

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 2, 2006

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 2, 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: Macon Roberts, Crystal Kennedy, Jeff Friedman, John Steiner, and Tim Steele. Jake Metcalfe joined the meeting by phone at 6:40 p.m.

Board Members Excused: Mary Marks

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Rhonda Gardner, Leslie Vandergaw, Mike Henry, Patricia McRae, Enid Silverstein, Dana Dugdale, 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 ASD Memorandum #79, Resolution for School Bus Safety Week had been revised. ASD Memorandum #75, 21st Century Community Learning Center 2005-2006 Year End Report, from Superintendent's Report has been removed from the agenda.

The agenda was approved as modified by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Comeau reported that the month of October has been designated Domestic Violence month. The distinction is a reminder of the huge amount of domestic violence and child abuse in this state and in this community. She noted that the District participates, along with many other community agencies, in programs designed to increase awareness and highlight services available for those who need assistance.

Ms. Comeau reminded board members that they have a meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening with the ACE executive board.

Mr. Steele requested an update on the Budget Review Team process. Ms. Comeau reported that she was pleased with the kick-off meeting and extended her appreciation to Mr. Roylance and the staff at Wendler for allowing the use of their facility. There are eighteen committees and they seem to all be working well. The team schedules will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.

Ms. Kennedy reminded the group that the Policy Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Wedn., October 4, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 320.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum # 93 - Recognition of American Star of Teaching Award

Ms. Kennedy read that Aquarian Charter School second grade teacher Cynthia Murati was surprised with the American Star of Teaching award on September 26.

The American Star of Teaching award is presented by the U.S. Department of Education to one teacher in each state and the District of Columbia. The award is presented based on a teacher's success in improving academic performance and making a difference in students' lives.

Cynthia was recognized for her implementation of innovative ideas and activities to entice her students to want to learn. She groups her students to form a community of learners in a peer-nurturing setting, with advanced learners serving as role models for those who struggle. Cynthia visits her students' homes and often gives up her lunch time to tutor them. She also started a peer coaching session for students at different grade levels to "buddy-up" after school to help each other with various activities.

"Teachers like Cynthia Murati never give up on a child. They believe every child-regardless of race, income, or zip code-can achieve high standards in school," said U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. "Thanks to No Child Left Behind, we're learning what these teachers have always known. With a great teacher, every child can and will reach grade level."

Cynthia's selection is one of 51 nationwide. The winners were chosen from more than 4,000 candidates.

The School Board recognized Cynthia Murati for her excellent skills and dedication that led to this national award.

2. ASD Memorandum # 94 - Recognition of Alaska State Teacher of the Year Award

Mr. Steiner read that two Anchorage teachers have risen to the top among a pool of statewide candidates. Longtime educator Arlene Sandberg has been named 2006 Alaska Teacher of the Year. The district's other candidate was Linda Juliard; she was selected as the alternate for the award.

Arlene Sandberg has taught the last seven of her 26 year as an English-as-a-Second-Language Resource teacher at Mountain View Elementary. As a child, Arlene appreciated that school was a safe place to be. In her application she wrote the teachers "were wonderful role models in my life. They made me believe in myself. What better gift than to become a teacher and be a role model for students."

Arlene said she sees herself as the voice and advocate for her students with limited English proficiency whose parents might not have enough oral skills to speak on their behalf. She says they speak the same language when it comes to the future of their children.

Arlene's students have made outstanding progress in gaining proficiency in English. Many spend one to three years in her learning center and afterward spend all their instructional time in regular classes. She continues to follow the progress of those who still live in Anchorage.

Linda Juliard, the alternate 2006 Alaska Teacher of the Year, is a third and fourth grade teacher at Aquarian Charter School. Linda has 13 years of teaching experience. Aquarian's principal Sue Forbes says Linda is enthusiastic and creates fun learning experiences. In addition to her teaching expertise, Linda gives freely of her time at lunch time and after school to tutor students, mentor teachers, head science fairs, Battle of the Books, and Drama Club.

The School Board recognized Arlene Sandberg and Linda Juliard for their outstanding work in the classroom that led to this honorable award and recognition.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

In Mr. Feriani's absence, Ms. Comeau reported that the next SAB meeting will be held on October 10th at 11:15 am at King Career Center.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu noted that in addition to his position of military delegate to this board he also sits on the State Board of Education and Early Development. He reported that he had participated in a very productive meeting with that Board last week.

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

Mr. Johnson noted that MECAC will hold an information meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 320. The next general meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2006 at 12:00 noon in Room 320. The public is always welcome.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Steven O'Hara spoke on his allegation that the middle school principal at his son's school has targeted his son for unwarranted disciplinary action.

Mr. Pete Adams, a teacher at the Continuation Program, reviewed the contract struggles of the early 1990s when the negotiations turned to arbitration. He referenced the 1992 arbitration report and shared his thoughts on how the District has not done enough to follow the advice of the arbitrator at that time. He believed the best way to address recruitment problems is to pay teachers a wage that will attract the brightest and best to Anchorage and keep them here.

Mr. Dave Oberg, a teacher at Service High School, compared the education job market in the 1970's with the market today. He believed that the Anchorage school system is becoming a starter system for teachers; a place where teachers get experience before they move on and up. The recent change in the retirement system has made the situation even worse. Mr. Oberg noted that he had volunteered to sit on one of the budget review teams. He was appalled to be tasked with cutting the school budget when the state has an overwhelming amount of money. He indicated his belief that the two recent tentative agreements, which were

rejected by the union, did not keep up with inflation. He wanted the Board to understand that the teachers are overwhelmingly in favor of an increase of at least 4% and willing to take whatever action needed to get that.

Mr. Joshua Hall, a teacher at Dimond High School, voiced his disappointment with the District's position with regard to teacher negotiations. He believed that the one constant that is being stated by the District is that there is no new money. He reviewed how ASD has used recent funding increases. He stated that only about 11% of new money has gone to teachers salaries over the last four years. He found that the percentage of the total budget that goes to teacher salaries has steadily decreased. The solution is not just a matter of getting more money from Juneau. The solution is appropriate allocation of that money.

Mr. Kronberg, a teacher at Mears Middle Schools, urged the Board to make whatever budgetary adjustments necessary to bring this contract to resolution as soon as possible. He also noted the need to repeal SB141. He believed that the loss of a defined benefit pension gives the AEA/ASD contract an even greater impact on the collective ability to meet the District's mission to educate all children for life.

Ms. Regina Sather, a school counselor at Mirror Lake Middle School, noted that she has decided to take a firm stand during the next round of contract negotiations. She believed that her profession has made many sacrifices over the last couple of decades, primarily due to shrinking budgets, always putting the students first. The direct result of that plan of action has led to losing grip on quality educators and the inability to attract and retain the very people who bring enthusiasm and passion for learning to the classroom. She pleaded with the Board to take a stand and make the attraction and retention of quality teachers a top priority.

Ms. Megan Larson, a teacher at Fairview Elementary School, explained that she has to work two jobs because she needs the money to pay her bills. She noted that teachers should not have to work two jobs to make ends meet. She believed that money needs to be put into teachers, not into fancy resources or extra administration. It is the teacher who makes the biggest impact on student education. She hoped for professional pay and an adequate contract that would show respect for the job that teachers do for the children of Anchorage.

Ms. Elnora Wands, a long time educator in the district, noted that she believes that the District and the union are using the same figures to draw

different conclusions. She indicated that it will ultimately be up to the Board to forget all of the statistics and do what is right for children.

Mr. Thomas Pease, a teacher at Rogers Park Elementary, shared the inequities between the salaries offered by the Anchorage School District and the MatSu School District. In addition to the salary difference, teachers in the MatSu get 90% of their medical premiums covered and also receive twice as many personal leave days at ASD teachers.

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. Special Meeting - February 7, 2006
- b. Special Meeting - September 25, 2006

2. ASD Memorandum # 76 - Appointment of Military Liaison to the Board

It is the administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Son (Sonny) H. Luu as the military advisor to the Anchorage School Board.

3. ASD Memorandum # 79 - ASD for School Bus Safety Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing October 15-21, 2006, as School Bus Safety Week in the Anchorage School District.

4. ASD Memorandum # 77 - ASD Resolution Designating October 21-29, 2006 as Red Ribbon Week for Anchorage School District

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating October 21-29, 2006 as Red Ribbon Week in the Anchorage School District.

5. ASD Memorandum # 69 - ASD Resolution in Support of Alaska Federation of Natives Conference

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution in support of the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, October 23-28, 2006.

6. ASD Memorandum # 78 - ASD Resolution in Support of Keeping the Lights on After School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating October 12, 2006 as "Lights on Afterschool! Day" in the Anchorage School District.

7. ASD Memorandum # 74 - Acceptance of Grant Award: State of Alaska WIA In-School and Out-of-School Youth Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the State of Alaska, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) In-School and Out-of-School Youth Program, in the amount of \$68,866. This ongoing program is designed to reduce the drop-out rate of adjudicated youth offenders and increase opportunities to obtain postsecondary training and careers upon graduation.

8. ASD Memorandum # 67 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Reading is FUNdamental, Inc.

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from Reading is Fundamental, Inc., in the amount of \$45,540 to purchase books for students in fifteen elementary schools.

9. ASD Memorandum # 65 - Acceptance of Continuation Contract Agreement: The Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation contract agreement from the Association of Alaska School Boards in the amount of \$168,700.

10. ASD Memorandum # 32 - Award of Contract: Southeast Regional Resource Center, Project Appeal Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to the Southeast Regional Resource Center, Inc. (SERRC) in the amount of \$382,427 for SERRC to manage subcontracts with two partner districts participating in year two of the Project Appeal (Advanced Placement Programs for Every Able Learner) grant program. The partner districts are Yukon Koyukuk School District (YKSD) and Kuspuk School District (KSD). Since the grant is approved annually, this

contract covers the second year of the three-year grant program, from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

11. ASD Memorandum # 64 - Sale of Surplus Property

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the listed surplus property by sealed bid sale or public auction in accordance with Board policy 732.1. Prior to the sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

12. ASD Memorandum # 72 - Personnel Report

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

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele
Seconded by: John Steiner

To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 7, 2006, the Special Meeting of September 25, and Memoranda #76, #79 Revised, #77, #69, #78, #74, #67, #65, #32, #64 and #72.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Excused: Marks

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 73 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of September 11, 2006 through September 26, 2006.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Metcalfe reminded the Board and the community that the Legislative Candidate Forums are scheduled for October 17th at Hanshew Middle School and on October 19th at Clark Middle School from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Ms. Comeau noted that the forums will be taped for rebroadcast on Channel 14.

Mr. Steiner noted that the appointment of Lt. Col. Sonny Luu had been passed this evening on the consent agenda and welcomed him.

Mr. Roberts welcomed the Alaska Native Convention to Anchorage. Their convention will be held October 23 - 28, 2006.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of October 2, 2006, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:15 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved