

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2006

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, November 13, 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, Crystal Kennedy, Macon Roberts, Jeff Friedman, Jake Metcalfe, Mary Marks, and Tim Steele.

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, Ralph Feriani, Lt. Col. Luu, Damita Owen, Ray Amsden, Pam Chenier, Stan Syta, Marie Laule, Opehlia Dargan-Steed, Laurel Vorachek, Mark Mew, Chad Stiteler, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Steele reported that the AASB just completed their annual conference. Ms. Marks was elected to the AASB Board during that meeting.

Mr. Metcalfe reported that he had received a lot of positive feedback regarding the bear dissection done at Central Middle School. He also reported that he had addressed three government classes at South High School in conjunction with a different position he holds. He was very impressed with how prepared the students were for elections and the types of questions they asked. He was impressed by the curriculum and the instruction that the students have received.

Mr. Roberts reported that he had heard some very positive things from the youth votes. He noted that he would soon be attending his fourth annual Congressional Congress on Civic Education in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Metcalfe encouraged all teachers and school employees to vote early as a means to reduce the number using a question ballot. He explained that using a question ballot eliminates the opportunity to vote for one's district legislator.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. East Orchestra under the direction of Margaret David performed several pieces for the enjoyment of the Board and other present at the meeting.

2. Planet Walk Presentation

Ms. Comeau introduced Ms. Jean Hallenthal from the Downtown Rotary. Ms. Hallenthal explained that the Anchorage Lightspeed Planet Walk was a centennial project of the Anchorage Rotary Club and a gift to the city. There is a wonderful curriculum that accompanies the Planet Walk thanks to the support of the Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Daily News. The Walk begins at the Sun Station behind the Performing Arts Center in downtown Anchorage and includes nine planet stations that stretch all the way out to Kincaid Park. The walk offers the opportunity to experience the vastness of the universe and learn about the planets. An interactive kiosk has been added to the Sun Station which includes a scientific presentation and an internet connection. The kiosk also includes a video which presents the five native myths about the sun, the moon and the stars.

Ms. Gayle Raymond introduced Ms. Robby Bear and Ms. Trisha Herminghouse who were instrumental in the development of the curriculum. The curriculum was designed to be used in a variety of settings including classrooms, homeschools, and with individual families. It needed to support what is already being done in the District and it needed to be interactive during the walk itself. She explained how the Planet Walk coordinates with and supports current curriculum in both sixth and eighth grade. Ms. Raymond demonstrated the webquest that was designed to assist students in learning about the planets prior to taking the walk.

Ms. Comeau expressed her appreciation to the Rotary and to the Science Department for developing such a wonderful package.

3. ASD Memorandum # 97 - Recognition of Region IV Principals of the Year

Ms. Kennedy read that Cheryl Guyette and Joel Roylance have been selected at the Region IV High School and Middle School Principals of the Year, respectively. The award is given by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals.

Cheryl Guyette was selected as the Region IV High School Principal of the Year for her outstanding work at Dimond High School. Since Cheryl became principal at Dimond three years ago, she has successfully implemented Professional Learning Communities and the Freshman House. Cheryl has also advanced student curriculum by bringing in the APEX and Co-op programs and approving a record number of Advanced Placement courses. Many of Cheryl's co-workers say she is a hands-on leader who has a great affection for her staff and students alike. She makes time to listen to parents, has an open door policy for staff and puts the needs of students ahead of her own.

Recently Joel Roylance led Wendler Middle School through a complete renovation while continuing to strive for academic excellence. Joel is an excellent example of middle school leadership with his focus on academic achievement in a diverse population. Joel effectively uses data in his school to improve instruction and promotes the positive use of technology in class. Colleagues say Joel is an outstanding mentor and takes time to listen and work with all students, staff and parents. Joel has been the principal at Wendler for six years of his 13 year tenure at the district.

The School Board recognized Cheryl Guyette and Joel Roylance as the Region IV High School and Middle School Principals of the Year. Both are now candidates for the state award given out in January. We wish them luck and thank them for their dedication to their profession, the community and the Anchorage School District.

4. ASD Memorandum # 127 - Recognition of Alaska Assistant Principal of the Year

Mr. Metcalfe read that Julye Neel was initially hired in the Anchorage School District in 1981. She was a successful high school counselor and a BP Teacher of Excellence. This year, Julye has the distinct honor of being the 2006 Alaska State Assistant Principal of the Year. The award is presented by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals.

Dimond High School principal Cheryl Guyette says Julye provides leadership with strength and a smile. Cheryl says the school has prospered with Julye's leadership through a variety of job responsibilities. Her work ethic, compassion, integrity and optimism create lightness and harmony in the serious climate of the school. Through focus, encouragement and collaboration, Julye led Dimond's Freshman House through an outstanding inaugural year.

Julye was named the Region IV Assistant Principal of the Year and is now the state honoree. The School Board recognized Julye Neel as the 2006 Alaska State Assistant Principal of the Year. Julye is a candidate for the national award which will be determined in a few months. We appreciate her outstanding and positive leadership in our schools and wish her continued success.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Feriani reported that the Student Advisory Board will meet this Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. at the King Career Center. He noted that the main subject on the agenda is the budget and invited members of the Board to attend.

Mr. Feriani noted that he had recently attended both the AASG meeting in Valdez and the Youth Leadership Institute at the AASB annual conference. He reported that the youth had organized and presented a debate at West High School last week in conjunction with Youth Vote.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Lu had nothing to share with the Board.

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

Mr. Johnson reported that the last meeting of the MECAC was on November 4, 2006 and the next meeting will be this Thursday, November 16, 2006 at noon. As always, the public is welcome to attend.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Amber Popken, a fifth year teacher in the District, noted that teachers are not reimbursed for the expenses incurred to receive the title of highly qualified teacher which is a standard required by NCLB. She reviewed the statistics on the numbers of teachers who leave the profession early in their careers and indicated that she would be leaving her position due to her inability to maintain her standard of living on her teacher's salary. She compared her wages and benefits to a BP laborer working on the slope.

Mr. Darrell Horton, a teacher at Mount Spurr Elementary, reviewed the meaning of the word supervision and how it relates to leadership. His opinion was that the titled leadership in the District do not exhibit leadership qualities.

Mr. Rich Kronberg spoke on retaining quality teachers. He believed that while competitive compensation is a key element in retaining quality teachers it is only one piece of the puzzle. He believed that although the bargaining dispute has metastasized around compensation, the real issue is whether teachers in the District are treated as professionals.

Ms. Jennifer Childress, a high school science teacher, explained that the negotiation tactics she believed are being employed by the District will create long term damage. She felt the tactics are disrespectful and undervalue the hard work done by teachers. She was particularly dismayed with the information indicating that teachers work a seven-and-a-half hour day. She reviewed her typical ten to twelve hour day and asked which of those hours she is being paid for and which hours she is giving as charity.

Ms. Linda Townsend, a Bartlett High School teacher, expressed her concern regarding the contract negotiations. She believed that the words of praise and congratulations for teacher accomplishments and improved student test scores being heard from administrators are disingenuous when those same administrators put teachers in a negative light when discussing the negotiations in public venues. Teachers do not feel motivated, engaged or inspired by leadership in the District.

Mr. Mark Meinen, a teacher at Romig Middle School, reviewed what it really means to say that teacher's salaries aren't keeping up with the cost with the cost of living. He reviewed his own situation and those of other teachers who work second jobs to make ends meet.

Ms. Kimmer Ball addressed the negotiations from the perspective of a community member and ASD parent. She noted that she would like to see changes made in the way that the District handles the negotiations with teachers. She indicated that future teachers are being discouraged by the current situation. She believed that the District should go beyond offering a fair contract and offer a great contract with a sizable increase in pay. This would assure the community that the contract would attract the most qualified teachers.

Mr. Craig Mollerstuen, an ASD parent, urged the Board to raise the salary and compensation level for teachers in the District. He believed that teachers can't be paid enough for molding our next generation of citizens. The value that society receives from the work that teachers do is immeasurable. He feared that the District may not be keeping up with the market and is at risk of losing 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. Regular Meeting - September 11, 2006
- b. Special Meeting - October 16, 2006

2. ASD Memorandum # 125 - ASD Resolution in Support of Principal Appreciation Day

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 17, 2006, as Principal Appreciation Day in the Anchorage School District.

3. ASD Memorandum # 123 - ASD Resolution in Recognition of American Education Week and All School Employees

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 12-18, 2006, as American Education Week for all employees in the Anchorage School District.

4. ASD Memorandum # 126 - Adoption of School Board Goals

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals for 2006-2007 as shown in Attachment A. For comparison purposes, Attachment B shows the changes made with deletions crossed out and additions underlined.

5. ASD Memorandum # 112 - Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Financial Planning

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District’s FY 2007-2008 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the budget for FY 2007-2008 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenues and use of fund balance not-to-exceed \$620,954,219. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

	<u>FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan</u>
General Fund	\$ 476,248,205
Food Service Fund	15,500,000
Debt Service Fund	79,206,014
Local/State/Federal Grants Fund	<u>50,000,000</u>
Total - All Funds	<u>\$ 620,954,219</u>

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated cost increases, further review of the fee structure, School Board requests, Administration, Budget Review Teams, community, staff and student recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility must be allowed for adjustments if more information regarding the funding, or lack thereof, for the increased certificated and classified retirement rates approved by the Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB). Flexibility must also be allowed for adjustments based on the budget being in alignment with academic achievement, updated demographic and/or economic information.

6. ASD Memorandum # 98 - Recommendation of the Name for the Muldoon Area Middle School

It is recommended that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to name the new middle school in the Muldoon area the Nicholas J. Begich Middle School.

7. ASD Memorandum # 111 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 143 - Policy Development Principles (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on First Reading the proposed policy changes for School Board Policy 143, Board Policies (Attachment A).

8. ASD Memorandum # 103 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Railroad Summer Youth Employment Program 2007

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Railroad Corporation for an ongoing program described in a current Memorandum of Agreement. This award for \$33,000 supports supervised summer employment for youth from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Career Center.

9. ASD Memorandum # 106 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Manning Family Foundation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a cash grant from the Manning Family Foundation to Inlet View Elementary School in the amount of \$10,000.

10. ASD Memorandum # 120 - Professional Services Selection for Districtwide Specifications

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of BrainSpaces as the Educational Specification Writer for revisions to separate Districtwide Educational Specifications for Elementary, Middle and High schools, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with BrainSpaces for educational specification writing services.

11. ASD Memorandum # 101 - Award of Contract: Dispensed Juice Beverages

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to

Coca-Cola Alaska to furnish Dispensed Juice Beverages in the estimated amount of \$111,250 through June 30, 2006 with an option to renew for four (4) additional one-year periods.

12. ASD Memorandum # 102 - Award of Contract: Frozen Potato Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Food Services of America to furnish Frozen Potato Products in the estimated amount of \$100,714.

13. ASD Memorandum # 108 - Award of Contract: Warehouse Fire Alarm and Closed Circuit Television Installation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Warehouse Fire Alarm & Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation Project to Goertz Construction, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$107,768 and Alternate 1 in the amount of \$1,000 for a total award of \$108,768.

14. ASD Memorandum # 104 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Metcalfe noted that there are "Persons to be Heard" for ASD Memorandum #98, Recommendation of the Name for the Muldoon Area Middle School, and asked that it be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Steele requested that ASD Memorandum #126, Adoption of School Board Goals, and ASD Memorandum #112, Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Financial Planning, be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Steiner requested that ASD Memo #120, Professional Services Selection for Districtwide Specifications, be pulled for discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by: Mr. Metcalfe
Seconded by: Mr. Roberts

To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2006, the Special Meeting of

October 16, 2006, and Memoranda #125, #123, #111, #103, #106, #101, #102, #108 and #104.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Steele requested that discussion on ASD Memorandum #98, Recommendation of the Name for the Muldoon Area Middle School be moved to the top of the agenda based on the number of community members present to participate in the discussion. The change was made with no objection from the Board.

ASD Memorandum # 98 - Recommendation of the Name for the Muldoon Area Middle School

It is recommended that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to name the new middle school in the Muldoon area the Nicholas J. Begich Middle School.

ACTION:

Moved by: Mr. Metcalf
Seconded by: Ms. Marks

It is recommended that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to name the new middle school in the Muldoon area the Nicholas Joseph Begich Middle School.

Ms. Comeau explained that this has been a difficult issue to deal with over the years. She believed that for the last twenty years many community members have been discussing when Nick Begich's name was going to be transferred to a middle school. She recalled that since the late 1970's, when the school board made the decision to break up all of the junior-senior high school complexes, there has been an expectation that the Begich name would follow the program as soon as a school was built. The matter has been complicated by a board policy that establishes that a naming committee will be convened to determine recommendations for naming new District schools. This process has become an emotional

journey with other well-deserving names suggested and considered. Ms. Comeau explained her belief that a commitment had been made to the Begich family that needs to be fulfilled. She acknowledged that there has been some criticism with having her input added to the process.

Ms. Jean Hellenthal spoke in support of the motion to name the new middle school the Nicolas Joseph Begich Middle School. She noted that she served on the school board during the early 1980s and she reiterated the reasons that Ms. Comeau had outlined for her position. She noted that she had only known Mr. Begich as a political figure but that he had a much deeper educational side to his history.

Mr. Walter Featherly spoke in support of the motion. He explained that he served on the school board in the early 1990's. He noted that he had never met Congressman Begich but recalled when the congressman spoke during an assembly at his high school. The Anchorage School District made a decision long ago that Congressman Begich's contributions to this community and to this district were worthy of naming a school after him. Mr. Featherly saw no reason why that decision should be undone. He urged the Board to accept the recommendation made by the naming committee.

Mr. Ron Fuhrer requested that the Board make a decision that runs counter to both the naming committee and Superintendent Comeau's recommendation. The decision he suggested reaches back into history to a stalwart of education in the Anchorage community and enjoins a contemporary nationally recognized Anchorage educator. He indicated that by deciding to name the new Muldoon area middle school the "Stears-Begich Middle School" the Board will set an example of compromise that recognizes both the past and present. It would also put to rest the win-lose process that was put before the naming committee. It would honor both the value of keeping a promise and the value of compromise.

Ms. Carol Stolpe spoke in support the recommendation to name the new middle school "Nicolas Joseph Begich Middle School." She noted that she had attended two of the three naming committee meetings and complemented Ms. Vandergaw on the way in which the meetings were conducted. She also commended the committee members on their work. Ms. Stolpe indicated that she had been on the school board during the time that decisions were made to separate the junior and senior high complexes. It was her clear recollection that the conversation at tht time was that there would be a junior high school named for Representative

Begich. She noted that keeping this promise is an important lesson for the children in the District.

Mr. Tom Begich indicated that he felt that his father has, to a large extent, been forgotten over the last thirty years as his name has become a hyphen on a building. He noted that his father had been recognized nationally as an outstanding teacher in social studies when he was twenty-three years old for his curriculum development. During his life Nick Begich received many awards but the ones that he was proudest of were those for education. Mr. Nick Begich began teaching when he was twenty. He was one of the first innovators of an interactive classroom. Mr. Tom Begich reviewed highlights of the sixteen years that his father devoted to education noting that he only left the education arena because he could not serve in the legislature and continue to work for the District. He noted that the family has waited for twenty-three years for a school to finally be bonded and built. He indicated that the commitment to carry the Begich name to the new school was a promise made to the community, not to the family. He asked that the Board remember and support that commitment as the decision is made.

Ms. Nichelle Begich Mauk, one of Nick Begich's daughters and a teacher in the District, spoke in support of the motion to name the new Mulddon area middle school for her father. She thanked the naming committee for their hard work in selecting the Begich name for the school. She shared that her father believed in the power of education, the power to take anyone anywhere they wanted to go. Naming the new middle school for a man who championed education for all is the right thing to do. She noted that the next generation of Begich children will attend the school.

Ms. Stephanie Begich Oja, another of Nick Begich's daughters, spoke in support of the motion. She noted that her father had been honored many years ago by having the Begich name on the Bartlett-Begich school. She indicated that she would hate to see that honor dropped.

Ms. Sharon Richards thanked the family for sharing their memories of their father. She asked to be counted as one who came to ask the Board to do the right thing and support the recommendation of the committee and the superintendent. In addition to all of the reasons previously mentioned she explained the logic in keeping the Begich name attached to the middle school in the same area of Bartlett High School. The precedent has been established as all of the other buildings resulting from the break-up of the junior-senior highs retained the original names.

Ms. Peggy Robinson, speaking as president of the Northeast Community Council, indicated that the council has not taken an official position on the naming of the new middle school which they are so excited to have right in the center of their neighborhood. However, many of the council members who have been so active in the process of getting the school were aware of the commitment to carry the Begich name from Bartlett and were under the assumption and the hope of that occurring. Ms. Robinson explained that the council representative to the naming committee indicated that the fact that there was a promise that had been made and the importance of keeping that promise weighed heavily in the decision.

Ms. Sheila Selkregg shared her memories of Mr. Begich and indicated how lucky she felt to have had the opportunity to know him. She explained that he had a powerful kindness about him and a powerful sense of hope that really rubbed off on people and that she will always remember. She asked that the Board pass this motion unanimously, not over another person but in light of the fact that this was a wonderful man who needs to be celebrated for his commitment to young people and to the future.

Ms. Comeau appreciated the testimony of all of the speakers. She indicated that this is the reason that all of the schools should be named after people. There is so much benefit from recognizing wonderful Alaskans. The naming of schools after people can provide a wonderful opportunity to teach Alaska history through the lives of these people. She urged the unanimous support of the Board.

Mr. Metcalfe shared three distinct memories of Mr. Begich. He noted that he had shined his shoes in Juneau when he was in the legislature. In 1970 he had his picture taken and published in the paper with Mr. Begich when he came to Juneau with Hubert Humphrey. The third thing he remembers how hard it was for his family and for all Alaskans when Mr. Begich's plane went down. Mr. Metcalfe recalled his own father speaking on what an advocate for education Mr. Begich was, both for funding education and for teachers.

Mr. Roberts also reported that he knew Nick Begich. He noted that he was much bigger in substance than he was in stature. He noted that Mr. Begich had worked on the title system that has served the education community for so many years. He noted that Mr. Begich was inspirational to listen to as he presented himself and his ideas during the times he was campaigning for office. Mr. Roberts indicated that he was honored to be in a position to make this historical decision.

Mr. Steiner noted that he had some initial concerns when he heard the concept of a promise being made without formal action having been taken. However a thing done ought not to be undone. He reviewed that the Begich name had been associated with the junior high population at the Bartlett-Begich school which dissipated. The school was not closed. He explained that the name already exists on a school that has been waiting for a building, a student body and an administration. He sees this action as a means to continue an historical pattern.

Mr. Friedman reminded everyone about the discussion at the time of name South High School. He is hopeful that other school names can be moved away from geographic locations and toward honoring people.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The Board went into recess at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

ASD Memorandum # 126 - Adoption of School Board Goals

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals for 2006-2007 as shown in Attachment A. For comparison purposes, Attachment B shows the changes made with deletions crossed out and additions underlined.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals for 2006-2007 as shown in Attachment A. For comparison purposes, Attachment B shows the changes made with deletions crossed out and additions underlined.

Ms. Gardner noted that recommendations for Board goals are brought forward every year. For the past several years the Board has been very intentional about keeping the goals consistent with some occasional adjustment to the indicators based on data analysis and recommendations from the administration.

Ms. Laurel Vorachek presented a brief overview of the recommended changes as outlined in the document.

One of the changes was under Measurable Achievement Goals, item (g), which recommended changing the measurement tool from percent proficient to an average scale score. Ms. Vorachek explained that they have learned that proficiency results are too volatile with the fewer number of items.

The one piece of data that is most misused by people who read the Profile of Performance are the results of the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE). When the state reports the results of the 11th and 12th grade retest it is only reporting on those students who retested, which makes it look like the proficiency is dropping as the students move through the upper grades. The results are also quite meaningless for comparison purposes. In order to use the data to measure student performance the cumulative results should be used. This change in HSGQE reporting was recommended.

Ms. Vorachek reviewed some of the important study results which indicate that one of the highest predictors of high school graduation is the number of credits that a student has earned in ninth grade. In light of this information it was recommended that a reporting direction be added to the Board goal to increase the graduation rate. The reporting direction will indicate the percent of ninth graders who are on-track to meet graduation requirements at the end of their freshman year, including summer school. On-track means that the student has earned a minimum of 5.5 credits and failed no more than one semester of a core subject.

Ms. Vorachek noted that a request has been made through Curriculum/Instructional Support to add a reporting direction to the goal of increasing the percent of high school student successfully completing higher-level courses. The recommendation is to add the percent of students taking the College Board AP exams who have successfully completed the AP course with a C or higher. This will also be useful for program planning for the AP initiative in the District.

The customer service and workforce diversity goals have been rewritten to reflect comparisons to the baseline that was established during the 2005-2006 school year. Parent/guardian involvement is a critical factor in student achievement, and it is important to provide a measure of parent/guardian involvement at the District and division levels. This reporting is also a requirement of the new Board policy on Parent Involvement. The staff climate survey administered in the District already reports a Parent/Guardian and Community Involvement factor score. It was recommended to use the factor score from the 2005-2006 climate survey as a baseline for comparison.

Ms. Kennedy was pleased to see that there were no reductions in what the District is trying to accomplish. One of the items that she was particularly glad to see was the change in reporting mechanism for the HSGQE. She asked what the report will look like with those changes. Ms. Vorachek explained that the number will now include all students at a particular grade level who are enrolled at year end who have passed the exam rather than just the students who took the test.

Ms. Kennedy questioned whether there is a problem with students taking the AP tests because of the cost of the tests. Ms. Gardner reported that all of the high schools do provide assistance for students who need financial help in paying for the exam. Ms. Vorachek indicated that the desire is that all students who can successfully participate in the AP classes do so regardless of what their score might be on the exam.

Mr. Steele asked whether the reporting of ninth grade on-track for graduation data would be carried on through the student's high school years so that tracking could be done throughout a student's career. Ms. Vorachek explained that this data will provide the baseline to actually follow the current ninth graders through four years to find out whether or not our District will find the same prediction that other researchers have found. She noted that the report could be expanded to look at the tenth and eleventh on-track indicators. The other possibility is to take this particular cohort of students and follow their performance over the four years.

Mr. Steiner wondered whether there have been any discussions with the state regarding HSGQE reporting. The state reporting mechanism report only the results of the students who have taken the test that year. He believed that the recommended reporting process will be a much more valid depiction of how the District is doing.

Mr. Freidman questioned why last year's data couldn't be used as a baseline for the number of students who are on-track for graduation at the end of their ninth grade year. Ms. Vorachek noted that, as these goals were being developed there was sensitivity given to the fact that the goals would not be adopted until November and that high school principals like to know what the goals are at the beginning of the school year.

Ms. Comeau explained that the administration would like to bring recommendations for changes in the goals to the Board in the spring so that they are in place and direction can be provided to schools and support departments prior to the beginning of the school year.

Mr. Freidman voiced some concern with the recommended reporting changes on the HSGQE. He believed that if the pass rate reported by the state is different from that reported by the District there would be accusations of the District trying to misleading the public. Ms. Gardner indicated that both she and Ms. Vorachek are on the state's Assessment and Accountability Advisory panel that is currently meeting and noted that they would bring this issue to their attention.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 112 - Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Financial Planning

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2007-2008 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the budget for FY 2007-2008 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenues and use of fund balance not-to-exceed \$620,954,219. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

	<u>FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan</u>
General Fund	\$ 476,248,205
Food Service Fund	15,500,000
Debt Service Fund	79,206,014

Local/State/Federal Grants Fund	<u>50,000,000</u>
Total - All Funds	<u>\$ 620,954,219</u>

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated cost increases, further review of the fee structure, School Board requests, Administration, Budget Review Teams, community, staff and student recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility must be allowed for adjustments if more information regarding the funding, or lack thereof, for the increased certificated and classified retirement rates approved by the Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB). Flexibility must also be allowed for adjustments based on the budget being in alignment with academic achievement, updated demographic and/or economic information.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele
 Seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2007-2008 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the budget for FY 2007-2008 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenues and use of fund balance not-to-exceed \$620,954,219. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

FY 2007-2008
Financial Plan

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It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to

adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated cost increases, further review of the fee structure, School Board requests, Administration, Budget Review Teams, community, staff and student recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility must be allowed for adjustments if more information regarding the funding, or lack thereof, for the increased certificated and classified retirement rates approved by the Alaska Retirement Management Board (ARMB). Flexibility must also be allowed for adjustments based on the budget being in alignment with academic achievement, updated demographic and/or economic information.

Ms. Comeau noted that the use of \$3.225 million of fund balance has been incorporated into the fiscal planning to reduce the fiscal gap from \$20.446 million to \$17.221 million. It is important to recognize that the fund balance can only be used for one-time expenditures. It is not to be used for ongoing employment expenses. Among other highlights she noted that only the amount currently being paid out on retirement is included. If there is any signal before the budget is presented that the legislature is not going to act early or is not going to support Governor Murkowski's suggestions then adjustments will have to be made and perhaps bring two budgets to the Board in January for consideration. If it is found that the legislature is not going to deal with the retirement situation quickly the administration will have to deal with a \$68 million additional deficit on top of the \$17 million deficit currently being dealt with.

Ms. Comeau noted that the Budget Review teams will conclude this week and will bring their reports to the Board on November 30, 2006. All of the reports will be taken under advisement as the budget is developed. A decline in enrollment is being projected which drives all of the assumptions in building the budget. She reviewed the various assumptions being used.

Mr. Metcalfe wondered whether anyone from the new administration or their transition team contacted the District to discuss education funding

for the next year. Ms. Comeau indicated that she has a call in to the Palen campaign headquarters and she is hoping to hear from them. For the public's benefit Mr. Metcalfe asked for an explanation about why the District has to budget in the blind where a budget has to be set before knowing what funding will be received. He also asked what can be done to change that system. Ms. Comeau explained that there are a number of issues that present problems for the District. First of all there is no forward funding or inflation-proof funding. Part of the problem is a municipal charter that requires the District to present a balanced budget to the Assembly by the first Monday in March, which is a local issue not experienced by other municipalities and boroughs. The problem is enormous and very multifaceted.

Mr. Steiner reported that a resolution was also passed at the AASB requesting that education funding decisions be made earlier in the legislative session. The other resolution passed by that body was for forward funding to see if one legislature could actually budget and appropriate money for the following year so that school districts would know at least the base amount of funding at least a year in advance. Last year the District did not budget for the then existing statutory amount but rather the budget was built on what the governor put in his budget in order to avoid creating an artificial crisis. That same process is being used this year. If we were to budget to the \$68 million deficit identified by the Alaska Retirement Management Board it would be an absolute nightmare.

Mr. Steiner has some concern about whether all of the PERS/TRS costs that apply to Food Service and the Grant Funded budgets will be covered by any fix that the legislature might propose. Ms. Comeau responded that the administration will probably be bringing an alternate budget in addition to the balanced budget dealing with the \$17 million deficit for just that reason. Mr. Steiner indicated that he would like to know what additional deficits would remain with the retirement system requirements for the Food Service and Grant Funded positions if they are not covered requirements in the General Fund. Ms. Comeau noted that the information is more readily available from the Food Service Fund. The Grant Fund is significantly more complex as grants are typically given for a particular purpose and if the budget does not allow the service to be provided as established in the grant it may go away completely or may be radically changed. She expressed her feeling that this will be the most complex budget that has ever had to be developed, at least since she has been superintendent.

Mr. Steele noted that he was encouraged by the statements of the new governor and legislators in terms of their desire to try to solve the education funding problem.

Ms. Comeau noted that the hardest part of the process is the fact that so much time has to be spent focusing on this budget crisis rather than on teaching and learning. There are so many good things happening that have direct impact on students that, unless there is a significant infusion of funds, will have to be eliminated. She recognized that the District is currently involved in a contentious time with the union because, unfortunately, many of the teachers feel that it is okay to lose programs and that everything should be put into salary and benefits. She respectfully disagreed with that assessment believing that there are very important programs and staff positions that support classrooms and that those things are valuable as well. She voiced her frustration with the denigration of so much good that is going on to support the classroom and improving the teaching and learning conditions. Many of these programs and positions will, in all probability, have to be cut. Mr. Steele sighted this as the reason he would like to see what a budget based on what the District would like to have in order to go forward and have the achievement that we are capable of would look like.

Mr. Friedman recalled the list of programs that would be reinstated or added with the infusion of additional funds and indicated that he found it to be beneficial when speaking with legislators last year. Mr. Steiner agreed that knowing what the District would do with additional funds was useful. He suggested that being ready earlier with information for the legislature would be extremely helpful. Last year there was a struggle to identify the base student allocation number needed. It would be beneficial to have that number early enough to give to the new governor as she is putting together her budget and to the new legislature as they are asked to address education early in their session.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of BrainSpaces as the Educational Specification Writer for revisions to separate Districtwide Educational Specifications for Elementary, Middle and High schools, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with BrainSpaces for educational specification writing services.

ACTION:

Moved by: Mr. Steiner

Seconded by: Mr. Metcalfe

To approve the selection of BrainSpaces as the Educational Specification Writer for revisions to separate Districtwide Educational Specifications for Elementary, Middle and High schools, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with BrainSpaces for educational specification writing services.

Ms. Comeau requested that Mr. Amsden respond to any questions that the Board might have. She noted that the District absolutely needs to revisit their Education Specifications. They have been adjusted on a school project by school project basis over the past few years. She believed that the time has come to review the specifications and build in any adjustments looking at the whole issue of technology and how it impacts what we do. Mr. Amsden noted that this is an objective that has been around for some time and he believed that addressing the issue holistically will result in better products in the future at lesser costs.

Mr. Steiner sought of clarification on the process of selection. Mr. Amsden explained that it is his belief that this particular contract is a continuation of the services for education specification development done in recent years at West, Romig, and Clark. He explained, for example, that a comprehensive education specification was written for Clark and that it is believed that that document can be tweaked to make a generalized districtwide standard for middle schools without starting over from a new foundation. This same consultant was also involved with the specification development at West High School. That component is seen as taking advantage of the consultants last eighteen months working with the District, knowing the educational philosophies and how we deliver programs. This is a way to capitalize on the background and knowledge

of the District that this consultant brings to the table. He suggested that starting with a different consultant would result in a significant learning curve.

Mr. Steiner acknowledged that this description of the process indicates that a sole source contract was appropriate. He wondered whether there is a process for sole source contracting in the Board policy and, if so, was the policy followed. Ms. Amsden indicated that, in discussion with Ms. Chenier, it was felt that this is a continuation of a services being provided by BrainSpaces. Ms. Chenier reported that there is a policy for sole source which does speak to proprietary specifications. Although the policy does not require a specific determination, the memorandum basically spells out that determination. It notes that there will be some cost savings and a smaller learning curve and that this is the best way for the District to move forward.

Mr. Friedman indicated that he is comfortable that the process followed fits within our policy.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 105 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of October 10, 2006 through November 1, 2006.

2. ASD Memorandum # 113 - First Quarter End-of-Month Membership Summary - October 31, 2006

The end-of-month membership report for October 31, 2006 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of October was 48,915. This enrollment represents a decrease of 153 students when compared to the September 29, 2006 total of 49,068.

3. ASD Memorandum # 114 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of October 2006

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of October is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

4. ASD Memorandum # 115 - Student Membership Projections for September 30, 2007

The attached document presents the fall forecast for the September 30, 2007 Anchorage School District student membership. Table I compares the projections for September 30, 2007, by program, with the actual totals for September 29, 2006.

5. ASD Memorandum # 117 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2006-2007 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.

6. ASD Memorandum # 118 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: September 30, 2006

The attached report consists of three parts: the Graphic Overview, the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Graphic Overview is presented on a quarterly basis and the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis. The Treasurer's report and Financial Recap are year-to-date information as of September 30, 2006.

7. ASD Memorandum # 119 - Operating budget Transfers - October Monthly Report FY 2006-2007

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of October 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 October 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. Kennedy mentioned that there was a policy revision on Policy Development that was passed on first reading on the Consent Agenda. She encouraged Board members to review that again before the second reading. There will be a Policy Subcommittee meeting on November 22, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. if there are any comments regarding that policy revision.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of November 13, 2006, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:55 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved