two areas which are causing some difficulty. The first has to do primarily with the bidding process and the bids we

have received. He indicated that some bids have come in higher than anticipated and also that there were some proposals which did not receive an adequate number of bids. As a result, we have cancelled those bids, which will allow us to clarify some things in the proposals before putting them out for bid again. We anticipate that, with clarification and better timing, we will have more participation and that the bids will be more in line with our expectations.

The other area that we are having difficulty with is coming to an agreement with MEA in order to provide generation to the shelter at Chugiak High School. Mr. Vakalis explained that we have to work with the local utility companies and make sure that they approve the method by which we provide generation to the shelters. This coordination and cooperation is necessary because when we energize the generators we are basically spreading electricity to the utility's grid unless a short stop gap is in place. Chugach Electric and Municipal Light and Power wholeheartedly support our efforts and have given us their approval as long as we come up with protocols, which we are close to formalizing right now. This agreement saves us about one million dollars per school. We do, however, have a problem in the Eagle River area in that MEA has not approved the same procedures we have with ML&P and Chugach. If we do not come to an agreement with MEA it will result in a million dollar problem at the Chugiak High School site. There is no problem at Eagle River High School because this was taken into consideration during the design phase of that school. We are working with Eagle River Chamber of Commerce, as well as certain Assembly members, to try to find a way to convey to MEA that this is a community effort and would benefit the community should they allow us to do that. Mr. Vakalis introduced Mr. Mark Mew who is prepared to answer questions on the specifics of the program and the finite details.

Mr. Metcalfe requested a little more clarification on the problem with the utility company. Mr. Vakalis explained that a proposal was presented to Chugach, Municipal Light and Power, and MEA. The two Anchorage utilities, Chugach and ML&P, have signed off on it, but MEA has not. Mr. Vakalis noted that he has spoken to MEA's general manager in order to go through the whole process personally. He explained to the general manager why this is extremely important, not just to the School District, but to the community as a whole. He explained that the other the other two utilities have given their approval based on approved protocols as to how we would activate the generation and protect the rest of the grid. The general manager

basically indicated that the plan goes against MEA policy and that it would set a bad precedent and they were not interested. Mr. Metcalfe wondered if there were further steps to be taken in order to have MEA reconsider the proposal. Mr. Vakalas indicated that, with the assistance of the people he had previously mentioned and with some additional measures, MEA may have a second look at it.

Mr. Metcalfe requested clarification regarding intra- and inter-facility radios. Mr. Vakalis explained that there are there are two separate radio issues within the project. Regarding the inter-facility radios, the District was extremely concerned about making sure that we were in sync with the City when they convert their major radio system to a different type of system. The new system is a statewide effort including federal, local, and other responding agencies, to make sure that they can communicate with each other. The District has, in our CIP, put in a place holder for some money to purchase radios to replace the bigger brick radio sets currently in use. These replacements will need to be made in the 2007 time frame.

The intra-facility radios referenced in the memo are the radios approved by this Board to replace the tiny units purchased by individual principals, which did not meet FCC regulations. Those radios were fine for athletic and recreational activities but the FCC does not allow us to use that band width in real-world situations. As a result, a system has been developed using better, smaller, less expensive hand-held radios. These radios are in place at the schools for use on a day-to-day basis. They meet all the FCC licensing requirements and can be used without causing interference to inter-agencies' communications during emergencies. Our next hurdle is to replace the big radio system in the 2007 time frame.

Mr. Metcalfe questioned what the link with the MOA's radio conversion and the Alaska Land Mobile Radio initiative mentioned in the memo entails. Mr. Mew explained that the Municipality's radio system, on which we participate, is an 800 megahertz trunked radio system. We have 500 handsets on the City system. ALMR conceives that all local, state and federal agencies will have interoperable radios. The state and the DoD have decided to go with VHF. While this choice makes sense out in open country, the frequency is too low for urban use. Therefore the City is going to stay with a higher frequency system which will communicate with the state and federal solution via computerized translators. The Municipality will go to bond in 2006 to cover what hasn't already been covered through other grants to

expand the current system to become a narrow band digital system. When that conversion is made our existing radios will no longer be useful. The new radios we will need to link to the City will be very expensive. Many of the radios will be provided by the City but there is a chance that not all of them will be provided and would require us to seek our own funding, which is why the placeholder is in the CIP. Mr. Mew explained the importance not only having radio sets which have the technical ability to communicate but also having frequency and talk-group plans in place.

Mr. Steele voiced his appreciation to the administration in general and to Mr. Vakalis and Mr. Mew in particular for all of their efforts in putting this program in place. The timeliness of the report, given recent events in the Gulf, is also appreciated. Mr. Steele noted that the entire community is safer as a result of the efforts made to put this program in place. Mr. Roberts concurred with Mr. Steele.

Ms. Kennedy had a question regarding retro-fitting the fleet truck with the articulating arm and claw system. It was her understanding that once the containers were in place they would remain there. Mr. Vakalis explained that the plan calls for the ability to move containers to functioning shelters, should a shelter location be rendered non-operational or unsafe for occupation. In that way, if the students need to be relocated to another shelter, the supplies could be transferred to that location in support of those students. The vehicle was already being used in our fleet and simply has a multiple purpose now. Mr. Mew also noted that there is the possibility that a situation would occur were we might need to only open a few shelters but need them for a longer period of time. This truck will be the mechanism to move supplies to where they are needed.

Ms. Kennedy expressed her concern that the publicity piece of this process might be missing. She believes that parents may not be aware of all that is being done in terms of our emergency preparedness and feels that the administration should encourage schools to establish some means to get this information out to parents, suggesting that schools hold disaster awareness nights. She noted that providing this information would allay fears of what might happen in the case of a disaster. It would also provide valuable information to people who may be new to the area and unaware of the types of disasters we might experience here. Ms. Kennedy further noted that perhaps the most important thing we need to make parents aware of is the policies and procedures that we have in place for dealing with a disaster during a

school day. Parents need to know what procedures are in place to protect their children and also what process they will have to go through in order to get their child out of school. Ms Comeau agreed that it is critical to get this information out to the public. She indicated that she will be asking Mr. Mew to prepare a presentation for the principals and general leadership. She will then encourage the schools to hold some type of informational meetings for their parents. Mr. Mew noted that if we get the grant from the US Department of Education mentioned in the memo, significant media coverage will be generated.

Mr. Steiner expressed that it is fitting that we are talking about emergency preparedness now, given the news from the Gulf Coast. He also finds it timely as this topic is referenced in the teachers' contract. In the contract there is a very understandable clause which indicates that in the event of a natural disaster or catastrophic event only teachers who volunteer to do so will work beyond their normal duty day. Mr. Steiner hopes that we are doing some pro-active recruitment of volunteers to staff the facilities. Mr. Mew explained how staffing is incorporated into the crisis plans. He noted that the District will be sending school staff members to shelter management courses. Mr. Vakalis acknowledged that expecting emergency responders and others to show up in emergency situations to perform their duties has long been a problem. One of the best ways to circumvent that problem, or at least try to mitigate or alleviate it, is to encourage employees to have their own emergency plan for their families. All the documentation indicates that, in a crisis, an employee who knows that his family is taken care of is more likely to show up and do what is expected. So, it is extremely important that employers educate their employees as to how to personally prepare for disasters. Mr. Vakalis noted that the District has participated in a good program provided by the Red Cross on how to set up plans for educating employees. Mr. Vakalis added that it is difficult to keep people motivated to stay prepared and that you can never do enough of this type of education.

Mr. Steiner suggested that we broaden the recruitment of employees to man the shelters to include staff from facilities other than just the shelter location. He is pleased that this process will lead to this kind of discussion because he believes that we would benefit from having a list of staff who indicate, in advance, that they will provide coverage in emergencies.

Mr. Friedman questioned, in the absence of the grant, whether there has been much discussion of coordinating the use and sharing of resources with other entities such as the state and FEMA. Mr. Vakalis explained that the City does have a shelter task force of which he is a member. It is well accepted that, in the case of a major disaster, the District's twenty-one shelters will not be enough to satisfy the needs of this community. The City is actively engaged in the development of a shelter program. They are looking at numerous facilities and at funding sources.

Mr. Johnson voiced some concern that when the public is made aware of our preparation we may find ourselves the center of support for our communities. He applauded the District for making this a priority. We need to keep in mind that, if we are putting out the word about how prepared we are, we should expect that our schools will be collection points for individuals throughout the community.

Ms. Comeau stated that she is very pleased with where we are in this process. She thinks the foresight to take action when we conducted the audit several years ago, even though it was controversial at the time, has proven to be very positive. She applauded the work done by all involved. Mr. Vakalis noted that we do have an unfunded requirement, indicated in the memo, for approximately \$1.5 million. A recommendation is being worked on to address both the funding issue as well as a timeline. Mr. Mew commended the many other District employees who have worked diligently on this project.

Mr. Steiner voiced his agreement with Mr. Johnson's observations that our shelters may become collection points for individuals. He noted that FEMA does reimburse entities that provide aide. So, if we were able to care for the needs of the general public, we would expect some funding reimbursement to restore our supplies for future situations.

4. ASD Memorandum # 41 - Enrollment Status Update for FY 2005-2006

As of September 19, 2005, the tenth day of school, the Anchorage School District has achieved 100.3 percent of its September 30, 2005 projected membership. The September 19, 2005 total of 49,422 students is 133 students more than the September 30th projected of 49,289.

Ms. Comeau shared the enrollment status update. As of the fifteenth day of school we are up to 49,523 students. She is excited to see that we are growing again. This number is an update on the information

provided in ASD Memorandum #41. Mr. Steiner noted that we have a substantial increase above expectations for Special Education, Level 3 students. He questioned what effect that will have on budget expectations. Ms. Comeau explained that, if we can defend the Level 3 category, we will get the additional funding. This has huge implications for the staffing and training that is needed to support this student population. Mr. Sjolander noted that we have made a strong effort to see that the students in our IEP program are reported accurately. We have a significant number of new-to-the-District students whose information has not been put into the system because they still need an IEP meeting before the process can be completed and the numbers included in the count. Mr. Steiner noted that even with the additional funding for these students we spend more per student than funding provides because of the intensity of their needs which impacts other budget categories. Ms. Comeau noted that the other challenge is to lobby congress to fund the 40% that is in the law, and has been since 1975, for special education. This lack of funding really hurts our ability to provide the type of programs these children need and deserve, as well as taking resources away from our other students.

5. ASD Memorandum # 45 - 21st Century Community Learning Center 2004-2005 Year End Report

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) 2004-2005 Year End Report is the Anchorage School District (ASD) report to the School Board and the community on the achievement of the afterschool program.

6. ASD Memorandum # 34 - School Business Partnership Report 2004-2005

The Anchorage School Business Partnership (SBP) program continues its success story. Since 1991, the Anchorage School District (ASD) has enjoyed a unique positive working relationship between the education and business communities. SBP has over 400 Partnerships with ASD schools. Currently, 95 percent of District schools are active with at least one program.

Ms. Comeau introduced Jim Utter who is in attendance to give the end-of-year report from School Business Partnership. Mr. Utter reported that School Business Partnership is doing very well. They continue to move forward, involving lots of the business community and providing opportunities for students, schools and staff. Mr. Utter

noted that the Ambassador Program was started last year and has proven to be very successful. In addition a yearly electronic evaluation instrument was developed and some of the articles of incorporation were reorganized and changed. The web site continues to be developed. He reported that the focus this year is to continue to develop quality partnerships rather than quantity. Over the past year "paper-only" partnerships have been gleaned out of the program. It is the desire of School Business Partnerships to develop a three and a five year vision. He noted that collaborative programs have been developed with Success-By-Six, Spirit of Youth, and Junior Achievement. Mr. Utter reported that School Business Partnership received a substantial grant from GCI which allowed the hiring of an administrative assistant. Mr. Utter voiced his appreciation for the support from the Board and the administration.

Mary Marks commented that it was a great honor for her to have served as liaison for School Business Partnership and to have had the opportunity to bring organizations in as business partners for individual schools.

Mr. Roberts voiced his appreciation for what Mr. Utter and the rest of the School Business Partnership are doing for our schools. He also noted that he is looking forward to working more closely with the program as he takes over as liaison. Mr. Friedman added his thanks to Mr. Utter and to the School Business Partnership. He noted the Board's appreciation for the business community and the support they provide for the District and our students.

Mr. Metcalfe noted that, during the recent joint Assembly/School Board meeting, there was a big discussion on training and preparing kids for careers after high school. He believes that the School Business Partnership is an excellent opportunity for businesses to get involved with the schools to promote their own businesses and also to promote to students what it takes to work in the jobs within those businesses. This results in a win/win situation for the students, the schools, and the business community. He highly recommends that businesses throughout the community consider participating in the School Business Partnership program.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Metcalfe reported that he attended the recent NAACP banquet. The keynote speaker was Judge Mathis. He gave a tremendous speech on how well students doing, despite the lack of government attention to, and funding for, education.

Ms. Comeau noted that she was able to hear Judge Mathis speak at the Student Summit. Judge Mathis presented a powerful message to students about how important education is and how not to get caught up in pop culture that so easily takes kids off track. Ms. Comeau reported that we are trying to find out if his speech was taped because she would like to re-broadcast it on Channel 14.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of September 26, 2005, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:05 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

John Steiner, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved

