

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 8, 2006

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, May 8, 2006, at 6:35 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: John Steiner, Macon Roberts, Crystal Kennedy, Jeff Friedman, Jake Metcalfe, Mary Marks, and Tim Steele.

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

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Comeau reported that ASD Memorandum #288, Professional Services Selection for Labar Street Complex Master Planning, should be removed from the agenda.

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent with that modification.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Marks reported that she had been in Juneau for both the School Board Fly-In and the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska General Assembly meeting. As the chair of the education committee for the Council she reported that a resolution had been passed on native language and cultural history. Another issue addressed by the Council's Education Committee was the high school dropout rate. She noted the commonality of education issues faced throughout the state and the importance of supporting other organizations facing similar issues.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Ravenwood Elementary School Choir, under the direction of Richard Lum, performed several numbers for the Board and others present.

ASD Memorandum 258 – Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Mr. Steele recognized the members of the Business Management Division. He read the recognition which stated that each year the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recognizes excellence in financial reporting. The Anchorage School District was selected by this organization to receive a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This is the 19th year the ASD Business Management division has received this award.

According to the GFOA its Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government or its management.

The School Board recognized the entire Business Management Division for their continued hard work and dedication which contributed to the District receiving the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting.

ASD Memorandum #298 – Recognition of Emergency Preparedness Poster Contest Winners

This recognition was postponed to the May 22, 2006 meeting of the Board.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Feriani reported that the next meeting of the Student Advisory Board will be held on May 15 at 8:15 am at the King Career Center. The May 15th meeting will be the final SAB meeting of the 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Feriani invited Board members to attend.

2. Military Delegate

LTC Jones was not able to attend the meeting.

3. M.E.C.A.C.

Mr. Johnson reported that the MECAC will hold their next meeting on May 18th at 12:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room in the Administration Building. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Mr. Johnson reported that this is his last meeting as MECAC Chairman. He acknowledged his family and the contribution they have made in allowing him the time to participate as part of the MECAC. He reported that he could bear witness to the high level of activity in this arm of municipal government. When parents come together with common concern and a common goal, they are heard and action is taken. He applauded parents who advocate for their children and the causes that are important to them and their communities. He noted that the MECAC has been a viable organization for thirty years and, while they have been actively addressing issues, work remains to be done. He noted that he will continue to be a part of the MECAC and will continue to advocate for education. He voiced his appreciation to MECAC for their hard work and for allowing him the honor of representing them to the Board.

Mr. Friedman noted that Mr. Johnson has served as MECAC Chairman for three years and thanked him for his service and dedication. Ms. Marks added her appreciation for Mr. Johnson's leadership and his commitment to education. She also thanked Mr. Johnson's family for their support.

Mr. Steele explained that he is the Board representative to the MECAC and, as such, testified to the efforts made and the work done by Mr. Johnson in particular and the MECAC in general. He noted that Mr. Johnson will continue to serve on the MECAC and they will continue to benefit from his knowledge and experience.

Mr. Metcalfe added his appreciation, noting that Mr. Johnson is just what the District needs. There are very few people that have given the time and years of service to the community and to the District that he has.

Mr. Roberts extended his appreciation to Mr. Johnson and his family. He also thanked the members of the MECAC for their diligent support of the School Board.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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 – January 23, 2006
- b. Regular Meeting – February 6, 2006
- c. Regular Meeting – February 27, 2006
- d. Regular Meeting – March 6, 2006
- e. Special Meeting – March 27, 2006
- f. Special Meeting – April 10, 2006

2. ASD Memorandum #286 - Resolution Designating May 10, 2006 as National School Nurses Day

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating Wednesday, May 10, 2006 as National School Nurse's Day.

3. ASD Memorandum # 219 – Boundary Changes for Airport Heights, Mountain View, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, William Tyson, Williwaw, and Wonder Park Elementary Schools (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading the following attendance boundaries for the 2006-2007 school year for Airport Heights, Mountain View, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, William Tyson, Williwaw, and Wonder Park Elementary Schools. (Superintendent's Scenario – Attachment A)

4. ASD Memorandum # 220 – Boundary Changes for Bear Valley, Willard L. Bowman, Huffman, O'Malley, and Rabbit Creek Elementary Schools (Second Reading)

It is the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading the following attendance boundary for the 2006-2007 school year for Bear Valley, Willard L. Bowman, Huffman, O'Malley, and Rabbit Creek Elementary Schools. (Superintendent's Scenario – Attachment A)

5. ASD Memorandum # 289 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau Sponsorship of Landmark Course

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau in the amount of \$7,500 for the Landmark course at Central Middle School of Science. The first installment of \$4,000 will be awarded in May 2006, and the second installment of \$3,500 will be awarded in August 2006.

6. ASD Memorandum # 293 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the U. S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program. The project will expand the Russian partial immersion program at Turnagain Elementary School.

7. ASD Memorandum # 236 - Award of Contract: Willow Crest Elementary School Mechanical Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the 2006 Willow Crest Elementary School Mechanical Upgrade Project to Consolidated Contracting and Engineering for the total award amount of \$178,777.

8. ASD Memorandum # 245 - Award of Contract: Northwood Elementary School Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Northwood Elementary School Roof upgrades to Consolidated Enterprises, Inc., for the Base Bid award amount of \$536,360.

9. ASD Memorandum # 246 - Award of Contract: Chester Valley Elementary School Traffic Safety Improvements

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Chester Valley Elementary School Traffic Improvements to Seacoast

Construction Company for the Base Bid amount of \$147,398 and Alternate #1 in the amount of \$10,499 for a total award of \$ 157,897.

10. ASD Memorandum # 251 - Award of Contract: West High School Restroom and Mechanical Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for West High School Restroom & Mechanical Upgrades to the low responsive bidder, CYS Management Services, Inc., for the Base Bid amount of \$222,222, Alternate #1 for \$267,690, and Alternate #3 for \$86,222, for a total award of \$576,134.

11. ASD Memorandum #268 - Award of Contract: Rabbit Creek Elementary School Utilidors Asbestos Abatement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Rabbit Creek Elementary School Utilidor Asbestos Abatement to Central Environmental, Inc. for the base bid amount of \$109,600.

12. ASD Memorandum # 257 - Approval of Purchase Agreement Smart Technologies Interactive White Boards

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a Purchase Agreement for SMART Technologies Interactive white boards with The Chariot Company on an "as required" basis.

13. ASD Memorandum #288 - Professional Services Selection for Laba Street Complex Master Planning

Memorandum removed from agenda.

14. ASD Memorandum # 284 - Renewal of District Health Insurance Contracts

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew the contract with Aetna for group medical, dental and COBRA administration for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, and continue the contract with Vision Service Plan (VSP) for group vision care insurance.

15. ASD Memorandum # 294 - Renewal of Lease for Crossroads Programs

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to exercise the renewal option on the lease with United Way of Anchorage, Inc. in the amount of \$80,745 per year for an additional three-year term.

16. ASD Memorandum # 270 - Personnel Report

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

Ms. Kennedy requested that ASD Memorandum #286, the Resolution Designating May 10, 2006 as National School Nurse's Day, be pulled for recognition by the Board.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jake Metcalfe
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2006, February 6, 2006, February 27, 2006, and March 6, 2006, the Special Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2006 and April 10, 2006, Memoranda #219, #220, #289, #293, #236, #245, #246, #251, #268, #257, #284, #294, and #270.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Friedman stated that, although these memoranda were all approved on the Consent Agenda, a number of the items had been discussed at length during previous meetings. He also noted that Board members have also had the opportunity to review the memos and have their questions answered by staff. The Board has spent considerable time reviewing the items on the agenda prior to taking action.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy
seconded by: Mary Marks

To adopt the resolution designating
Wednesday, May 10, 2006 as
National School Nurse's Day.

The resolution adopting May 10, 2006 as National School Nurse's Day was read by the Board.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 261 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of April 10, 2006 through April 21, 2006.

2. ASD Memorandum # 262 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of March 2006

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

3. ASD Memorandum # 263 - Conflict of Interest - Third Quarter Report FY 2005-2006

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 second quarter report for the FY 2005-2006 school year.

Attachment A lists, by employee, Requests for Waivers approved between January 1, 2006 and March 31, 2006. Attachment B lists employees who submitted Disclosure Statements between January 1, 2006 and March 31, 2006. All Disclosure Statements and Requests for Waivers for the year of 2005-2006 expire on June 30, 2006.

4. ASD Memorandum # 264 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Third Quarter 2005-2006 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.

5. ASD Memorandum # 265 - Out-of-District Travel - Third Quarter Report FY 2005-2006

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the third quarter of FY 2005-2006 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 156 District employees and School Board members who traveled during the third quarter of FY 2005-2006 on 178 trips for a total cost to the District of \$209,102.53.

6. ASD Memorandum # 266 - Operating Budget Transfers - March Monthly Report FY 2005-2006

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of March 2006 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 March 2006 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

7. ASD Memorandum # 267 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap - March 31, 2006

The attached report consists of three parts: the Graphic Overview, the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Graphic Overview is presented on a quarterly basis and the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis. The Treasurer's

report and Financial Recap are year-to-date information as of March 31, 2006.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Comeau announced that the administration will be working with the various elementary school principals in transitioning the boundary changes for next year. Parents will be receiving official notification of the changes. Efforts will be made to address any questions that parents may have about their new schools before the end of this school year. She noted that the only change at the middle school level for next year is transitioning the Fort Richardson students from Central to Gruening.

Mr. Steiner reviewed that, during the boundary change process, there have been two meetings of the School Board following many Task Force meetings, numerous public meetings, and hundreds of emails. Hundreds of hours were spent by parents, staff, and Board members looking over the situation and trying to come up with creative solutions to resolve the interests of all of the students. He realized that some of the parents were frustrated with the outcome of the process. He voiced his appreciation for all of the work that parents did on behalf of their students. He noted that the Board had deeply considered all of the comments that were made. He appreciated the fact that people understood that a decision had to be made and hoped that the lack of testimony this evening is an indication of acceptance and not just resignation. It is a tough process and it is understandable that some people are somewhat disappointed with the results but Mr. Steiner appreciated the efforts that so many people took to make sure that the Board was aware of all of the concerns in the community.

Mr. Metcalfe announced that tomorrow is the last day of the Regular Legislative Session in Juneau. He noted that there is an opportunity for people to contact their legislators when the budgets are being decided. Legislators can be contacted via email and phone, and he encouraged the public to stay informed on the issues and voice their concerns and desires to their legislators.

Mr. Metcalfe explained the public process that was followed during the boundary changes. He noted that the Board went through several readings of the recommendations. In addition, several opportunities were

available for public comment on the issue. He noted that the public process taken by the District on these boundary changes is a lot different than what the Legislature does with issues that are long lasting and involve huge amounts of revenue.

Mr. Steele noted that Board members had received a letter from local legislators. The letter was addressed to the Honorable Mark Begich, Superintendent Carol Comeau, Anchorage Assembly Members, and Anchorage School Board Members. The letter read "We are writing to strongly encourage you to place before the Anchorage voters a limited number of school bonds, which qualify for state reimbursement, on the August primary ballot. The \$61.295 million currently authorized for school bond reimbursement for Anchorage will expire on October 31, 2006. I would be regrettable if our community lost this opportunity to meet the future needs of our children. We believe a majority of Anchorage's citizens would favor modest proposals, which maximize the state contribution and minimize property tax impacts." The letter was signed by nineteen Anchorage legislators.

Ms. Comeau reported that the Lt. Governor's Office has changed the regulations and the notification timelines for anyone requesting placement of an issue on a state election ballot. It now requires five months prior approval. The date for adding anything to the August primary has passed. The administration will forward the new regulations, just received today, to the Board. She also noted her understanding that the Legislature is taking action to extend the debt reimbursement at the 70% and 60% level through November 30, 2008.

Mr. Roberts noted he has heard some concern that during the boundary change process the Board was only paying attention to the most vocal groups when making decisions. He assured the public that consideration was given to the needs of all of the school communities, not just the most vocal ones. He used the analogy of a mother caring for her children. He stated that a mother feeds all of her children, knowing that they all need nourishment, not just the ones that are crying. He noted that the Board is aware that schools such as Clark, Sand Lake and Chester Valley are in need of the same things that schools represented by some of the more articulate and vocal parents need. It is incumbent upon the Board to look after all parts of the community whether they are active in the public testimony process or not. The Board strives to do the fair and prudent thing for all students in all schools.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 8, 2006, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:15 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved