

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #29 (2006-2007)

August 28, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
SUBJECT: FY 2007-2008 BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS

ASD Goal: *Ensure public accountability through effective consultation with the community to ensure wise use of financial resources and responsible construction and maintenance of facilities; and effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

The budget process for the Anchorage School District for the 2007-2008 school year will begin shortly. As you know, the School Board and the Administration and all school districts in the State, were very successful in achieving increased educational funding for the FY 2006-2007 school year. The School Board approved budget revisions in May and June of 2006 and the increase to the upper limit of the budget was subsequently approved by the Anchorage Assembly in June of 2006.

As the new school year begins, the Administration is beginning the assessment of increasing costs in all areas in comparison with predicted revenues. Much of these assumptions will be based on our enrollment trends and our projections. These will not be finalized until September 30, 2006.

In order to be prepared for any potential budgetary shortfalls, and to respond to many in the community who don't understand why our budget is increasing so rapidly when our enrollment has been declining somewhat, we are reinstating the community/staff/student budget review teams which have served us so successfully in the past. These teams will provide us with invaluable perspective and suggestions for potential budget and program cuts and reorganizations, efficiencies and best practices, and additions as we begin to build a budget for the FY 2007-2008 school year.

The process will be similar to the one used in the fall of 2000 when we faced the statewide Tax Cap Initiative prior to preparing the FY 2001-2002 budget. We will be reviewing all sections of the General Fund as well as our Student Nutrition Fund. It will be our intention to have approximately 20 budget review teams. We will have co-chairs from the Administration leading these teams; they will not vote. We will begin recruiting for volunteers from the community, the staff, and our high school students in early September. We anticipate needing approximately 200-250 volunteers for the various committees.

The Administration will continue to update the School Board as we refine this process.

Prepared and Approved By: Carol Comeau, Superintendent