

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #111 (2006-2007)

November 13, 2006

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD POLICY REVISION: SECTION 143 POLICY
DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES (FIRST READING)

ASD Goal #3: Ensure public accountability through effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on First Reading the proposed policy changes for School Board Policy 143, Board Policies (Attachment A).

PERTINENT FACTS:

In the spring of 2006, the School Board Policy Subcommittee began initial discussions related to the principles of policy development. It was the desire of the committee that the Board focus on high-level governance rather than administrative regulation and create policies that embody the Board's beliefs, commitments, and values rather than direct the efforts to comply with those policies.

The Board then met as a committee of the whole to discuss the desired direction of the subcommittee, which was that policy should establish goals, standards, and principles that have policy-level significance for the governance of the District, but should leave the adoption of administrative rules and regulations to implement that policy to the Superintendent. Such a direction casts Board members in the leadership role of those exploring and creating vision rather than being diverted by the details of administrative and operational issues. A subsequent subcommittee meeting with the Superintendent confirmed her support for this direction as well.

The proposed policy revision further delineates the process by which policy additions and revisions will move through the development and approval process of the Board. It keeps the existing language on policy dissemination.

The proposed policy revision was unanimously supported by all members of the Policy Subcommittee at the November 8, 2006 meeting. The old policy is shown on Attachment B.

CC/RG

Attachments

Prepared by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

143 Board Policies

143.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide the Board to consistently develop policies focused on high-level governance and to avoid diversion of Board time and attention to issues that are not so important that they must be decided by the Board.

143.2 General Principles

School Board policy governs District activities by outlining goals, standards, and principles that guide or prescribe actions and that encourage or constrain behavior by district employees, students and others in their interactions with the District. Board policy should establish goals, standards, and principles that have policy-level significance for the governance of the District but should leave to the superintendent the authority and responsibility to adopt administrative rules and regulations to implement Board policy.

143.3 Policy Content

Board policy should

- a. state the purpose and intent of the policy to provide for consistent understanding over time;
- b. focus on results rather than methods, on ends rather than means, unless the Board is convinced that specific methods or means must be mandatory or forbidden as a matter of governance policy;
- c. avoid specifics and details of administrative and operational issues;
- d. leave to the sound discretion and flexibility of the administration any requirement, restriction, target or other detail that is not so important that the requirement, restriction, target or other detail should not be altered without a public hearing at a Board meeting and affirmative action by the Board;
- e. provide for oversight to ensure effective implementation and evaluation of both the policy and its administrative implementation.

143.4 Policy Development

- a. Policy and policy revisions may be proposed from a variety of sources, including but not limited to a recommendation by the superintendent, by a task force chartered by the superintendent after consultation with the Board, by a task force chartered by the Board after consultation with the superintendent, by Board members or by the policy committee of the Board.
- b. Proposed new policies or policy revisions will first be presented to the policy committee of the Board for review in consultation with the administration and for recommendation to the Board. A super majority of the Board may override this requirement.
- c. Prior to adoption, all proposed new policies or policy revisions shall be given two readings as published agenda items at regular or special meetings of the Board. At each reading, there shall be an opportunity for public and staff testimony, and the proposed policy may be amended by the Board. At first reading, the Board may reject the policy or revision or approve it as proposed

or with amendments and may also refer it back to the policy committee of the Board for further consideration and recommendation. If the Board rejects the policy or revision at first reading, no second reading is required.

- d. On second reading, the version approved on first reading will be returned to the Board. If the superintendent or committee has recommended any changes prior to second reading, the Board may, by majority vote, elect to substitute a version with superintendent- or committee-recommended changes incorporated in lieu of the version passed on first reading.

143.5 Policy Dissemination

The Superintendent or designee shall make available to the public the Board policies and the administrative rules and regulations required to put them into effect.

143 Board Policies

~~The Board shall adopt, amend or revoke policies in accordance with the procedures established below. The broadest possible consultation with citizens of the District, including District employees, shall be solicited.~~

143.1 Change in Policy

~~A change in policy may be proposed at any Board meeting by any member of the Board or the Superintendent and then referred to policy subcommittee. A change in policy requires two Board readings. However, temporary approval may be granted by the Board in lieu of formal policy to meet emergency conditions or special events which will take place before formal action can be taken.~~

~~(Section 143.1 — Revised November 23, 1998)~~

143.2 Policy Dissemination

~~The Superintendent shall make available to the public the Board policies and the administrative rules and regulations required to put them into effect.~~

143.3 Revision of Policy

~~Subject to the policies which have or may be adopted by the Board, approved organizational changes and/or other actions of substance will authorize editorial changes in existing policies.~~

- ~~a. — The reviser shall edit and revise policy without changing the meaning of any policy.~~
- ~~b. — Policies amended in this manner will be presented to the School Board on a semi-annual basis.~~
- ~~c. — The School Board approval and effective date of any policy change will be noted at the end of the policy statement prior to general distribution.~~