

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 22, 2005

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, August 22, 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, Jake Metcalfe, and Macon Roberts.

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, Michelle Egan, Larry Wiget, LTC David Jones, William Johnson, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Comeau announced that high school registration is going on throughout this week. Students are continuing to come in to the Elementary and Middle schools to register. She encouraged any students who have not yet registered for school to do so as soon as possible.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Feriani had no report from the Student Advisory Board.

2. Military Delegate

LTC Jones had no report.

3. M.E.C.C.

Mr. Johnson reports that the MECC is still in the process of having rounds of interviews for new members. One round has been completed and another is planned before the September Board meetings. The next MECC business meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 25th at 12:00 in the third floor conference room. As always, the public is welcome.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Constance Carlisle introduced herself as an employee with more than twelve years in the District. She spoke on behalf of Alaska Scholarship Portfolios (ASP). ASP is a business which was developed by Ms. Carlisle to assist students in the completion of their scholarship portfolios. The business is particularly targeted to assist those students whose busy schedules do not allow them adequate time to complete their portfolios in a manner which would make them most competitive for available scholarships. It is her hope that she will be approved as a vendor in order to make the information about the business available to all students in the District. Ms. Carlisle indicated that Alaska Scholarship Portfolios has a website at www.alaskascholarshipfolders.com. Ms. Comeau explained that Ms. Chenier, our Director of Purchasing has been made aware of this request for vendor status and will be in touch with Ms. Carlisle so that she will know how to proceed.

Sara Grosshuesch introduced herself as a Biology teacher at South Anchorage High School, FASD Core Team Specialist for the District and secretary for the AEA. Ms. Grosshuesch read an excerpt from a letter to the editor, written by Jake Metcalfe and published on the Alaska Democrat's website. The letter affirms the protection of middleclass values like good paying jobs, fair healthcare and retirement benefits. Ms. Grosshuesch urged the Board to stand up for these same values and requested a response from the Board on this request. Mr. Friedman explained that the Board's response is from the negotiating team through the negotiations.

Kim Meck introduced herself as a second-grade teacher, an AEA Board member and an ASD employee since 1998. Ms. Meck requested that the Board focus on hiring and retaining quality teachers. She referenced an article from an August 12, 2005, USA Today. This article indicated that Alaskan teachers have lost the greatest percentage in salaries over the last

ten years. Ms. Meck believes that it is this kind of information that has put us into a situation where we can not get enough teachers here. She believes that this Board, because of the size of ASD, has the ability to change this statistic. Ms. Meck believes that our kids, our city, our future depends on the quality teachers we attract and retain today and she believes that the burden to make this happen rests with the Board.

Dagmar Phillips, a teacher in the District with 13 years experience, addressed the Board. She began by referencing an Anchorage Daily News article, co-written by Carol Comeau, on how homelessness affects our city's children. Ms. Phillips compared the cost of housing and teacher salaries. She also presented a comparison between 1993/1994 and current teacher salaries. Based on these comparisons, Ms. Phillips reports that teachers have lost ground over the past years. According to her information, she feels that ASD teachers are not even earning a living wage. Ms. Phillips further referenced a flyer from the Murkowski Administration which explained that, from 1999 to projected 2006, there was increase in education funding in Alaska. She questioned what is happening to the money, as she feels that the increase is not reflected in the proposed ASD contract offer. Ms. Phillips asked the Board to consider these facts and stated that she hopes that the teachers will not settle for what she considers sub-standard wages.

Thomas Pease introduced himself as an elementary school teacher in the Anchorage School District. He began by acknowledging that labor negotiations are never easy and voiced his appreciation to the Board for their willingness to hear from the employees most affected by a new contract. Mr. Pease stated that the contract proposal hinges on the two most important and most costly issues, salary and medical benefits. He commended the District for increasing medical contributions and offering 2.5% raises, noting that, at first glance, the offer looks pretty good. He believes, however, that increased medical premiums will erode most of the salary increases. Mr. Pease proposed that the solution to this problem is for ASD to pay a percentage of teachers' medical premiums, thereby preserving most of the raise the teachers are being offered. He further believes that if other districts can afford this, then so can ASD. He questioned why ASD, the largest school district in the state with the largest tax base in the state, can't pay its' teachers a competitive salary? He concluded that he believes that the latest ASD proposal is not the fair and competitive contract that ASD teachers seek. He suggested that this Board and the ASD administration offer percentage payments for medical premiums which will make ASD more competitive with other districts and will lend credence to the raises being offered to its' teachers.

Beth Lynch introduced herself as a fifteen-year District employee and an AEA Board member. She reported that she is astounded that we were unable to reach a settlement. For her, the entire negotiation process boils down to adequate compensation for professionals. She referred to recent remarks on the news from Mrs. Comeau regarding the potential consequences should a strike occur, particularly the loss and hardship on students, specifically in light of the high stakes testing. Ms. Lynch suggested that these aren't high stakes tests for students, they are high stakes tests for the District and are tied to funding. It is her belief that the most important component in the education of our students are the educators and, as such, they should be compensated. She feels that, if the District wants adequate yearly progress they must entice and retain quality teachers. Ms. Lynch noted that there are teachers in the District that are not certified. She feels that this is the result of not being able to fill positions because teachers are not getting the compensation they rightly deserve.

Ms. Lynch questioned the accuracy of a rumor that the District sent a team to Korea to recruit teachers. Ms. Comeau responded that we do have some special education teacher candidates from the Phillipines. She is not sure about any recruitment efforts in Korea, but that she would find out and get back to Ms. Lynch.

Ms. Lynch continued her presentation by voicing her interpretation of the difference between the last best offers of the District and the AEA. She believes that the discrepancy in the figures is a consequence of the "me-too" clauses in other contracts. She considers that these clauses might be a noble and humanitarian gesture on the part of the District but are of no consequence to the AEA as they negotiate their own contract. She feels that the teachers are trying to recap some of the losses they have experienced over the last ten years. She stated that, by her understanding, the first years' cost for the AEA proposal is actually 5.9% of the current budget proposal and she believes that that is quite reasonable. Ms. Lynch thinks that the Board should consider the offer as a reasonable increase in light of the losses and the freezes that have occurred for the teachers in this district. She further encouraged the Board to encourage the ASD negotiating team to go back to the table to work with the AEA. Mr. Friedman stated that the District is certainly able and willing to come back to the table any day that it can be scheduled. He indicated that we are certainly not done talking if the union wants to talk.

Jim Rehmann introduced himself as a proud 12-year veteran of the Anchorage School District, currently assigned at Stellar Secondary School and a retired Anchorage police officer. Mr. Rehmann believes that comments attributed to the superintendent makes it sound as though the Board wants to force teachers into a strike. Mr. Rehmann noted that, during negotiations it was denied that AEA health insurance waiver monies would be used to offset the increased cost for other bargaining units. He believes that, if the District had not added those "me-too" clauses to other bargaining units after June 30th of this year, there would be at least that 7.5 million available to settle this AEA contract.

Rich Kronberg, President of the Anchorage Education Association, began his presentation by requesting that the Board focus on what they have heard this evening from AEA members. He expressed his disappointment that we have not reached agreement on a contract when we were so close. He expected that the Board members would focus on the District's core mission - to educate students for success in life. He believes that it will take a quality teacher in every classroom to achieve that goal. He indicated that it is common knowledge that, along with parents, teachers are the single most important ingredient in student achievement, stating that the research is indisputable - good teachers matter. He believes that this district is having problems in attracting and retaining quality teachers because we are not offering competitive compensation. He urged the Board, as a matter of policy, to determine that a competitive contract that allows the District to attract and retain quality teachers is absolutely vital to meeting its core mission.

Mr. Friedman recognized and welcomed Assembly member Dick Traini who is in attendance this evening.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum # 12 - 2005 Charitable Giving Campaign

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the inclusion of United Way of Anchorage and Alaska Community Share and their member agencies as shown in Attachments A and B in the District's 2005 Charitable Giving Campaign.

2. ASD Memorandum # 30 - A Resolution Regarding The Sale Of Methamphetamine Precursor Drugs Within The Municipality Of Anchorage

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution supporting restricting the sale of methamphetamine precursor drugs within the Municipality of Anchorage and establishing a methamphetamine watch program.

3. ASD Memorandum # 13 - Appropriation of State of Alaska Legislative Grant Funds Senate Bill 46

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept from the State of Alaska grant appropriations funded by Senate Bill No. 46 in the total amount of \$1,234,000.

4. ASD Memorandum # 14 - Alaska Department of Education and Early Development FY 2007 Grant Applications

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the following projects to the State of Alaska, Department of Education and Early Development (EED) by September 1, 2005, for the FY2007 Capital Improvement Project grants program.

5. ASD Memorandum # 6 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Comprehensive Behavioral Health Prevention And Early Intervention Service Funds 2005-2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a two-part grant award from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$148,945.

6. ASD Memorandum # 15 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Department of Education and Early Development Alaska Family Directory Website

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) for \$22,150. Funds will support the expansion and maintenance of the

Alaska Family Directory website and a statewide e-newsletter developed and published by the STeP Center.

7. ASD Memorandum # 16 - Acceptance of Grant Award: State of Alaska WIA In-School and Out-of-School Youth Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the State of Alaska, Workforce Investment Act Youth Program, in the amount of \$99,646. This ongoing program is designed to reduce the dropout rate of at-risk youth and to increase opportunities to obtain postsecondary training and careers upon graduation.

8. ASD Memorandum # 29 - Approval of Temporary Elmendorf School Boundary Adjustments

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the following temporary attendance boundary for the 2005-06 school year for the Moose Crossing subdivision of Elmendorf Air Force Base (EAFB).

All housing areas on the Base have an assigned school with the exception of the new housing area, Moose Crossing. EAFB elementary students who move to housing areas where the boundaries are already set will attend the school for that area. Students currently enrolled in the District who are moving to Moose Crossing will attend the school they attended last year. New to the District students will attend Orion Elementary School as long as there is adequate space. If Orion Elementary reaches capacity, other schools on Base will be utilized.

9. ASD Memorandum # 28 - Approval of Lease for Special Education Preschool Assessment and Care Team (Second Reading)

It is recommended that the Board approve a lease for the Special Education Preschool and Assessment and CARE Team to EHESE Investments LLC in an amount not to exceed \$158,000 for a one-year period with options to renew for four (4) additional one-year periods to include annual rent adjustments.

10. ASD Memorandum # 5 - Approval of Schematic Design for Service High School Renewal Phase 3 - Auxiliary Gym

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve the Schematic Design for the Service High School Renewal Phase 3 and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with the Design Development and Construction Documents, pending Municipal Assembly approval of the Schematic Design.

11. ASD Memorandum # 19 - Approval Of Schematic Design For Bartlett High School Renewal Phase 3a

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Schematic Design for the Bartlett High School Renewal Phase 3A and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with the Design Development and Construction Documents, pending Municipal Assembly approval of the Schematic Design.

12. ASD Memorandum # 17 - 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 ASD Memoranda
12; # 30; # 13; # 14; # 6; # 15; #
16; # 29; # 28; # 5; # 19; and # 17

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 18 - Project Status Report

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

2. ASD Memorandum # 24 - Semi-Annual Report on Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts Over \$10,000

In accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.132, the semi-annual report for Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$10,000 for the period January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005 is attached.

3. ASD Memorandum # 21 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Fourth Quarter 2004-2005 School Year

The purpose of this report is to inform the School Board on a quarterly basis of new grants that have been submitted for funding.

4. ASD Memorandum # 22 - Operating Budget Transfers - June Monthly Report FY 2004-2005

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of June 2005 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000—
Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000,
which includes summarized justifications.

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of June 2005 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

5. ASD Memorandum # 23 - Out-of-District District Travel: Fourth Quarter Report FY 2004-2005

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the fourth quarter of FY 2004-2005 for both in-state and out-of-state travel. This report complies with the revised travel procedures established in the fall 2004 and in accordance with School Board Policy Sections 156, Board Member Travel, and 526, Staff Travel.

There were 178 District employees and School Board members who traveled during the fourth quarter of FY 2004-2005 on 208 trips for a total cost to the District of \$258,002.45.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Comeau distributed copies of the ordinance on the Sale of Methamphetamine Precursor Drugs to the Board. This ordinance is very similar to the resolution and she plans to testify to the Assembly that the Board has passed the resolution. She also distributed copies of the new Code of Ethics proposal at the assembly level which is also on the August 23, 2005 Assembly Agenda.

Mr. Steiner voiced his appreciation to the members of the Board, as well as members of the District, parents, teachers, and families and friends who came out to the ribbon cutting at the new Eagle River High School on Wednesday, August 17th. He indicated that it was great to see that facility open and ready to go. He thanked everyone who came out to make it such a great day.

Mr. Steele requested that the Superintendent provide an update on how things are going on early registration. Ms. Comeau noted that this is only the fourth day of registration and we should have a much better idea about numbers by the end of the week. Ms. Comeau indicated that she would get registration numbers and information out to the Board as soon as it is available.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of August 22, 2005, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:05 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

John Steiner, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved