

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2005

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, August 15, 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 Macon Roberts.

Board Members Excused: Jake Metcalfe

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

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Steiner requested that the minutes of Regular Board Meetings dated May 9, 2005, June 13, 2005, and June 27, 2005 be pulled for minor revisions.

Mr. Friedman noted that there were revisions to ASD Memorandum #28 and, under the Superintendent's Report, ASD Memorandum #3 and ASD Memorandum #9. Mr. Steiner requested an explanation of what had been revised on these three memos.

Carol Comeau asked Jerry Sjolander to explain the revisions to Memorandum #28, Approval of Lease for Special Education preschool Assessment and Care Team. Mr. Sjolander noted that the cost of the lease had been revised. Mr. Vakalis addressed the changes on Memorandum #9, Facility Change Order and Completed Projects Report for June and July 2005. Mr. Amsden reported that there was a data entry error on pages 3, 4, and 5 under the calculations for A, B, C, and changes. The numbers reported were all identical on the original version but have been correctly calculated on the revised version. Mr. Vakalis explained the change on Memorandum #3, Conflict of Interest - Fourth Quarter Report FY 2004-2005 noting that the change simply entailed a correction in the

body of the memo as to which quarter was being reported. Mr. Steiner requested Memorandum #28 be pulled for discussion.

The Agenda, as amended, was unanimously approved.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Steiner reported that he had the honor of representing the Board at the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce's Bear Paw Festival. He teamed up with a student from Chugiak High School in the Slippery Salmon Derby and took second place in the Derby. He reported that it was a great time and a fund raiser for the Chamber.

Tim Steele reported that he spent some time in Dutch Harbor with the Alaska Association of School Boards' Board of Directors in July. They had a two-day meeting during which they were able to tour the area and get a look at their new schools and recreational facilities. During the business meeting they reviewed the resolutions that the Association of School Boards will be presenting to next year's legislative session. Mr. Steele noted that those resolutions have been modified from when we saw them and are back to us. The Legislative Sub-Committee will be working on the AASB Resolutions for School Board approval next month.

Mary Marks announced that the Policy Sub-Committee will not be meeting this month. The meeting will be rescheduled. Ms. Marks announced the 2005 Fall Boardsmanship Academy will be held in Anchorage on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Captain Cook. Ms. Marks commended the Board President for staying on task with the Board of *Our Healthy Futures*.

Carol Comeau introduced the new School Board Secretary, Johanna Lee. Ms. Comeau also introduced our new controller, Joann Spring and our new Executive Director for Middle Schools, Leslie Vandergaw.

Carol Comeau reported on the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) Press Conference on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. She explained that, following the release of the statewide AYP results Friday morning, the District announced and celebrated the incredible work that our teachers, principals, assistant principals, support staff, the students and families did to achieve such positive results. Charts which highlight the three year progress as to how we are doing and how we are progressing with AYP are on display. Ms. Comeau explained that one of the charts is a replication of an advertisement in the Anchorage Daily News which lists

every school and all of the thirty-one categories which must be met in order to meet AYP. We have twenty-one Title I schools, which are schools for students from lower socio-economic homes and receive extra funding through Title I to make up some of that disparity. Three years ago, when we started with the No Child Left Behind and accountability, only three Title I schools made adequate yearly progress. This year seventeen of those schools made adequate yearly progress. Ms. Comeau considers this a tribute to the efforts of the entire school community and the staff at those schools. The press conference on Friday was a tremendous celebration of the AYP results.

Crystal Kennedy announced that we have a new high school opening this fall. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at noon for the new Eagle River High School. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be a shuttle bus running from Lions Park in Eagle River to the school for the public's convenience.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Ralph Feriani reported that there was no meeting during the summer. The next meeting of the Student Advisory Board has not yet been scheduled.

2. Military Delegate

LTC David Jones voiced his excitement about the opening of the new Eagle River High School. There will be a lot of Fort Richardson kids attending the school. LTC Jones reported that there will be several hundred soldiers deploying from Ft. Richardson over the next few weeks. He requested that we make our teachers and administrators aware of this from the very beginning of the school year and to be watching for issues that might arise in relation to those deployments. LTC Jones requested that he be notified if problems are identified so that he can work through the Army's Children's Services program so that those children can receive whatever assistance they need.

LTC Jones reported that the American Heart Association has their annual Heart Walk on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Michelle Sanford is the point of contact for flyers and additional information.

3. M.E.C.C.

William Johnson reported that the MECC's monthly business meeting has been rescheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> at noon in Room 320. The MECC would like to present their end of the year report at the first September Board Meeting. The MECC is in the process of interviewing new members and Mr. Johnson hopes to present them at his end of year report. Mr. Johnson noted that the committee would like to acknowledge everyone's hard work and effort involved in the federally mandated AYP requirement.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mary Unsell identified herself as a former School Camper Host at Campbell Elementary for two years. She and her husband had reapplied but were not accepted back this summer. Ms. Unsell voiced her unhappiness at not being rehired and her feelings of being unappreciated by the District. She requested an explanation and an apology. She indicated that she had sent a letter and had not received a reply.

Ms. Comeau explained that she had received Ms. Unsell's letter and had forwarded it to Mr. Mew, who is in charge of the Camper Host Program. It is Ms. Comeau's intention to follow-up with Ms. Unsell in writing after she has had the opportunity to talk with Mr. Mew. Ms. Comeau further indicated that she would call Ms. Unsell at that time.

Mr. Steiner noted that, while the Board does not have the specifics about this particular case, the Camper Host Program has been a wonderful program. Despite the concerns here, Mr. Steiner voiced his appreciation for the speaker's willingness to provide that service to the District.

Ms. Kennedy added that she also feels that the Camper Host Program is an important and effective program and she is glad that there are people who are willing to provide this kind of service. She noted that the Camper Hosts, in some cases, even put themselves and their property at risk. In response to Ms. Unsell's remarks, Ms. Kennedy voiced her concern with the hosts going into the school to get kids out of the building. Ms. Kennedy wondered if there are certain policies and training for the Camper Hosts to follow that would tell them things to do or not to

do in those kinds of situations. She requested that the Board receive some type of briefing on what being a Camper Host entails. It seemed to Ms. Kennedy that there might be an issue of liability if Camper Hosts are trying to intervene in situations that should be left to the police. Ms. Comeau will ask Mr. Mew to put together a brief report for the Board.

Lisa Johnson introduced herself as a parent and a fifth grade teacher at Northern Lights ABC. Ms. Johnson wanted to share her feelings about how the contract negotiations have impacted her. She feels that she is no longer a valued part of the ASD team and that, through the negotiation process, her dedication and commitment to her job has somehow been marginalized into just numbers. Ms. Johnson wants the School Board to realize that, when they are looking at budget numbers, they are looking at teachers who are dedicated, committed and often spend their own money to compensate for what is missing in their classrooms. Ms. Johnson does not feel that asking for compensation which meets cost of living is unreasonable.

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. Regular Meeting - May 9, 2005 6:30 p.m.
- b. Special Meeting - June 13, 2005 4:30 p.m.
- c. Regular Meeting - June 13, 2005 6:30 p.m.
- d. Special Meeting - June 27, 2005 4:30 p.m.
- e. Regular Meeting - June 27, 2005 6:30 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum # 7 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Teamsters Local 959 Covering Warehouse and Maintenance Employees 2005-2008

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and Teamsters Local 959 which will establish terms and conditions of employment for Warehouse and Maintenance employees during the period between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2008.

3. ASD Memorandum # 8 - Acceptance of Continuing Grant Award: Governor's Grant For Drug and Violence Prevention

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$39,335 for the second year of a three-year grant period. This project continues and expands a partnership between the Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Police Department for alcohol/drug and violence prevention and early intervention.

4. ASD Memorandum # 10 - Acceptance of Grant Award: McLaughlin Bus Shelter Project

It is recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award for McLaughlin High School from the Municipality of Anchorage in the amount of \$31,900. These funds will be used for the McLaughlin Youth Center Bus Shelter Project.

5. ASD Memorandum # 26 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Crossroads Smart Families Initiative

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$52,889 for a partnership program in parenting at Crossroads School.

6. ASD Memorandum # 25 - Approval of Lease for Special Education ACT Program

It is recommended that the District lease space for the Adult Community Transition Program (ACT) in the Mental Health Trust facility across the street from Whaley School. The lease would be funded through the federal Title VI-B grant.

7. ASD Memorandum # 28 - Approval of Lease for Special Education Preschool Assessment and Care Team

It is recommended that the space formerly occupied by Village Charter School at 3020 Minnesota Boulevard be leased for additional classroom space for Mt. Iliamna preschool classes. The lease would be funded through the Federal Title VI-B grant.

8. ASD Memorandum # 4 - Approval of School Board Out-of-State Travel for First Quarter 2005-2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the attached School Board Out-of-State Travel Report.

9. ASD Memorandum # 1 - Personnel Report

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

The following items were removed from the Agenda: The minutes of Regular Meetings dated May 9, 2005, June 13, 2005, and June 27, 2005; and ASD Memorandum #28.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele	to approve the minutes of Special Meeting June 13, 2005 and Special Meeting June 27, 2005; and ASD Memoranda # 7, # 8, # 10, # 26, #25, # 4, and # 1.
seconded by: Crystal Kennedy	

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,  
Friedman, Steiner, Roberts  
Nays: None  
Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Friedman noted that ASD Memorandum #7 was the Teamsters contract for the next three years. He voiced his appreciation for the Teamsters union members and all they do for the District. Ms. Comeau added that the Teamsters have been working very hard this summer getting all of the construction and major maintenance projects dealt with. They continue to work hard to meet the timelines to get our schools up and running. She reiterated that these folks do work incredibly hard and that we really do appreciate all of their work.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner	to approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting May 9, 2005 with the following correction on page 8, the first paragraph: John Steiner commented
seconded by: Crystal Kennedy	

that he has a daughter who spent two years as a brand new teacher, **inserting the words “in a district out of state”**, and did not have a good mentor-mentee connection.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
seconded by: Tim Steele

to approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting June 13, 2005 with the following two corrections: on page 13, the second full paragraph **change the word “business” to “busing”**; on page 19, the second sentence of the second full paragraph: He suggested the design firm **add the words “having received favorable publicity for its innovative work for this project be asked to”** come back to help with the noise problems.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

to approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting June 27, 2005 with the following change: on page 21, the third full paragraph **change the last line to read “Mr. Steiner stated that he believes the superintendent looked very hard at what to restore or add to**

**best increase achievement and reduce the achievement gap and he supports the changes for that reason”.**

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 28 - Approval of Lease for Special Education Preschool Assessment and Care Team

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
seconded by: Macon Roberts

that the School Board approve that the space formally occupied by Village Charter School at 3020 Minnesota Boulevard be leased for additional classroom space for Mt. Iliamna preschool classes. The lease would be funded through the Federal Title VI-B grant.

Mr. Steiner would like to explore the issue of the need for the space so that the Board understands that this is a one-year lease and that the District is looking for a way to not have to use the space next year. Ms. Comeau explained that the early elementary classes were moved out of Whaley School because we believe that we need to make that separation. Last year we had kindergarten through third grade classes at Mt. Iliamna on Elemendorf and this year we are adding fourth grade. The space that the Care Team and Assessment Team were occupying at Mt. Iliamna was classroom space and we now need that space to serve as classrooms. The District was able to identify a few elementary schools for most of the preschool classes but there was not a block of rooms available in any school to house all the staff for the preschool assessment. Ms. Comeau explained that the requirement under Child Find, is that, as a child turns three they are brought in and assessed in a full team approach. Therefore, they need a block of space that is easily accessible to families. She asked Mr. Sjolander to share what the District is looking at in the future as space might become available with boundary changes and construction relocatables.

Mr. Sjolander added that the staff impacted by this lease was not only utilizing space at Mt. Iliamna, but also space at Chester Valley. He reported that three preschool classes were moved into the classrooms at Chester Valley that the staff had been utilizing there. Mr. Sjolander went on to explain that there are close to thirty staff members affected. The Care Team, who are teachers and speech therapists, go out to serve students in our private preschool classes. He noted that we have 26 Memoranda of Agreements with our private preschools. The Care Team members are itinerant so they need a home base for material storage and access to the district network and IEP program. The Assessment Teams account for the other half of the affected staff. These teams conduct "Arena Assessments", which are assessments by a team of professionals including a preschool teacher, a speech therapist and occasionally an occupational therapist to determine eligibility. These assessments are conducted throughout the year. In addition to this, we will also use this location to conduct "Child Check" which is an initial screening process that is conducted throughout the year. Mr. Sjolander explained that we are talking about a total of six to seven classrooms that are needed. A review of the space situation with Elementary Education indicated that there is not a school that can release that block of space. Mr. Sjolander indicated that they will continue to look at space for the coming year. We do know that, with some of our construction projects, eventually some of our relocatables will be freed up, but none are available this year.

Mr. Steiner requested information on the source of the money for the lease and what process was used to select the location. Ms. Comeau noted that the money comes from the Federal Title VI-B grant. Ms. Chenier explained that the process that we used for this was somewhat less than conventional. This was because we were under time constraints as well as having an E1 requirement for the students and the size of the space needed. We knew, as mentioned by Mr. Sjolander, that no space was available in the Elementary Schools and we were aware that the Village Charter space was E1 rated. We approached the lessor to rent the space. Ms. Comeau added that one of the considerations was that the space be linked into the District's network, which the Village Charter space is, which would save time and, probably, funds.

Mr. Steiner wondered what the policy and dollar threshold are for doing some kind of a public advertisement for needed space. It sounded to him that there could be an argument for a sole source selection given the requirements needed and the time frame constraints. Ms. Chenier indicated that we basically did go through a sole source process. She explained that the requirements that we have for leasing follow the state requirements, which is leasing space over 3000 sq. ft. Ms. Chenier noted that, when we originally looked at this space it was for a much smaller area, just for the preschool assessments. Other needs were added in to that over time.

In response to a question from Mr. Steiner, Ms. Chenier reported that the space in question is 8300 sq. ft. at roughly 1.60 per sq. ft., which is below market rate. Mr. Vakalis further noted that it is the same space and the same rate that the District had contracted for Village Charter and includes everything but janitorial services. He also reiterated how important it is that the space already be classified as E1, because there is time to bring space up to that standard. Mr. Steiner requested clarification that there had been no public advertising done, which was confirmed.

Mr. Steele stated that he realized there were some access issues and, perhaps, central location issues with Kennedy but wondered if that space had been considered. He noted that, with a short-term lease, we have been able to work out agreements with the military for space. Ms. Comeau explained that the District had already agreed to allow Ft. Richardson to use Kennedy this year for their after-school program, so it was not available.

Mr. Roberts indicated that he is familiar with the Village Charter building and feels that this is a good opportunity to use it. Mr. Macon requested clarification on the length of the lease and the future needs of this program. Mr. Sjolander explained that each spring the administration looks at the availability of the relocatable classrooms and their placement based on the construction projects for the coming year. In addition, we compare needs across the district when determining how those classrooms will be used in the following year.

Responding to the earlier question in relation to the source of the money, Mr. Sjolander explained that there was a slight increase in the Title VI-B funds for this year, around \$600,000 or about .5 percent. He noted that, when we get an increase or have any carry over in that grant, we distribute the funds toward additional supplies, equipment, travel, and training. So, in order to find the allocation for this lease, we had to trim back in some of those areas. Mr. Steiner questioned whether the additional funds were assumed in the budget when it was passed last year or were they supplemental to the budget. Mr. Sjolander explained that the grant budget that was passed in the spring was \$10.5 million and the award through the state will be about \$600,000 more than that.

Ms. Marks questioned whether the space meets the fire codes as is mentioned in the memorandum. Ms. Comeau explained that the fire inspector has been in the building several times since Village Charter School first occupied the space and it definitely meets the code.

Ms. Marks questioned whether the number of students in our preschool program is still increasing. Mr. Sjolander confirmed this. He further explained that they

have focused on eliminating wait time for our assessments so that those students who are eligible are able to enter services right at their third birthday.

Mr. Steiner questioned when the site was selected and what efforts were made to determine whether there were alternatives. Ms. Chenier explained the site had been selected 30 to 45 days ago. She outlined the efforts made and the alternative sites looked at prior to making this site selection. The E1 rating requirement had a significant impact on whether the sites being considered were viable alternatives. Mr. Steiner noted his concern that we may not have followed the Board policy in making this selection. He feels that there was adequate time to publicly advertise for the needed space. He does not have a concern with the end result, but is troubled by the process. Without going back and looking at the policy, Mr. Steiner stated that he probably would not be able to support this memorandum.

Mr. Roberts voiced his respectful disagreement with Mr. Steiner. Mr. Roberts felt that the practical and prudent thing has been done in this situation. He does not see any violations. Mr. Roberts explained that he is familiar with the building, the rating requirements, and the price paid for the lease. Mr. Roberts went on to applaud the staff for prudently moving to secure this available facility that fits the needs of the Special Education Program for this year. While he respects Mr. Steiner's opinion, he believes the process taken in securing the location was up front and done in a timely manner. Mr. Roberts feels that if Mr. Steiner's suggested course of action had been taken several things would have happened, not the least of which would have been added cost to the District and the risk of not being able to meet the needs of the students.

Mr. Steiner reiterated that his concern is a matter of process. If this is the best site and the most cost efficient site, we would have still gotten to it but we would have done it under proper procedures. He does not believe that it would have cost the District any more than the additional advertising cost.

Ms. Comeau assured the Board that she would review the policy and see if it is, in fact, as Mr. Steiner stated. She indicated that she and Ms. Chenier will make sure Board policy is being followed.

As there remains a question as to whether the lease followed Board policy, Ms. Comeau requested that the Board table this memorandum until the next meeting, August 22, 2005. In the meantime the policy can be reviewed and the memorandum presented with assurance that Board policy has been followed.

MOTION TO POSTPONE:

Moved by: John Steiner  
seconded by: Tim Steele

that action on ASD Memorandum #28  
be postponed until the next meeting of  
the Board, September 22, 2005.

VOTE:

Ayes: Kennedy, Steele, Friedman,  
Steiner, Roberts

Nays: Marks

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #2 Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of June 15, 2005 through July 22, 2005.

2. ASD Memorandum #9 – Facility Change Order and Completed Projects Report for the Month of June and July 2005

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

3. ASD Memorandum #3 – Conflict of Interest: Fourth Quarter Report FY 2004-2005

The attached listing of employee Conflict of Interest Waiver and Disclosure actions is forwarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.44. This information is provided as the fourth quarter report for the FY 2004-2005 school year.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Steiner added a comment regarding our progress under AYP. He feels that special notice should be given to the “disappearing dots”. He explained that the dots on the bar chart are indicative of the various categories which must be met in order for a school to be considered “passing”. He recalled previous years results and how many more

categories were marked as “out of compliance”. Mr. Steiner noted that the schools which haven’t yet made it are a lot closer than they were and are really on their way to success. Mr. Steiner congratulated the principals, the teachers, the staff and the students for making the kind of progress that they have made.

Mr. Roberts recalled that, at the AYP press conference, several speakers at the press conference explained that schools who fell short by just one point are not failing schools. He noted that we have come a long way since this time last year, significantly reducing the number of schools not meeting AYP. We still have ways to go, but Mr. Roberts expressed no doubt that, with the momentum going the way it is, we will be applauding even more progress this time next year.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION -PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS  
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of August 15, 2005, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:35 p.m.

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Jeff Friedman, President

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John Steiner, Clerk

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Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved