

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #145 (2005-2006)

December 12, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: JEFF FRIEDMAN, BOARD PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION AND CONTRACT
CHANGES: JANUARY 1, 2006 – DECEMBER 31, 2008

ASD Goal: Ensure public accountability through effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

The School Board met on December 1, 2005 to conduct the annual evaluation of Superintendent Carol Comeau. The School Board and Superintendent have agreed to extend her contract for one year to December 31, 2008. The contract specifies a salary of \$141,100 per year, effective January 1, 2006.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Board supports and applauds Superintendent Comeau's leadership at the local, state, and national levels. Her advocacy for education state-wide is an important component of advocating for Anchorage's students. Her willingness and ability to maintain strong communications and direct community engagement are among her most valuable strengths. Effective relations with District employees, a vast array of community groups, and government officials at all levels have made her a tremendous advocate for education.

At the conclusion of the December 1, 2005 meeting the School Board issued the attached press release regarding Superintendent Comeau. The Superintendent's new contract dated January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008 is also attached.

JF/rs

Attachments

Prepared/Approved by Jeff Friedman, President, Anchorage School Board

Press Release
December 1, 2005

**Superintendent Carol Comeau's
Evaluation and Contract Renewal**

Today, the **Anchorage School Board** conducted its annual evaluation of Superintendent **Carol Comeau**. The Board issues the following statement:

Superintendent Carol Comeau leads one of the largest organizations of any kind in the state, and one of the largest school districts in the nation. She is held accountable not only by the Board, but by the students, parents, and staff of the Anchorage School District, and by the Anchorage Community as a whole. Public education is challenged by increased demands and costs that are rising faster than funding. In the face of all of these demands, Carol Comeau does an exceptional job.

The Board supports and applauds Superintendent Comeau's leadership at the local, state, and national levels. Her advocacy for education state-wide is an important component of advocating for Anchorage's students. Her willingness and ability to maintain strong communications and direct community engagement are among her most valuable strengths. Effective relations with District employees, a vast array of community groups, and government officials at all levels have made her a tremendous advocate for education.

Running the Anchorage School District requires a strong leadership team, and the Board is pleased with the high quality team that Superintendent Comeau has put in place. Together, the Superintendent

and her key executives have the skills, abilities, and commitment to make significant improvements in student achievement within a safe, clean, modern, and efficiently run District.

Superintendent Comeau's outreach to students and to directors, principals, and staff at the building and department level is also noted and appreciated. Her willingness to listen to people throughout the district helps build support for her initiatives and makes her a more effective leader.

Some of the more significant achievements over the past year include: a 40% improvement in the number of schools making Adequate Yearly Progress as defined by state and federal regulations; an enlarged and improved summer school program; implementation of the Six Year Instructional Plan; and transitioning our High Schools into Smaller Learning Communities. While we still have areas in need of improvement, the Superintendent has committed to ever greater efforts to address those needs. It is important to recognize the steady progress the District has made under the Superintendent's leadership.

The Board also commends the Superintendent for asking it to adopt additional goals related to customer service and minority recruitment. District improvement in these areas is important to the District's goal of being accountable and to its mission of educating all students for success in life.

We are pleased with the continued high level of maintenance of our schools as well as with the quality of new school construction and renovation.

The Board also appreciates Superintendent Comeau's commitment to working collaboratively with the Board towards our common goals. She has inspired each of us to set high expectations for ourselves as well as for the District.

Superintendent Comeau's high standards of ethical leadership and her positive national and statewide reputation are a point of pride and a great asset to the District and the community. The Anchorage School District and the wider Anchorage Community is fortunate to benefit from Superintendent Carol Comeau's leadership, honesty, competence, dedication, and enthusiasm.

We believe Superintendent Comeau's strong and effective performance deserves recognition in her contract. The Board and Superintendent have agreed to extend her contract for one year to December 31, 2008. The contract also includes a 3% salary increase, which brings her total salary to \$141,100 per year, effective January 1, 2006.