

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #306 (2006-2007)

May 14, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END OF YEAR REPORT FOR FY2006-2007  
FRONTIER 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 Frontier Charter School 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.

Frontier Charter School offers Anchorage School District students a choice for home schooling education. Its model is based on providing a learning profile of each student to the student, family and teachers to better assist that student to learn in his/her best way. It also provides additional information about student’s interests, aptitudes, and abilities. This Learning Profile is provided free of charge to all students who attend Frontier Charter School. In addition to this assistance, Frontier also provides all families with an academic advisor. This person assists the family in selecting curriculum, using vendors and meeting all requirements the school and the District have with regard to the student’s education. There is considerable evidence that these services are greatly used and appreciated by all the families whose children attend Frontier Charter School.

Frontier has doubled in size since it opened. Many students attend this school as a choice to the traditional brick and mortar school. While being a Frontier student, it is possible to also attend a class at one of the traditional high schools. However, because of the high cost of doing this, more students are opting to attend small group classes with instructors arranged through parents of Frontier families. These have included such topics as science instruction, creative writing, Alaska Studies, and tutoring for test taking. This isn’t an exclusive list; there have been a number of other classes held throughout the year that students can take for a small fee.

The principal, Tim Scott, and the Academic Policy Committee meet every other month to monitor the school and consider issues that may arise. This year, there have been very few issues that needed attention. There has been a changeover of software development providers, with the hope that all of the on-line systems will be up and running smoothly by next year. A number of unique and useful features to their on-line system are being developed including cross-referencing

GLEs and State Standards so that parents can make sure their students are getting the necessary instruction for a complete and competitive education. It is expected that this school will make AYP this year. As with all charter schools, there is an enormous effort to get everyone to participate in required testing. This kind of testing presents unique problems for home-schooled students since they are not used to going to a designated campus each day for school. However, the school's emphasis on assessment initially has proven to be a commodity for them in this effort.

It is a pleasure to work with the support staff at Frontier. They are courteous, professional and responsive. The principal, Mr. Scott, is well versed in educational issues state-wide as a member of the State Board of Education. The APC is filled with caring individuals whose desire to see the school be successful is obvious in all that they do. We look forward to another successful year in 2007-2008.

CC/RG/CB

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Supervisor, Charter Schools

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction