

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #305 (2006-2007)

May 14, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END OF YEAR REPORT FOR FY2006-2007
HIGHLAND TECH HIGH CHARTER SCHOOL

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

PERTINENT FACTS:

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

“The charter school will be subject to review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the Academic policy Committee will submit a concise written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include, but is not limited to, information of the attainment of student performance expectations, including copies of the Terra Nova and SBA reports; recommendations for remediation for poor student performance; school goal attainment; trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility; an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures; minutes of the meetings of the governing body of the charter school; descriptions of charter school activities; copies of any leases signed by the charter school; current bylaws of the Academic policy Committee; notification of establishment of 501 © (3) status; list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization; any changes in facility location; any major changes planned for the following school year; a list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school years, including officers, and staff members by position; a list of employees and job titles; and other information requested by the School Board.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of

contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Highland Tech High Charter School (HTH) will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Connie Bensler, the Charter Schools Supervisor for the Anchorage School District has worked closely with the Administration and Academic Policy Committee of this school. Ms. Bensler attends monthly APC meetings and provides assistance to these groups when working within the confines of the Anchorage School District and Charter School Law, policies and regulations.

Highland Tech High (HTH) has settled into its new space and has enjoyed a successful year. The new campus is more traditional in layout but also allows for the continued emphasis on technology to be a major use of space. There are traditional classrooms, classrooms that can be enlarged with movable walls, and several technology areas with computers and ancillaries as well as portable labs. The teaching and support staff are very pleased with the new campus and find it to be much more conducive to maintaining an effective educational environment. The teaching staff has stabilized with very little turnover for next year. The number of students graduating has increased from last year. The school continues to have a high standard of student performance as well as a high participation rate for required testing. It is expected that HTH will make AYP this year.

There are two special education teachers and two teacher assistants who work with students with special needs. Because of this increase in support for these students, HTH has experienced a successful year for its special needs students. The regular classroom teachers also have received additional support through a variety of support staff in both instruction and technology. There is a sense of calm and purpose at HTH, one that is obvious as soon as you enter the school. There is a student government this year which has been responsible for a variety of student sponsored activities. These have created a sense of pride and school spirit that was not as strong in previous years. The school continues to change and morph into something that works well for its community while providing an interesting choice for ASD students.

The Academic Policy Committee (APC) is a very supportive governing board that takes its role seriously. This group is made up of community members, but also an equal number of parents and staff. This makeup wasn't present in the original board and has made a positive difference in how the school is monitored

and how successful the school is. There is a parent group whose primary purpose is fund raising and recruitment. They also spend a considerable amount of time working on school improvement projects. They are very active and involved which has been healthy for the school.

Most of the past concerns have been addressed by the APC and administration and have been resolved. HTH is a wonderful school of choice in many ways. It provides a small school environment with the availability of high end technology for all its students. It has been a pleasure working with the school and I look forward to reporting another positive and productive year for it next year.

CC/RG/CB

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Supervisor, Charter Schools

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction