

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #308 (2006-2007)

May 14, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END OF YEAR REPORT FOR FY2006-2007
EAGLE ACADEMY 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 Eagle Academy 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.

In many ways, this year for Eagle Academy was another first year for them. They have a new principal, five new teachers and a new vitality that permeates throughout the school. The new principal, Mary Meade, has guided the school as if she were a veteran administrator, navigating the intricacies of running a school with poise and professionalism. Her parents, staff and students praise her, time and time again calling her the best principal they have ever worked with. She is involved in all aspects of the school from instructional leadership to budget management, to substitute nurse. Her students send her cards, visit her office and invite her to their classrooms regularly because they like and respect her. Her teachers go beyond the duty day regularly because they feel supported and energized by her leadership. She has been a very good addition to the school.

The teaching staff has been trained in the Spalding Method of Instruction and will receive another course of instruction this summer. The school is set up to have all students work according to their ability level in the morning in math and language arts. The afternoons are taken up with specialty classes, science and social studies. The core curricula in all areas emphasize traditional educational values and knowledge. Students have health in single sex classrooms and enjoy art, music and P.E. several times a week. They wear uniforms that are specific yet offer several styles and colors of clothing. The parents are very supportive and volunteer in high numbers. The non-profit parent group raises money and then uses it to support programs and activities at the school for students. It is a very close knit and dedicated community at Eagle Academy; one which has become a popular school of choice in Eagle River. There is a substantial waiting list for placement at the school.

The Academic Policy Committee has developed a policy manual this year that has been a priority of theirs. They are also involved in issues of the day and making sure that the school is true to its charter. They are a committed group of

folks who support the school and staff in many ways. They should be commended for making sure that the school has been a successful choice for students. They are fiscally prudent which is reflected in a healthy school budget. There are plans to expand the school to seventh grade in the 2008-2009 school year. There is a subcommittee of the APC working on the curriculum alignment and site development. Their landlord has agreed to allow for expansion in some adjacent space for the seventh grade. The school participated successfully in testing and believes it will make AYP this year.

Eagle Academy Charter School is an example of how to do things well when starting a charter school. The strong leadership, teaching and support staff and adherence to the charter have all added to a successful and robust school. It is a pleasure to work with them this year and we look forward to working with them next year. It will no doubt continue to grow and succeed if it remains on its present course of operation.

CC/RG/CB

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Supervisor, Charter Schools

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction