

1 including the general fund, the food service fund, the debt service fund and the local, state and federal projects fund. If
2 the three bonds on the upcoming ballot were approved, the ASD would request to use those funds to pay into the debt
3 service fund. To Mr. Coffey, Ms. Comeau responded the ASD fiscal year was from July 1st to June 30th. They had been
4 successful with receiving state, federal and other grants, some of which were very restricted and had many requirements.
5

6 To Mr. Tesche, Ms. Comeau responded that the cost of fuel was included under 'purchased services' in the graph.
7

8 To Chair Fairclough, Ms. Stokesbary responded that employees' medical costs were continuing to rise. They were using
9 Aetna Insurance Company and were addressing becoming self-insured. To Ms. Ossiander, Ms. Comeau responded that
0 health insurance was funded by the ASD, with employees co-paying \$700 per month. To Mr. Coffey, Mr. Roberts, Mr.
1 Steele and Ms. Stokesbary responded that employees vested in the state retirement system were not allowed to draw
2 both social security and ASD retirement.
3

4 To Mr. Coffey, Ms. Comeau responded there were over 9000 Special Education students, with varying levels of need. As
5 those numbers of students increased, so did the costs, and there were not enough federal or state funds to cover those
6 costs. Gifted program costs came out of the general fund. She responded that Gifted Students were identified by
7 intelligent quotients (*IQs*) and special enrichment programs were required for their academic needs. Ms. Comeau
8 responded that the ASD wanted success for all students.
9

0 To Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Stokesbary and Ms. Comeau responded that the ASD's non-departmental money was a holding fund
1 for things like contract negotiations, building rentals and leases and had increased 50% because of the forecasts for
2 bargaining negotiations. Ms. Comeau responded there were no costs included for new buses with this year's budget. Ms.
3 Laule responded that utilities and maintenance were included in the school operation costs.
4

5 Ms. Comeau stated that student enrollment was under 50,000 and had not changed significantly in the last two years.
6 The budget was based on enrollment projections, which was difficult to do. The ASD, with assistance from the Student
7 Advisory Board, the Minority Educational Advisory Committee, the community and from the ASD staff, was increasing
8 rental fees to help cover operating costs.
9

0 To Ms. Ossiander, Ms. Comeau responded that the labor contracts were expected to go to arbitration in April. Ms.
1 Comeau responded they would continue to work diligently on the process of contracts and funding.
2

3 To Mr. Tesche, Ms. Comeau responded that many people, including ASB members, ASD Administration and union
4 representatives were negotiating in Juneau for additional state funding.
5

6 To Ms. Jennings, Ms. Comeau responded the summer school enrollment had increased significantly and additional
7 summer programs were being added. They had increased fees for musical instrument rentals and summer programs and
8 were now charging for students repeating classes. They were now offering some classes online. To Mr. Coffey, Ms.
9 Comeau responded that state and local funding were being used.
0

1 Ms. Comeau stated that budget reductions included the elimination of 26 positions, unless additional revenue was
2 secured. One position was being added for the No Child Left Behind Program, to help fulfill federal requirements.
3

4 To Ms. Ossiander and Ms. Jennings, Ms. Comeau and Mr. Steele responded that counselors were already involved with
5 recently added duties. There were 21 elementary school counselors and 5-8 high school counselors, based on student
6 enrollment. The ASB and the ASD supported the additional responsibilities of counselors, which involved monitoring the
7 students, student programs and communicating directly with students' families, to ensure students' needs.
8

9 To Ms. Shamborg, Ms. Comeau responded that monitoring students' progress and growth was working. The intent and
0 the curriculum developed from the No Child Left Behind Program were supported by the Administration. Because it
1 involved a punitive law that only focused on test scores, the State of Alaska was challenging the requirements and had
2 applied to be one of ten states involved with a pilot program, using a growth model, based on progress. This would
3 change the importance of the exit exam. Ms. Comeau explained many of the added programs to assist students. With
4 increased needs for special education, they were requesting increased funds. They continued to set goals of success for
5 all students. The SAT and ACT scores were increasing and 96% of full-credit seniors pass the graduation exit exam.
6 They were most concerned with graduation of bilingual and special education students.
7

8 Ms. Comeau requested that all questions to be answered on the budget be submitted before March 28th. Mr. Coffey
9 requested a worksession for March 24th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Requests for information could be directed to the
0 Municipal Clerk's Office or to the School District, prior to the worksession.
1

2 **6.B. Firearm Ordinance, AO 2006-39**

3

4 Ms. Ossiander solicited the concerns on how the new firearm ordinance would affect students. Ms. Comeau responded
5 they were most concerned with safety and that firearms continued to be a concern on school grounds, at bus stops and to
6 bus drivers. Ms. Ossiander urged them to make recommendations for amendments. Ms. Comeau concurred. Mr. Coffey
7 stated that Mr. Traini, the sponsor, was out of town and had requested this matter be addressed after he returned. Mr.
8 Sullivan recommended the matter be reviewed by the Municipal Legal Department.
9

0 **6.C. Superintendent's Report**

1

2 Ms. Comeau reported there were three proposed school boundary changes involving the Bear Valley area, Williaw area
3 and the area for the new Muldoon middle school that would open in 2007. Ms. Ossiander responded that she supported
4 moving the military students north. Ms. Comeau concurred. To Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Comeau responded that Dimond High
5 School would need an addition in the future, which was their preference, rather than a boundary change.
6

7 To Mr. Coffey, Mr. Vakalis responded they were reviewing new school sites, including the Sand Lake gravel pit, the
8 Goldenview area and the Eagle River area. Chair Fairclough responded there were new developments that would

1 increase the needs for schools in Eagle River. To Mr. Stout, Ms. Comeau responded that a task force was addressing the
2 boundary changes and there would be public hearing with the School Board, scheduled for April 10th. Mr. Stout requested
3 the Assembly be kept informed of the schedules.

4
5 Mr. Tesche requested additional information on the percentages of fund sources in the district's budget, including the past
6 five years of state contributions. Mr. Steele responded that his research had indicated state funding had dropped 10% in
7 the past ten years. Ms. Comeau stated that the local tax cap restricted lawmakers' willingness to provide increased state
8 appropriations. Mr. Tesche responded that representatives needed to better understand the need for appropriations. Ms.
9 Shamberg concurred.

0
1 To Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Steiner responded the demographer had indicated that the large numbers of high school students
2 would decrease in the future. As the dropout rate was being addressed, high school graduation numbers would increase.
3 Ms. Marks responded it was difficult to determine the numbers of students who were home-schooled or attended private
4 schools and it was difficult to track students who moved across school boundaries and attended other schools.

5
6 **6.D. Mayor's Report - None.**

7
8 **6.E. Cost of Phasing of New Construction (Addendum)**

9
0 Ms. Shamberg commented on the high costs of phasing for the new Service High School, which was \$110 to \$122 million.
1 Much of the existing structure should be usable. Mr. Amsden, Mr. Vakalis and Ms. Comeau responded they were using a
2 phasing process, which was understood to be more expensive and take longer. It was costly to protect the students'
3 safety and the existing facilities from contamination, while construction was underway.

4
5 To Mr. Coffey, Mr. Amsden and Ms. Comeau responded that parents and the community did not like double-shifting,
6 which involved many challenges and inconveniences. Mr. Steele responded there were renovations and expansions
7 scheduled for West High School.

8
9 Ms. Ossiander stated that if she had known the costs, she would have opposed the renovations of Service High School
0 and supported new construction.

1
2 To Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Amsden responded that the ASD had addressed reconstruction versus new construction. Mr.
3 Sullivan stated the Assembly wanted to be involved with the discussions of school improvements, including renovations
4 and new construction. Chair Fairclough concurred and stated that there were many considerations to discuss.

5
6 Ms. Comeau stated that debt reimbursement was important to be able to continue to build and maintain schools and she
7 urged Assemblymembers to speak with State Legislators on appropriations. Mr. Steiner responded that their recent data
8 showed 5% of students went to private school, which was far below national averages. Ms. Comeau responded this
9 number did not include home-schooled students and the actual numbers were difficult to calculate.

0
1 **7. SCHEDULING OF NEXT JOINT MEETING**

2
3 To Chair Fairclough, Municipal Clerk Barbara Gruenstein responded this would be scheduled in the near future.

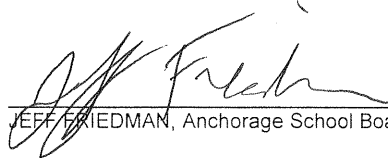
4
5 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

6
7 Chair Fairclough called the Question on a motion to adjourn the meeting.


8
9 Mr. Coffey moved, to adjourn the Joint Meeting,
0 Ms. Jennings seconded,
1 and this motion was passed without objection.

2
3 The Joint Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

4
5
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7
8
9 
0 ANNA FAIRCLOUGH, Assembly Chair


JEFF FRIEDMAN, Anchorage School Board President

1
2 ATTEST:

3
4
5
6
7 
8 BARBARA GRUENSTEIN, Municipal Clerk
9 Date Minutes Approved: June 2, 2006
0 MC/BG

1
2 (Approved Meeting Minutes are available in the Municipal Clerk's Office, 632 West 6th Avenue, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska;
3 telephone (907)343-4505)
4