

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 28, 2006

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, August 14, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, Jeff Friedman, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, Jeff Friedman Presiding

Board Members Present: John Steiner, Macon Roberts, Crystal Kennedy, Jeff Friedman, Mary Marks, and Tim Steele.

Board Members Excused: Jake Metcalfe

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Rhonda Gardner, Leslie Vandergaw, Mike Henry, Patricia McRae, Enid Silverstein, Jerry Sjolander, Jeff Wood, Eric Tollefsen, Michelle Egan, Robb Boyer, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Ray Amsden, Pam Chenier, Stan Syta, Marie Laule, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Friedman noted that there is a presentation for the Children in Transition program which is not listed on the agenda.

The agenda as amended was approved by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Roberts announced that there will be a youth summit, Speak Up Speak Out, held this Saturday, September 2, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at East High School. The summit is sponsored by the office of Senator Bettye Davis, the Mayor's Office of Equal Opportunity, the Anchorage School District, a variety of community organizations and several local television and radio stations. The summit is geared for middle and high school students. It will give them an opportunity to speak their minds and tell us what is happening in the District from their points of view. Ms. Comeau clarified that students will be able to participate in a number of workshops throughout the day and then there will be a talent show during the evening.

Ms. Comeau announced that student enrollment continues to climb. Today, the fifth day of school, the enrollment is 48,459 students or 98.14% of projected enrollment. She encouraged any students who have not yet registered and started school to do so as soon as possible. She continued to anticipate that the District will meet projected enrollment.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Comeau introduced Major Sheryl Tollerud, Salvation Army, and Trisha O’Gorman, Child In Transition program coordinator. Major Tollerud reported that it was her privilege to present a gift certificate that is representative of the 500 clothing vouchers that the Salvation Army will be giving to the Child In Transition program. It is hoped that the \$7500 commitment made by the Salvation Army will help overcome some of the barriers that those students might encounter so that they can have a positive learning experience this year.

Ms. Comeau voiced her appreciation to Major Tollerud and to the Salvation Army for this and all of their other efforts to provide support to District families.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Feriani indicated that there was no report from the Student Advisory Board.

2. Military Delegate

There was no report from the Military Delegate pending the appointment of a new representative.

3. M.E.C.A.C.

Ms. Damita Owen reported that the MECAC met on Thursday, August 17th. Everyone who is participating in the committee was there and renewed their commitment. The first MECAC outreach activity will be the Youth Summit.

The next meeting MECAC will be September 6th at 4:30 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda is attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda Recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's office.**

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting- April 10, 2006
- b. Regular Meeting- May 1, 2006
- c. Special Meeting - August 14, 2006

2. ASD Memorandum # 24 - 2006 Charitable Giving Campaign

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the inclusion of United Way of Anchorage and Alaska Community Share and their member agencies as shown in Attachments A and B in the District's 2006 Charitable Giving Campaign.

3. ASD Memorandum # 18 - School Board Policy Addition: Section 349.1 Adult Testing (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on Second Reading the recommended policy addition of School Board Policy 349.1, Adult Testing. (High School Graduation Qualifying Examination Re-Examination)

4. ASD Memorandum # 19 - School Board Policy Revision Section 443.1 Absenteeism and Tardiness (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on Second Reading the recommended policy changes, as amended after First Reading, for School Board Policy 443.1 Absenteeism and Tardiness.

5. ASD Memorandum # 20 - School Board Policy Revision Section 831 Parent Involvement (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on Second Reading the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 831, Parent Involvement

6. ASD Memorandum # 14 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Project APPEAL - Advanced Placement for Every Able Learner

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board

approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Advanced Placement Incentive Program, in the amount of \$847,457 for the second year of a three-year project. The project will continue to expand Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings and will increase access to higher-level coursework for low-income students in three Alaskan communities.

7. ASD Memorandum # 15 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant
Award: HIV Prevention RARE-T

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the HIV/AIDS Prevention RARE-T Continuation Grant from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$20,810. Funds will support the project currently in place.

8. ASD Memorandum # 16 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Teaching American History

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$893,901 for a three-year project to improve teachers' knowledge and understanding of American history.

9. ASD Memorandum # 3 - Award of Contract: Fire Alarm Inspection Term Contract

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Fire Alarm Inspection Term Contract to Yukon Fire Protection Services, Inc. for Schedule A (Basic Inspection) in the amount of \$175,010 and Schedule B (Sensitivity Testing) in the amount of \$163,566 for a total award amount of \$338,576.

It is also recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer in the amount of \$263,576 from Major Maintenance (1064) to provide the necessary additional funding.

10. ASD Memorandum # 10 - Personnel Report

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Personnel Report.

Ms. Marks requested that Memo #20, School Board Policy Revision Section 831, Parent Involvement (Second Reading) be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Steiner requested that Memo #19, School Board Policy Revision Section 443.1, Absenteeism and Tardiness (Second Reading) be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau asked that Memo #29, Budget Review Process be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by:

To approve the minutes of the Regular Meetings of April 10, 2006 and May 1, 2006, and the Special Meeting of August 14, 2006 and Memoranda # 24, #18, #14, #15, #16, #3, and #10.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner, Kennedy, Roberts,
Friedman, Marks, Steele

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 19 - School Board Policy Revision Section 443.1 Absenteeism and Tardiness (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on Second Reading the recommended policy changes, as amended after First Reading, for School Board Policy 443.1 Absenteeism and Tardiness.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To adopt on Second Reading the recommended policy changes, as amended after First Reading, for School Board Policy 443.1 Absenteeism and Tardiness.

Mr. Steiner explained that he wanted to make sure that everyone had read the memorandum and was aware that it is different from what had been passed on First Reading. He explained that a student in secondary school

who has missed ten (10) classes may not get credit for that class. There was a recognition that some of the classes may not meet five (5) times a week due to block scheduling. In order to do this there needs to be some sense of equivalence to be determined. The superintendent is the appropriate authority to make that determination, not individual students or teachers. This is also important so that different schools would not have different standards.

The second change in the memorandum is that the word "uniform" is removed from the section where the superintendent or designee establishes procedures to implement the policy. This is in recognition that, although within a given category they needs to be uniformity, it may be that at some kinds of schools or some levels of schools the procedure will differnt.

Mr. Friedman voiced his appreciation for the clarification.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner, Kennedy, Roberts,
Friedman, Marks, Steele

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 20 - School Board Policy Revision Section
831 Parent Involvement (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on Second Reading the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 831, Parent Involvement

ACTION:

Moved by: Mary Marks	To adopt on Second Reading the
seconded by: Macon Roberts	recommended policy changes for
	School Board Policy 831, Parent
	Involvement.

Ms. Marks reported that she had spoken earlier today with Ms. Gardner regarding this policy. She felt that not enough emphasis is given to parent involvement. She appreciated that the Policy Subcommittee realized that this should not only impact Title I schools, as is mandated through NCLB, but should be made across the entire District. There is a whole multitude

of areas where the Board can help set the tone within our own communities as to what it means to be involved. Ms. Gardner had reassured her that it would be across the district, not just at the Title I schools.

Ms. Kennedy thanked Ms. Gardner for the work she did to put this policy together. It is important that the policy gives the sense that the District wants our schools to be welcoming of parents and welcoming of parental input, as well as being there as a resource for parents. She was hopeful that this policy will really help to deepen that reciprocating relationship between parents and schools.

Mr. Steiner noted that the Policy Subcommittee recognized that parental involvement has different facets. While it was apparent in the draft policy was that parents can provide a lot of support by being directly involved with their own individual student, there is another level of involvement to consider. NCLB also requires that parents also be brought into the picture when it comes to school improvement plans. He was pleased that this policy addresses both individual student involvement and general school involvement.

Ms. Kennedy noted that this policy has been looked at by a number of groups to make sure that it addresses all necessary issues.

Mr. Steele noted that this policy involves parents in all facets of education. It tries to knock down barriers and to point out the extreme value of parents and students being involved in their own education. It points out the importance of schools partnering with the family to impact the education of children.

Mr. Roberts provided one word of caution. He noted that parental involvement works better when the parent works through the teachers to establish timing for involvement.

Mr. Steiner observed that the policy includes a feedback loop, which provides the means to identify issues and deal with concerns.

Mr. Friedman noted that the nature and number of comments are all indicative of the importance the Board places on this policy. While it is sometimes difficult to involve parents it is very beneficial in the long run.

Ms. Gardner thanked all of the members of the Policy Subcommittee, both current and past, who have worked on this policy. She noted that the

District is committed to providing resources and training principals to assist in implementing the policy.

Ms. Comeau noted that the Board can roll pieces of this policy into the School Board goals as they are revised for the new school year. She commended everyone involved in developing the policy for their diligent work.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner, Kennedy, Roberts,
Friedman, Marks, Steele

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 11 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of July 25, 2006 through August 11, 2006.

2. ASD Memorandum # 29 - FY 2007-2008 Budget Review Process

The budget process for the Anchorage School District for the 2007-2008 school year will begin shortly. As you know, the School Board and the Administration and all school districts in the State, were very successful in achieving increased educational funding for the FY 2006-2007 school year. The School Board approved budget revisions in May and June of 2006 and the increase to the upper limit of the budget was subsequently approved by the Anchorage Assembly in June of 2006.

Ms. Comeau reported that we are still closing out last year's budget but we are about to launch into the development of next year's budget. She indicated that there seemed to be a lot of misunderstanding in the community about our budget and why it is growing at a faster pace than the number of students. The administration felt that it was time to go back to the process that was used in the 2001-2002 budget development process. At that time teams were put together and asked to really scrutinize every aspect of the general fund budget.

Ms. Comeau indicated that we will need to recruit about 250 volunteers from the community, from our staff, and from our high school students to participate in about twenty (20) budget review teams. She strongly encouraged high school students to get involved. It will be beneficial to have both critics and supporters to be involved. We are really looking for open-minded people who will closely scrutinize the budget, ask hard questions of the staff, and make valid recommendation.

Ms. Comeau noted that even with the increased revenues that the District received we know that to maintain all of our programs and to incorporate increases such as utilities, fuels, program increases, and negotiated contract increases, there is going to be a gap. We will need to prioritize program cuts and what needs to be added into the budget.

Mr. Steele indicated that this process is an excellent way for people in the community to get into the budget and to better understand particular issues. He recommends not only critics but also people who are skilled at looking at budgets and brainstorming on alternative ways of doing things. Having participated in the 2001-2002 budget review process he noted that it is a great process and participants will come away understanding the budget and the budget process a lot better.

Mr. Freidman noted that, in the past, budget review teams have come up with ideas that have saved large amounts of money. Ms. Comeau added that they have also led to different practices that have ended up being better ways to do things.

Mr. Steiner noted that there is huge value in getting a multiplicity of ideas. He noted that the District seriously wants people who can help us discover how we can save money, not just people who are throwing bricks.

Ms. Comeau noted that we will be very careful to not put too many employees from any particular groups in any one area. Efforts will be made to balance the make-up of each group.

Ms. Marks noted that it is important to know that participants don't have to be an accountant to participate. If there is a good cross section of participants everyone will benefit and learn from the experience.

3. ASD Memorandum # 26 - Out-of-District Travel: Fourth Quarter Report FY 2005-2006

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the fourth quarter of FY 2005-2006 for both in-state and out-of-state travel. This report complies with the revised travel procedures established in the fall 2004 and in accordance with School Board Policy Sections 156, Board Member Travel, and 526, Staff Travel.

4. ASD Memorandum # 12 - Conflict of Interest: Fourth Quarter Report FY 2005-2006

The attached listing of employee Conflict of Interest Waiver and Disclosure actions is forwarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.44. This information is provided as the fourth quarter report for the FY 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years.

5. ASD Memorandum # 13 - Semi-Annual Report of Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$10,000

In accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.132, the semi-annual report for Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$10,000 for the period January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006 is attached.

6. ASD Memorandum # 30 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Fourth Quarter 2005-2006 School Year

The purpose of this report is to inform the School Board on a quarterly basis of new grants that have been submitted for funding.

7. ASD Memorandum # 27 - Operating Budget Transfers - June Monthly Report FY 2005-2006

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of June 2006 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000 – Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000, which includes summarized justifications.

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of June 2006 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Comeau commented that we have had a rash of vandalism in recent weeks, including two very bad incidents. She pleaded with the community to call police if they hear or see any questionable activities going on at school sites. We don't want to have to spend money repairing damage done to our buildings. We want to be putting it into the classroom and toward maintaining our buildings.

In response to a question, Ms. Comeau noted that there was much less vandalism this summer because of the Camper Host program. Mr. Mew explained that the vandalism occurred after the Camper Hosts had left. Mr. Steele felt that it is disheartening that we invest in these community resources and that a small minority of people can cause such damage.

Ms. Comeau stated that the key is that parents need to know where their children are and expect them to be home after curfew. She explained that there is a \$500 reward for information regarding the South Anchorage vandalism. If anyone knows anything about that incident, please contact our office or the police.

Mr. Kennedy noted that her parents were Camper Hosts this summer and they loved it. She indicated that was a wonderful experience for them and that they appreciated the opportunity. Mr. Mew noted that the program is growing with more than 90 camper hosts through the summer.

Mr. Steiner noted that the teachers will be voting on the tentative contract this week and he hoped that there will be a representative sample so that there will be a good and valid vote.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of August 28, 2006, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:10 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

John Steiner, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved