

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #307 (2006-2007)

May 14, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END OF YEAR REPORT FOR FY2006-2007  
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP 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 Family Partnership Charter School (FPCS) 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 (APC) 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.

Family Partnership Charter School (FPCS) has had another successful year. There have been a significant number of changes in the office staff this year, which at times presented challenges for the school to produce the kind of excellent customer service for which they are known. The office staff has been trained and is working hard to catch up to the standard of service that has always been the goal of FPCS. Without a doubt, this standard will be the norm in the very near future. The on-line inventory system is another new feature being rolled out this year. With this system, parents and families can access used curricular materials and teaching supplies for less cost than new. Many of the families find that when they are finished with materials, these materials could still be used by other families. Up until this year, it was difficult to find out what was available and who had it. Now, the online school inventory will make all this information easily accessible and save families money as well.

Another innovation being looked into by FPCS is acquisition of classroom space for students in group classes. As this becomes more popular at the school, it also presents the issue of the acceptability of space in terms of educational codes and safety. Mr. Whitmore, the principal, is working with the directors of Purchasing and Facilities to explore the availability of such space. As with all charter schools, finding such space is problematic. Parents are interested in seeing the availability of classes expand, especially at the secondary level. This choice of classes is much less expensive than sending students to the comprehensive high schools to take classes using the charge-back method of payment. Typically, one full year high school class at a comprehensive high school will cost a charter school student almost \$900. That is more than a third of the student’s entire allotment for all classes and related costs for one year.

The intent of this particular charter school is to provide an opportunity for a partnership between home-schooling parents and the ASD in order to give

students an opportunity to have some of their education provided in a home school setting by certified ASD teachers or by their parents. Vendors are also used for some activities such as music lessons and physical education activities. The desire to have all students participate in the District required tests have made partners of the school administration, teachers, parents and students in order to achieve AYP. It is likely that the school will reach that goal this year, mainly due to all of the FPCS community being behind the effort to accomplish this.

Currently, there is a strong sense of purpose and unity among the FPCS community. The APC is committed to keeping the school on track in areas of curricula and finance. It supports the administration but requires a high degree of accountability to maintain that support. The principal, Mr. Whitmore, has worked effectively to keep the school's vision and purpose focused while working within the confines of the Anchorage School District. It has been a pleasure working with the staff and parents of the school. The District is very proud to have this charter school as part of the Anchorage School District and looks forward to another successful school year next year.

CC/RG/CB

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Supervisor, Charter Schools

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction