

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #311 (2005-2006)

June 12, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END OF YEAR REPORT FOR FY 2005-2006:  
FRONTIER 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 Frontier 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.

Frontier Charter School has had a successful third year as a charter school in the Anchorage School District. Tim Scott, principal, the Academic Policy Committee, and the Frontier office staff continue to work to create a school of excellence for home schooled students and their families. Again, through the school’s hard work and excellence, there is an assumption that the school will increase in size next year. The cornerstone to the school’s philosophy lies in a free individualized learning profile that includes diagnostic achievement testing, cognitive evaluations and ongoing parent training opportunities. The school community relies heavily on technology to communicate, evaluate, and participate in all aspects of the school. Connie Bensler, the District’s Liaison to Frontier Charter School, has attended the meetings of their Academic Policy Committee, made up of parents and staff. There is a good working relationship between Ms. Bensler and the Academic Policy Committee.

Frontier Charter School emphasizes customer service for its school community. This has been a successful effort with a satisfaction survey showing a high regard for the office staff and the services they provide. The Academic Policy Committee is committed to supplying the financial support needed for further development of existing electronic communication, scheduling, assessment, and procurement procedures. Since this is a home school program, continued emphasis on these developments are critical to the success of the program. A goal this past year was to create and make available an online standards identifier. This goal has been achieved. The program is now up and running for the Frontier community.

Students at Frontier participated in both the SBA’s and Terra Nova testing at a rate of 97 percent. This is an excellent effort on the part of the Frontier staff and an acknowledgement on the part of the Frontier parents as to the importance of participating in this testing. There is a continuing discussion of remediation activities that look at a student’s profile and his/her assessment results, and then recommend tutoring when appropriate. Frontier employs a full-time tutor who is available at the Frontier office daily. Math remediation will be emphasized, but all areas will be available for tutoring. Frontier is developing Student Aptitude Learning Tracking Tool (SALTT), software that takes data from students and puts together information that addresses an individual student’s

academic and career opportunities and makes these available on line. When completed, SALTT will be an online counseling arm of the school.

Frontier Charter School students participate in many activities available to all students in the Anchorage School District. They compete in athletics, participate in musical performances and attend university courses as part of their regular day. The family is the cornerstone of the school; parents take seriously their roles as the primary instructors of their children, but are not shy about tapping the community for additional resources to enrich their children's educational experience.

It is a pleasure for the Anchorage School District administration to work with Mr. Scott, the Academic Policy Committee and Frontier staff. The school has done well and is certainly on its way to a successful first ten years as a charter school.

CC/RG/CB/mlh

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Charter School Liaison

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction