

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #310 (2005-2006)

June 12, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END OF YEAR REPORT FOR FY 2005-2006:
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL

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

PERTINENT FACTS:

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

“The charter school will be subject to review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the Academic Policy Committee will submit a concise written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include, but is not limited to, information of the attainment of student performance expectations, including copies of the Terra Nova and Benchmark reports; recommendations for remediation of poor student performance; school goal attainment; trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility; an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures; minutes of the meetings of the governing body of the charter school; descriptions of charter school activities; copies of any leases signed by the charter school; current bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee; notification of establishment of non-profit 501 (c) (3) status; list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization; any changes in facility location; any major changes planned for the following school year; a list of the Academic policy Committee for the past and coming school year, including officers, and staff members by position; a list of employees and job titles; and other information requested by the School Board.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Family Partnership Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Family Partnership Charter School has had a very successful year. Reed Whitmore, principal, the Academic Policy Committee, and the Family Partnership office staff have worked to create an atmosphere of professional support and academic excellence for home-schooled students and their families. Enrollment remains stable with some increase expected next year. The school's online system is continually improved and refined. Added features include real time interfacing with families and the FPCS staff with regard to their budgets. Families will be able to know how much is available, has been spent and is remaining at all times. The same conditions are also available to the many vendors that work with families at the school. By July, there will be an online inventory so that families know what they have and what is available from the online resource inventory. All these improvements have helped to make FPCS a user friendly and very competitive home school program. Connie Bensler, the Anchorage School District Charter School Liaison, has worked closely with the administration and Academic Policy Committee of this school. Ms. Bensler attended APC monthly meetings and provided assistance to these groups in working within the confines of the Anchorage School District and Charter School rules and regulations.

The intent of this particular charter is to provide an opportunity for a partnership between home-schooling parents and the Anchorage School District in order to give students an opportunity to have some of their education provided in a home school situation, by certificated teachers in the ASD in classrooms, or in small group instruction after regular school hours. The Individual Learning Plan (ILP) continues to be improved and simplified in its online form. It is parent friendly and efficient. Accountability is a key component of the school, stressed both by the school personnel and sponsor teachers. The Academic Policy Committee constantly monitors its policies for improvement in this area. They are committed to giving Anchorage students a choice that comes through with high standards and individualized learning

This unique school combines the structure of the Anchorage School District in the larger arenas of standardized testing and high school graduation requirements with the home school philosophy of individualized learning. The school's goals continue to include more participation by their students in the Districtwide testing. There is an on-going discussion as to how to impress upon the parents the importance of participating in this high stakes testing.

Currently, there is a strong sense of purpose and unity among the Family Partnership Community. The Academic Policy Committee is committed to keeping the school on the right track with curricular decisions, finding a balance of maximizing student funding while providing adequate funding for the infrastructure of the school, and working with the Anchorage School District as partners in the education of their students. The principal has worked effectively in bringing to the school a vision of success and hope that permeates throughout the school. It is a pleasure working with the staff and parents of the school. The District is very proud to have this charter school as part of the Anchorage School District and looks forward to another successful school year next year.

CC/RG/CB/mlh

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Charter School Liaison

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction