

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2007

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 22, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Education 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, Mary Marks, and Tim Steele. Jake Metcalfe joined the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

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

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Friedman noted that there was an addendum to the Personnel Report.

The agenda was approved, with the addendum, by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Steele reminded everyone that budget work sessions are scheduled for all day Tuesday, January 23rd and Thursday, January 25th. The Board will be going through the budget and looking at the recommendations.

Ms. Kennedy noted that the Policy Subcommittee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 30th at 9:00 a.m. in the Board conference room.

Mr. Steiner noted that the First Reading of the Budget will be on Wednesday, January 31st at 5:00 p.m. and the Second Reading will be Thursday, February 8th at 5:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the Board Room.

Ms. Comeau welcomed everyone to the new Education Center. She thanked J&L Properties and REM Design for working with the District over the past several months to redesign the former Boniface Mall into an

office building. She also recognized several businesses who donated items of furniture including Conoco Philips, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Credit Union One, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union and the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Without those generous donations there would be a fair number of conference rooms in the building with no furniture.

Ms. Comeau explained once again that this lease has been extended at the same rates as the former building on DeBarr. In addition, J&L Properties paid for the full cost of the move and the upgrades. She acknowledged that there is quite a bit of misunderstanding and misinformation out there but it truly is the same amount that the District has been paying in the current lease that expires in 2010. The lease has transferred over to this building because J&L Properties owns both buildings.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Trailside Choir, Linda Bender directing

The students of the Trailside Choir performed several numbers from their upcoming musical for the entertainment of the Board and other community members in attendance.

2. ASD Memorandum #167 - Recognition of 2006 National Teacher Certification Recipients

Crystal Kennedy read that five more Anchorage School District teachers have earned their National Board Certification, offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The certification is a symbol of commitment to excellence in teaching. A teacher who holds this credential has been assessed by his or her peers as a professional who is accomplished, makes sound judgments about student learning, and acts effectively on those judgments.

Candidates achieve National Board Certification if they meet or exceed NBPTS Standards by demonstrating their expertise through portfolio entries and assessment exercises. The Anchorage School District now has 34 National Board Certified teachers. The following teachers received their certification Dec. 13:

- Misti Guelld of Tudor Elementary
- Faith Johnson of East High

- Lisa Mitchell of East High
- Heidi Postishek of Polaris K-12
- Heather Roach of East High

The School Board recognized these five teachers for their outstanding achievements.

3. ASD Memorandum #157 - Recognition of People Mover Donation

John Steiner read that students learn some of their most valuable lessons in their own back yard. Through the Anchorage School District's partnership with People Mover, teachers use field trips to expand their students' education.

People Mover has long provided \$50 elementary school Class Passes, which allow unlimited field trips on its buses for the entire school year. This year, People Mover donated 39 Class Passes to introduce teachers to this valuable program. People Mover has also hosted a number of field trips at the Downtown Transit Center where students learn about the value of public transportation as well as skills for riding the bus, such as pedestrian safety and reading schedules.

In addition, the Municipality of Anchorage funded \$12,500 to purchase bus passes for the Child in Transition Program, and People Mover has also applied its 2-for-1 and quantity discount program representing almost \$5,000 in discounts for that program. People Mover also supports the district's ACT and ACE programs issuing about 50 passes to trainers or teacher aides, at no cost, in recognition of the important role they play in teaching life skills, including the use of public transportation.

The Anchorage School Board recognized People Mover for its outstanding support of the Anchorage School District and its dedication to furthering our students' education.

4. ASD Memorandum # 145 - Recognition of Fall 2006 Denali Award Recipients

Mr. Roberts read that to Alaskans, Denali means "great one," and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service and dedication. Twice each year, a committee of Anchorage School District employees selects a number of co-workers and a team of colleagues that demonstrate an

outstanding commitment to its mission of educating students for success in life. The Denali award is the highest level of recognition a staff member may receive from the district.

The certificated Denali award winner for Fall 2006 is Pam Christianson, a counselor at Ursa Major Elementary School. In her second year as the school's counselor, Pam has already had a significant impact in the school community that has been hit hard by soldier deployments. In a letter of support, teacher Michael Walsh writes, "Every single day, in countless ways, she makes life significantly better for those around her. Those needing counseling, whether adult or child, come away feeling peaceful, and with working strategies to face their challenges." Parents say it's obvious that Pam's heart is in her job and her passion for students as well as her career is easily visible. The school's BPO, Ivan Doucet, calls Pam Ursa Major's own Mary Poppins, because she is the spoon full of sugar that kids need to deal with today's problems.

Ms. Marks read that the support staff members receiving the Denali award are BPOs Alfredo Morales at Tudor Elementary and Percy Williams at Mears Middle School. Known as Mr. Alfredo around school, he makes sure the building is clean and tidy for students and fellow staff members. In his nomination for the award, Principal Michelle Smith writes, "It's obvious that Mr. Morales has a strong work ethic, sees his job as a reflection of him, takes pride in his work, and understands the importance of a well-organized school environment." Other Tudor coworkers say in the past four years that Alfredo has spent at the school, he's always been very positive, hard-working and willing to go the extra mile. Students even wrote in to support Alfredo's nomination. Here is a little of what they had to say.

- "You're a really good cleaner," from Alec.
- "You are very cool and nice to me," from MaKayla.
- "He says good morning to everyone. He takes out the trash because he is a strong guy and he is a nice guy," from Brenden.
- "Mr. Alfredo is a good and nice man. If we have trouble he is on the double!" from Fatima.
- "I love your work! It is awesome how you clean the cafeteria!" from Daija.

As part of his nomination, students also put together four colorful books of praise for Mr. Alfredo.

Percy Williams, BPO at Mears Middle School is also honored with the Denali award for support staff. Percy has been an ASD employee for

26 years, spending the majority of his years at Mears and Dimond High. Percy's direct supervisor, Principal Michael Perkins says in his 19 years as an educator, he cannot think of any teacher, administrator or support person who has had a more positive influence on the lives of thousands of students in the Anchorage School District. Percy's coworkers say he takes a few moments each day to make the school a great place to work. In a letter of support, student Avery Hudson writes, "I know Percy may not think that he did much, but he has taken time for me and others to help guide us. I think you need to take a bow Percy. I'm slowly getting wiser and I have to thank you for that."

The administrator/principal award goes to East High Assistant Principal Sue Holway for her outstanding contribution to the district. Sue spent more than two decades teaching in ASD classrooms before becoming an administrator three years ago. Sue's job now includes being in charge of dozens of clubs, athletic and academic teams, shows, concerts, assemblies, coaches, directors, sponsors and their various schedules, budgets, fundraising, permitting, bussing and eligibility. Not only is she able to keep track of it all, she makes it easy for others to keep up also. Sue has been a strong advocate for Title IX in all areas of athletics. In addition to help the district become compliant with the law, under her leadership, East High has more girls participating in athletics than boys for the first time ever. In one of several support letters, Scott Thomas, East High's athletic director, writes, "Her enthusiasm is contagious and the students, parents, coaches and staff members of East High are fortunate beyond measure to have her with us. I believe that this award would be fantastic thanks for the unconditional devotion and effort she gives feely each day."

Mr. Steele read that there were several fantastic teams nominated for the Fall 2006 Denali award. Deserving of extra recognition are Susitna Optional Elementary School staff and the IEP Support staff. Last year, seven teachers at Susitna Optional addressed student homelessness in a community outreach project. Students in grades K-6 formed teams and each focused on a particular topic related to homelessness in Anchorage. Teams read books, listened to guest speakers, made pottery bowls to sell as a fundraiser to help feed homeless children, and held a school-wide benefit concert/celebration. In all, the 175 students involved in the project contributed nearly 2,500 hours of community service. Melissa Mailhiot, Bean's Café Event Coordinator, says some of the funds raised by the school will be used to help feed the community's homeless and hungry population year-round. She

also notes that the school's partnership helped "make the essentials of life a reality for the poor." The seven-teacher team that headed the community outreach project was made up of Lucinda Eliason-Jensen, Brittany Bauman, Iris Morton, Julie Graham, Virginia Hughes, Ben Elbow, Ingrid Bodensteiner and David Gillam. Principal Paul Wieneke and the parent group also assisted on the year-long project. The school outreach project was documented in a professional, hard cover book.

The IEP Clerical Support Clerk program is also honored with the Denali team award. The program began five years ago to lighten the special education teachers' paperwork, allowing them to focus on student instruction. Clericals assist with documenting behavior plans, progress reports, scheduling meetings, maintaining and updating databases tracking accommodations and testing, and maintaining and tracking IEP paperwork, dates and deadlines. Since the programs establishment in 2001, the staff has proven to be an integral part of the Special Education department. Muldoon Elementary's Special Ed Department Chair, Penny Seliger, writes of her school's IEP clerical, "Our days get so busy that we some times don't have time enough to stop and think. She (our IEP clerical) is so good about getting in touch with parents and getting meetings set up that if I had to do that, then it would take time away from my students and testing time that I really need. The IEP clericals are so wonderfully trained it would be hard to imagine what life would be without them, but then I don't want to think about that, as I have been with the district 13 years and do remember what life was like without them." Principal Jacqui Gorlick of Nunaka Valley Elementary, is also grateful of the IEP clerk at her school, "Her eye for detail and strong work ethic provides our special education team with accurate and timely contacts, efficient scheduling and written documentation. She shows great pride in building relationships with parents even though she often 'meets' them solely on the telephone. We are very fortunate to have her as a member of our team."

The School Board recognized Pam Christianson, Alfredo Morales, Percy Williams, Susitna Optional staff and the IEP Clerical Support team for their outstanding work that has made them an asset to the district and the winners of the Fall 2006 Denali awards.

Mr. Steiner noted that it is great to recognize the winners but there are many others who were nominated. He believed that, even though only one can win the award, that other people are doing great work. He was pleased to read the names of all of the nominees:

Terri Rosso, Romig Middle
Rachel Roux, Lake Hood Elementary
Denise Trujillo, Eagle River High
Art Chico, Mt. Spurr Elementary
Ann LaRue, Goldenview Middle
Laurie Lingnau, Turnagain Elementary
Dale Normandin, Training & Professional Development
Tom Sawyer, Clark Middle
Gene and Troy, Fire Lake Elementary
Newcomers' Center, King Career Center
Science Department Support Teachers, districtwide

The Board recognized all of the nominees for their great work and contributions to the District.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Feriani reported that the next meeting of the Student Advisory Board meeting is tomorrow, January 23rd at 11:15 a.m. at King Career Center.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu was not able to attend the meeting. Ms. Comeau noted that Lt. Col. Luu is hosting visiting military leaders from the Pacific Command for the next several days. They will be visiting several schools around the District while they are here. Lt. Col. Luu is very interested in showing military people from around the world our fine schools. She also shared a conversation that she had last evening with Col. Shutt and asked that all District staff be very aware of the number of military fatalities that Fort Richardson has suffered recently. It is a very stressful and difficult time for all of the families.

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

Ms. Damita Owen reported that the MECAC met on Thursday, January 18th. One item that came up on that agenda was that Polynesian youth from East and West high schools are in need of volunteer tutors. If there is anyone in the community who is interested in tutoring these students on a volunteer basis they would

welcome their assistance. She noted that the MECAC continues to plan the Parent Forum.

The next meeting of the MECAC is scheduled for February 7th at 4:30 p.m. in one of the Education Center conference rooms. There is also a meeting schedule for February 15th at 12:30 p.m.

F. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Mr. Ed Scherer, principal at Homestead Elementary and chair of the APA Negotiation team, provided public testimony regarding upcoming APA negotiations. He introduced the other members of the negotiation team. He noted that the team represents 138 principals and assistant principals. These are individuals who are committed to the education of our children and the efficient and effective management and administration of our schools, and thus the success of the Anchorage School District. Mr. Scherer expressed the hope that, over the weeks ahead, an agreement will be reached which supports both the APA and the District. Mr. Scherer distributed an informational packet to the Board.

G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Marilyn Pillifant introduced herself as a graduate of ASD, a parent of ASD students, a teacher in the District, and a member of the AEA Board. She indicated that she believes that the District is in trouble. She noted that the District is no longer a player in the competitive marketplace for hiring quality teachers. In addition, she noted that there is a critical shortage of substitutes. Ms. Pillifant indicated that 32 teachers have left the District to work in the Mat-Su Valley over the past two years. She reported that the teachers are leaving the District for jobs elsewhere because of higher salaries, less expensive housing, and member contributions to health coverage that are less than half of what ASD teachers pay. Attracting and retaining quality teachers is about aligning priorities and investing in teachers. She urged the Board to go back to the bargaining table and settle a contract that will begin to restore ASD's reputation to the status that it once had.

Mr. Brian Hickey, an ASD graduate, spoke as a community member who is interested in youth. He has a son at Rogers Park Elementary and commended the professionalism and dedication of the teachers at Rogers Park. He noted that he would like his son to have the very best educators possible. As a manager he noted the importance of compensation as a motivator. Mr. Hickey encouraged the Board to come to a timely

settlement with the teachers that is equitable and will allow the District to attract the best teachers and to retain the great teachers they already have.

Mr. Chris Towne, an orchestra teacher, shared his concern with the new ethics policy. He would like to make sure that the proposed wording in the new ethics policy does not hinder or deter teachers from pursuing service in the community that is related in skill to their jobs with the District. He specifically referred to School Board Policy 842.2, the reporting of outside employment. Performing is an essential element of musicianship. Professional musicians are an asset to teaching. Performing in the community meets essential ASD teaching standards that teachers are required to fulfill including participating in the community and maintaining and updating the teachers' knowledge base. Often performance opportunities arise at the last minute and requiring teachers to report to a supervisor will undoubtedly only create inconvenience for already busy professionals.

For public information on the ethics policy, Mr. Friedman noted that the Assembly has passed a new ethics code requiring the District to implement new procedures. The Policy Subcommittee has been meeting on this topic and welcomes suggestions on how to word the policy so that it does not become unduly burdensome. Mr. Steiner noted that music performance and music teaching are not necessarily the same profession.

Ms. Wendy Gellert, PTA president at Inlet View Elementary School, urged the Board to settle a competitive contract with the teachers. She noted that she is involved with her school on many levels and is continually impressed with the dedication of their teachers and how much they give to school efforts beyond their classroom commitments. Without support she felt that teachers could pull back from school efforts for which they are not contractually required resulting in schools that are nothing more than learning institutions or daycare. She is worried that the caliber of teachers will drop if a competitive salary scale is not maintained. It will be progressively more difficult to recruit and retain quality teachers if we are not viewed as a state that values our teachers. She hoped that the Board would reevaluate the current budget and prioritize teachers salaries so that this dispute can come to a swift and agreeable resolution.

Mr. Lem Wheelles, a teacher of government, economics and history at Dimond High School, shared lessons from each of those disciplines. He noted that the Board has the responsibility to listen to the testimony of the teachers, consider their suggestions, and use them in crafting District policy. He shared his own personal experience and explained that the

cost of living is climbing much faster than teacher salaries. He voiced his fear that today's students will be dissuaded from choosing education as a profession by salaries that don't keep pace with the cost of living and negotiations that constantly detract from the learning environment.

Ms. Deborah Clayton, an ASD teacher since 1991, noted that she has a college-aged daughter and attributed her daughters' success to the quality teachers she had throughout her education. Ms. Clayton voiced her concern for her elementary-aged sons and the welfare of their future education. Her desire is that Anchorage would be able to attract new teachers and keep the excellent ones that are already here. This will only happen by offering contracts that are comparable to districts of surrounding areas and those in the Lower 48. Ms. Clayton reviewed the effects that the 1994 teacher strike had on the community.

Mr. Andy Holleman, an ASD teacher, encouraged the Board as quickly as possible and with a settlement that assures teachers they will pace inflation throughout the course of the contract. In the meantime, he hoped that all of the teachers would contact their legislators to get the message across that we need to get funding of education done early. This is important so that school boards have the certainty necessary to make a budget and be able to follow it.

To bring the public up to date Ms. Comeau explained that the District and the AEA went to advisory arbitration in late December. Both sides will have the opportunity to provide additional information to the arbitrator this coming Friday. The arbitrator will then have thirty days to review all of the testimony that was submitted and presented during the arbitration. The arbitrator will then issue an advisory report in writing. At that time the two sides will go back at the table to review everything. Ms. Comeau indicated that she is optimistic that the arbitrator can provide good guidance on what can be done to bring the two sides together.

Mr. Friedman requested that the AEA membership encourage their president attend the budget hearings and the readings of the budget and to provide some suggestions on how things can be reprioritized. He noted that he is aware that the AEA has brought two people up from Washington to analyze the District budget and hoped that they would provide a report with suggestions on what changes could be made. It is often heard from AEA members that changes need to be made and that changes could be made but there is never any suggestion as to what those changes should be. Mr. Friedman noted that the District does want to pay all of their employees better, we just have to find a way to do it.

H. 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 - December 7, 2006
- b. Special Meeting - December 11, 2006

2. ASD Memorandum # 170 - Approval of School Board Out-of-State Travel for Third Quarter 2006-2007

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the attached School Board Out-of-State Travel Report.

3. ASD Memorandum # 156 - Bond Information Campaign

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$45,000 for the April 2007 school bond information campaign.

4. ASD Memorandum # 175 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: 2007 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, for hazard mitigation improvements to 21 contingency schools throughout the District.

5. ASD Memorandum # 176 - Acceptance of Grant Award: National Council on Economic Education Microsociety at Eagle River Elementary School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant for \$9,699.50 from the National Council on Economic Education. Funds will be used to support MicroSociety at Eagle River Elementary School.

6. ASD Memorandum # 153 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska 21st Century Community Learning Centers Technical Assistance

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$63,000. Funding will provide technical assistance for the 21st Century Community Learning Center after-school program.

7. ASD Memorandum # 171 - Acceptance of Sub-Recipient Grant: Alaska Parent Information and Resource Center, Southeast Regional Resource Center

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a sub-recipient grant from the U.S. Department of Education through a contract with the Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC) for \$152,664. This first-year contract initiates a five-year partnership involving SERRC, the Anchorage School District, RurAL CAP, and three rural Alaskan school districts.

8. ASD Memorandum # 100 - Award of Contract: Service High School CCTB System

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Service High School New Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Project to Swanson General Contractors, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$172,500, Alternate One for \$26,500, and Alternate Two for \$5,700 for a total award of \$204,700.

9. ASD Memorandum # 172 - Approval of Funding for Capital Projects Using Interest Earnings and Project Balances

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the use of Capital Projects Fund interest earnings and redirection of bond funds in a total amount of \$3,850,000 for projects identified in this memorandum.

10. ASD Memorandum # 165 - Personnel Report

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

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memorandum #110, Middle School Conference Update, from the Superintendent's Report. There is a presentation on this item.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jake Metcalfe
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To approve the minutes of the Special Meetings of December 7, 2006 and December 11, 2006 and ASD Memoranda #170, #156, #175, #176, 153, #171, #100, #172 and #165 with addendum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Comeau reported that the current elementary supervisors, Ms. Eunice Long and Ms. Julie Ginder are retiring. Ms. Patricia McRae reported that it is with regret that we will say goodbye to Ms. Long and Ms. Ginder who are two wonderful elementary supervisors and ASD employees for many years. Both of these employees have earned their thirty year pins. Ms. McRae was, however, please to welcome two new elementary supervisors. Ms. Sheila Hall, Campbell Elementary School principal, and Mr. Glen Nielson, Denali Montessori principal, will move into the supervisory positions at the end of the school year.

The Board went into recess at 7:35 p.m. and was called back to order at 7:45 p.m.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 164 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of December 1, 2006 through January 5, 2007.

2. ASD Memorandum # 110 - Middle School Student-Led Conferences Update

Implementing student-led conferences is a Districtwide middle school initiative that meets two goals: supportive and effective learning environment as well as public accountability. The National Middle School Association supports the practice of student-led conferences.

Ms. Comeau noted that there were a number of people in attendance from the middle schools to talk about their very successful student-led conferences. She indicated that the significant increase in participation was very impressive.

Ms. Vandergaw introduced the Fairweather Team, eighth graders from Wendler Middle School. The team was asked to be here tonight to present parent, student and teacher perspectives on the student-led conferences. She pointed out that the primary goals that have been the focus of the student-led conferences are increasing parent participation and increasing student reflection and goal-setting, thereby increasing self-directed learning and a sense of personal responsibility within the students.

Ms. Vandergaw introduced Ms. Michelle Barton, Ms. Ruth Mount, and Ms. Amy Goodman who presented an overview of the "Middle Link". The "Middle Link" is a website for middle school housing resources for all of the core academic subject areas as well as student-led conferences, AVB, and other supplemental programs. A video clip of two student-led conferences was shown.

Ms. Vandergaw reported that a template has been provided for student-led conferences that all of the schools should follow in terms of best practices. In terms of the actual implementation the administration has been very careful to honor and respect all of the work that has come before and to acknowledge that the system is a work in progress. We will continue to refine the process and schools will have the flexibility to do what is best for their students and parents. There are guiding principals but there will be some differences from school to school based on implementation.

Ms. Milton, a science teacher at Wendler Middle School, professed that she is a big fan of the student-led conferences. With 151 students she did not believe that there was any way for her to have achieved the contact that she made with the individual students and parents without having that model in place. She introduced Mr. Pendleton

and Mr. Middleton, two of the other four teachers on the team. Mr. Pendleton noted that, over the years, he has seen several different ways to have student conferences. He remembered the days of parents waiting in line to have him tell them what their child is doing. This process is so much richer because the students are telling their parents what and how they are doing. The teachers are there as facilitators to help the parents understand and connect with their child more fully.

Three students shared their perception of the student-led conferences. Ms. Jordan Brown explained her feeling that student-led conferences are good because the students get to explain what they are struggling with and it is easier for students to do that than the teachers. Ms. Janet Woeki-Viola felt the opportunity she had to discuss her classwork with her father at the conferences has resulted in her asking more questions and focusing more in class. She noted that her dad was a lot more comfortable talking to her than to her teachers because English is his second language. Mr. Victor Roman felt that it was very important for the students to be involved in the conference. The teachers were there to give their support but having the responsibility to lead the conference made the information more meaningful to him.

Ms. Tracy Brown, the parent of a student on the Fairweather Team, indicated her initial hesitancy with the concept of having her child lead the conferences. She ended up being very impressed with the conference. Her student was able to review a portfolio of work in detail and the teachers were there to answer any questions. Ms. Brown noted that this is a very good program.

During discussion the students indicated that these student-led conferences have improved their communication with their parents and increased their feeling of ownership of their work. The parents agreed that communication has improved between all three players: the students, the parents, and the teachers.

In response to a question from Mr. Steiner the students noted that knowing that they would be participating in student-led conferences helped them to work harder and do better in their classes. Both the teachers and students voiced their impression that using the portfolios was beneficial, not only for the conferences but as a tool for the students throughout the year.

Mr. Friedman acknowledged that student-led conferences are very labor intensive for everyone involved and voiced his appreciation for all of those efforts.

Mr. Steiner wondered whether it would be beneficial to begin using the student-led conferences at an earlier grade. Ms. Comeau noted that many elementary schools do engage in this process.

Ms. Comeau thanked the Fairweather Team for coming this evening and for leading the way on this. It is very exciting to hear how successful this process is becoming.

3. ASD Memorandum # 169 - Conflict of Interest - Second Quarter Report FY 2006-2007

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

4. ASD Memorandum # 168 - Semi-Annual Report on 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 July 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 is attached.

5. ASD Memorandum # 161 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of November 2006

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of November 2006 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

6. ASD Memorandum #163 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of November 2006

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

7. ASD Memorandum #158 - Out-of-District Travel - Second Quarter Report FY 2006-2007

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the second quarter of FY 2006-2007 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.

8. ASD Memorandum #160 - Operating Budget Transfers November Monthly Report FY 2006-2007

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of November 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 November 2006 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

9. ASD Memorandum #166 - Operating Budget Transfers December Monthly Report FY 2006-2007

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of December 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 December 2006 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

10. ASD Memorandum #159 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap:
November 30, 2006

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. 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 November 30, 2006.

11. ASD Memorandum #162 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap:
December 31, 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 December 31, 2006.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Comeau noted that the annual Alternative Fair will be held in the atrium of the ASD Education Center this Saturday, January 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be representatives from all of the alternative programs throughout the District.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of January 22, 2007, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:30 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved