

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 30, 2007

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, April 30, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, Tim Steele, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, Tim Steele Presiding

Board Members Present: John Steiner, Macon Roberts, Crystal Kennedy, 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, Eric Tollefsen, Michelle Egan, Robb Boyer, Janet Stokesbary, William Johnson, Ray Amsden, Pam Chenier, Marie Laule, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was noted that there was an addenda to the Personnel Report. In addition, there is an amended version of ASD Memorandum #247, Policy Revision: Appendix A and A-1 (Student Rights and Responsibilities) (Second Reading).

The agenda was approved, with the noted changes, by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Comeau reported that she and several members of her staff would be attending a community meeting in Girdwood on May 3rd. There has been some initial discussion with the new Alyeska Resort owner regarding interest in a high school program in that community. This will be an initial discussion about the pros and cons of that issue.

Ms. Marks offered her congratulations to Mr. Chris Tuck and welcomed him to the Board. She also noted that she had recently attended a Tlingit/Haida convention. She reported that there were five resolutions passed by the Education Committee which she chairs. She noted that she would be sharing those resolutions with board members at a later date.

Mr. Friedman announced that four of board members and Ms. Comeau were in Juneau last week talking with legislators about education issues. He noted that there are fifteen days left in the session so there is plenty of time left for them to do something with education funding. At this point it does sound like they are moving in the right direction to provide all districts a decent increase in funding. This would be a perfect time for everyone to contact their legislators and remind them of their views on education and the importance to our future.

Mr. Roberts reported that he had just returned from the National Association of School Boards annual conference. He indicated that he would be briefing board members on a variety of issues with information from that conference.

Ms. Marks congratulated all of the students who participated in the recent Native Youth Olympics state championship.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum #262 - Recognition of Alaska Assistant Principal of the Year, Julye Neel

Ms. Marks read that not only was Julye Neel named Assistant Principal of the Year in Las Vegas in late February by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals, she was also named as one of three finalists for the national Assistant Principal of the Year, an honor unto itself.

Currently Dimond High School's Curriculum Assistant Principal, Julye has applied her leadership skills in a variety of ways. She organized a positive school climate committee that builds and promotes such an environment for students. She developed student-support and recognition programs that give students deserved recognition for "jobs well done." Julye played a pivotal role in establishing the Freshman House, which is a small learning community for ninth graders that focuses on student recognition, personalization, and connectedness among students, parents, and staff.

Dimond Principal Cheryl Guyett says Julye is a living testament to "leadership with strength and a smile. Her work ethic, compassion, integrity, and optimism create lightness and harmony in the serious climate of our high school."

The Anchorage School Board recognized Julye Neel for her excellent leadership and professional achievements.

ASD Memorandum #267 - Recognition of Alaska Principals of the Year, Joel Roylance and Cheryl Guyett

Ms. Kennedy read that Joel Roylance and Cheryl Guyette were honored earlier this school year for being named Region IV's middle school and high school Principals of the Year. That put them in the running for the state titles, and in Las Vegas just two months ago, they came up winners, being selected as the Alaska Middle School Principal of the Year, and Alaska High School Principal of the Year, respectively, by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals.

The Anchorage School District is lucky to have such fine administrators as Joel and Cheryl. Joel Roylance has led Wendler Middle School for six of his 13 years in the district, earning a reputation for focusing on academic achievement. He effectively uses data 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 students, staff and parents.

Cheryl's outstanding work at Dimond High School, where she has been principal for the past three years, has included implementation of Professional Learning Communities and the Freshman House program. Cheryl has also advanced student curriculum by bringing in the APEX and co-op programs, and a record number of Advanced Placement courses. Many of Cheryl's co-workers say she has an open-door policy for staff and puts the needs of students foremost.

The Anchorage School Board recognized Joel Roylance and Cheryl Guyett for their outstanding performance as administrators and continued dedication to student success in the Anchorage School District.

ASD Memorandum #258 - Recognition of Alaska School Psychologist of the Year, Karen Kish

Mr. Tuck read that when Karen Kish was presented with the 2007 Alaska School Psychologist of the Year Award in February, it came as no surprise to those that know her. Karen has been employed by the Anchorage School District since 1982, and has provided services to many schools. She

uses her vast experience and insight to help students succeed and reach their highest potentials.

While working at Northwood Elementary School, Karen developed an innovative mental health program to support students with significant emotional concerns. Karen has also facilitated divorce adjustment groups, and groups for children living in the AWAIC Shelter, and pioneered adapting play-therapy techniques to the school setting. Karen has also been a member of an ASD crisis intervention team and has responded to numerous incidents in the district.

As a peer mentor for many school psychologists, she has taught by example, and is noted for her kindness and patience. She is a nationally certified school psychologist, and has served on the Alaska School Psychologists Association board of directors and many committees.

The Anchorage School Board recognized Karen Kish for her achievements and for receiving this professional honor.

ASD Memorandum #275 - Recognition of World Language Students

Mr. Friedman read that Chi-Hyn Kim of Service High School and Tapaafanua Fatuleai of West High School understand language problems - in the best way. Chi-Hyun, a junior, has been studying German for three years and recently scored above the 98th percentile on the American Association of Teachers of German national exam, an amazing feat. His performance allowed him to qualify for the national competition, in which representatives from the 100 AATG chapters compete. Chi-Hyun was chosen as one of 39 finalists and won a trip to Germany. He credits his teacher, Fauna Hancock, with preparing him for competition.

Tappafanua, a senior, took on his studies of the Russian language four years ago, and will now be able to practice his skills in that country. Tapa, as he is known, won this year's statewide Alaska Russian Olympiada on March 30 and won a trip to Russia, which he will visit this summer, joining 14 other regional contest winners on the trip. He will fly to Moscow and then to Vladimir, a beautiful city full of history, where he will live with a family and attend Russian classes at the university for three full weeks. He credits the dedication of his teacher Michele Whaley for his competitive edge.

The Anchorage School Board officially recognized Chi-Hyun Kim and Tapaafanua Fatuleai for their outstanding academic achievements and wished them good luck on their international travels.

Ms. Whaley congratulated Tapa and his family for his accomplishments in their native language.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Feriani reported that the Student Advisory Board met on April 16th. The issues of cell phone policies and the Alaska Studies requirement were discussed. Mr. Feriani noted that the SAB had passed a resolution on the Alaska Studies requirement. He read the resolution which requested the administration review the Alaska Studies course to make the class more interesting to students and also more accessible, possibly through on-line or after school classes. Mr. Feriani explained that the students are seeking more options.

The next Student Advisory Board meeting will be tomorrow, May 1st at 8:00 a.m. at KCC. It will be the last SAB meeting of the year.

Ms. Comeau thanked Mr. Feriani for his outstanding service to the school board and to the administration. She noted that the resolution just read is a good example of how seriously our students take their responsibilities in representing all of the schools. Mr. Steele presented Mr. Feriani a small token of the Board's appreciation for his service over the past two years.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu spoke on behalf of Gen. Frazier, Gen. Jacoby, and Col. Shutt and extended his deepest gratitude and appreciation for the District's support and compassion following the tragedy at Ft. Richardson last week.

Lt. Col. Luu noted that one of the ongoing challenges at the military installations is how to keep the children engaged, particularly in the summer months. This problem is compounded this year with the deployment of so many members of the military community. He noted that the district had established a summit to discuss strategy for handling this issue. He reported that there had been a meeting a couple of weeks ago and there is another meeting scheduled in the next couple of weeks to discuss options and possible courses of actions that can be taken to address the issue.

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

There was not representative from MECAC to report this evening. Mr. Steele did note that the MECAC had held a forum on April 19th addressing the dropout rate. Ms. Kennedy reported that this was the MECAC's first attempt to provide a forum for minority parents on topics of particular concern. The forum was well attended and provided a good opportunity to ask important questions. In addition, attendees were able to brainstorm on possible solutions to identified concerns. Ms. Kennedy suspected that the Board will be seeing some kind of formal report on the forum. She noted that this was just the beginning and only one of many topics that the MECAC would like to cover. They will be using the information that they gather at these forums to better inform the Board and provide more recommendations of how we can better serve minority students in the District.

Ms. Comeau thanked the high school staff who attended the forum. They were able to contribute a lot to the discussion and were able to share the kinds of programs that are being used to assist young people to stay in school, and helping to both increase the graduation rate and reduce the dropout rate.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Debra McGhan, president of North America Outdoor Institute, reported that for the last two years that organization has been conducting free "Be Snow Smart" program in the schools on avalanche awareness. They have identified a need to provide practical, useful, outdoor safety information that would help kids enjoy all Alaska has to offer in the safest way possible. She noted that they would be holding a forum on Friday, May 4th from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. here at the ASD Education Center that will be open to professional outdoor safety educators, teachers, students, parents, and outdoor enthusiasts. The goal is to develop interactive, captivating presentations and materials that will be resources available free of charge for teachers to use in their classrooms and incorporate into their lesson plans. These resources will be available through the Department of Natural Resources. This program is being funded by a grant from the Snow Track Committee. Everyone is invited to attend.

Ms. Samantha Longacre, an ASD student, reported that she had submitted a proposal for an Alaska Studies mentorship program. She noted that she

believes a mentorship program would be a great alternative for the required credit allowing students to study the course material with a focus on the areas in which they are most interested. She briefly reviewed the specifics of her proposal.

Ms. Comeau applauded the students for bringing the issues regarding the Alaska Studies program to the attention of the administration. This will give the administration the opportunity to bring together the curriculum department, high school education, and Ms. Gardner to talk about the issue and see what can be done to provide some options to achieve the curriculum requirements.

Ms. Kennedy announced that there will be a high school forum held on June 2, 2007. The Board is extremely interested in knowing what can be done better to make requirements more meaningful and to really make sure that the district is offering the kind of high school education that students today need.

Mr. Beau Bassett indicated that he, Mr. Paul Kelson, and Ms. Tina Steenmeyer were in attendance to share the ten-year anniversary study of the Prudential-sponsored Points of Light Youth Leadership Institute. The program is part of Prudential's Spirit of Community initiative. The program was developed to encourage young people to get actively involved in community service. He reviewed details of the leadership training program. He explained that the program does not compete with school-based learning but offers community-based learning which makes school-based learning more effective. Mr. Paul Kelson added information regarding the roll of juvenile justice in the program. He noted that this program impacts youth at risk by showing them that they can give back to the community, not just take from the community. He noted that all youth can benefit from that lesson. He encouraged the district to support and nominate youth for future institutes.

Mr. Steiner asked how students learn about the academy. Mr. Bassett noted that there is no marketing of the program. The information is shared through personal knowledge. There is no limit on the number of spaces in the program. The strategy is to have the training look like the community so that students become effective as leaders in the community.

Mr. Roberts congratulated Mr. Paul Kelson who retired today after 31 years with the state of Alaska. Most of his career was spent as a juvenile probation office. He thanked Mr. Kelson for his service to the young

people in our community. Ms. Comeau added her congratulations and her appreciation for Mr. Kelson's support over the years.

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 - December 11, 2006
- b. Regular Meeting - January 22, 2007
- c. Special Meeting - April 9, 2007

2. ASD Memorandum # 234 - Boundary Changes for Elmendorf AFB Elementary Schools - Aurora, Mt. Spurr, and Orion (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading the following attendance boundaries for the 2007-2008 school year for Aurora, Mt. Spurr and Orion Elementary Schools. (Attachment A)

AURORA

North: North boundary of Elmendorf Air Force Base

East: Kenney Street (On-Base), from 26th Street to Arctic Warrior Drive

South: Arctic Warrior Drive, between Bluff Drive to Kenney Street

West: Knik Arm

Chugach Housing area (all sections), this area is known as the "Hospital" area and is located north of the Glenn Highway; east of Westover Road; west of Zeamer Road; and south of Powerline Road.

MT. SPURR

North: North boundary of Elmendorf Air Force Base

East: Davis Highway

South: McPhee Avenue

West: Kenney Street

Moose Crossing, new housing area located south of Powerline Drive; east of Zuckert Street; west of Fort Richardson Army Post, and north of Provider Drive.

ORION

North: Arctic Warrior Drive

East: Kenney Street (On-Base, EAFB), from Arctic Warrior Drive to 2nd Street

South: Bluff Drive to 2nd Avenue

West: Arctic Warrior Drive

Silver Run 1 and 2 housing areas located south of Powerline Drive; east of Vandenberg Street; west of Westover Road, and north of Glenn Highway.

It is further recommended that the students who are currently attending a school not in the new boundaries be allowed to continue at that school with parents providing transportation if they will be leaving during or at the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

3. ASD Memorandum # 233 - Boundary Changes for Tudor, Lake Otis and College Gate Elementary Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading the following attendance boundaries for the 2007-2008 school year for College Gate, Lake Otis and Tudor Elementary Schools (Attachment A).

TUDOR

North: Tudor Road, between New Seward Highway and Lake Otis Parkway.

East: Lake Otis Parkway, between Tudor Road and Dowling Road; Dowling Road, between Lake Otis Parkway and Nadine Street; Nadine Street, and its southward extension, between Dowling Road to E. 64th Avenue; E. 64th Avenue, between the southward extension of Nadine Street and Lake Otis Parkway.

South: E. 64th Avenue, between the southward extension of Nadine Street and Lake Otis Parkway; Lake Otis Parkway between E. 64th Avenue and E. 68th Avenue; E. 68th Avenue between Lake Otis Parkway and New Seward Highway.

West: New Seward Highway, between E. 68th Avenue and Tudor Road.

LAKE OTIS

North: Chester Creek, between Lake Otis Parkway and the northward extension of UAA Drive.

East: UAA Drive, from its northward extension to Chester Creek to Providence Drive; Piper Street, from its northward extension to Providence Drive to E. 48th Avenue; E. 48th Avenue, from its westward extension to Piper Street to Bragaw Street; Bragaw Street, from E. 48th Avenue to E. 64th Avenue.

South: Dowling Road, between Lake Otis Parkway and Nadine Street; Nadine Street, and its southward extension, between Dowling Road and E. 64th Avenue; E. 64th Avenue, between the southward extension of Nadine Street and Far North Bicentennial Park.

West: Lake Otis Parkway, between Dowling Road and Tudor Road; Tudor Road between Lake Otis Parkway and MacInnes Street; MacInnes Street to E. 36th Avenue; E. 36th Avenue between MacInnes and the southern extension of Princeton Way; Princeton Way (excluding all residents addressing on Princeton Way) between E. 36th Avenue and Stanford Drive; Stanford Drive between Princeton Way and Dartmouth Drive; Dartmouth Drive between Stanford Drive and Drake Drive; Drake Drive between Dartmouth Drive and E. Northern Lights Boulevard; E. Northern Lights Boulevard between Drake Drive and Lake Otis Parkway; Lake Otis Parkway between E. Northern Lights Boulevard and Chester Creek.

COLLEGE GATE

North: Chester Creek, between the northward extension of UAA Drive and Nichols Street; Nichols Street between Chester Creek and E. Northern Lights Boulevard; E. Northern Lights Boulevard, between Nichols Street and Boniface Parkway.

East: Boniface Parkway, from E. Northern Lights Boulevard to the geographical equivalent of E. 36th Avenue; Image Drive or Defiance Street (including all addresses on both sides of Image Drive and on Keyann Circle); Baxter Road, from the geographical equivalent of E. 40th Avenue to Tudor Road.

South: E. 48th Avenue, from its westward extension to Piper Street to Bragaw Street; Bragaw Street, between E. 48th Avenue and Tudor Road; Tudor Road, between Bragaw Street and Boniface Parkway.

West: UAA Drive, from its northward extension to Chester Creek to Providence Drive; Piper Street, from its northward extension to Providence Drive to E. 48th Avenue.

4. ASD Memorandum # 251 - Alaska Community Foundation West High Auditorium Restoration Fund Phase Two Donation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a donation from the West High School Auditorium Restoration Committee through the Alaska Community Foundation in the amount of \$465,500 for restoration of the West High School Auditorium.

5. ASD Memorandum # 247 - Policy Revision: Appendix A and A-1 (Student Rights and Responsibilities) (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on Second Reading the Administration's substitute proposal for changes to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document which is comprised of Appendices A and A-1 to Board Policy 450 as shown in attachment D.

6. ASD Memorandum # 212 - Prior Approval: Indian Education Continuation Grant Application for 2007-2008

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the Title VII Indian Education Continuation Grant for FY 2007-2008. The total amount for the grant is \$1,823,704.

7. ASD Memorandum # 257 - Award of Contract: Chugiak High and Gruening Middle Schools Generator Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Chugiak High School and Gruening Middle School Generator Upgrade to Norcon, Inc., for the Base Bid award amount of \$1,523,647.74 and Assignments A through E in the amount of \$252,264, for a total award of \$1,775,911.74.

8. ASD Memorandum # 263 - Award of Contract: O'Malley Elementary School Fire Vault/Restroom Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the O'Malley Elementary School Fire Vault & Restroom Renovations Project to Watson & Sons General Construction, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$317,207, and Assignment A of \$5,764, for a total award amount of \$322,971.

9. ASD Memorandum # 264 - Award of Contract: Whaley School Domestic Water Piping Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Whaley School Domestic Water Piping Replacement Project to Consolidated Contracting & Engineering for the Base Bid amount of \$121,222.

10. ASD Memorandum # 265 - Award of Contract: North Star Elementary School Mechanical Upgrades Phase II

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the North Star Elementary School Mechanical Upgrades Phase II Project to Consolidated Contracting & Engineering for the Base Bid amount of \$174,444, and Assignment #1 of \$34,920 for a total award of \$209,364.

11. ASD Memorandum # 269 - Award of Contract: Abbott Loop Student Drop Off Loop

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Abbott Loop Elementary School Student Drop Off Loop to Roger Hickel Construction, Inc. for the Base Bid award amount of \$574,994 and accept Unit Prices A and B for \$10 and \$28 respectively.

12. ASD Memorandum # 270 - Award of Contract: Chugiak Elementary School Roof and Structural Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Chugiak Elementary School Roof & Structural Upgrades to Universal Roofing of Alaska, Inc. for the Base Bid award amount of \$704,170.

13. ASD Memorandum # 227 - Renewal of District Health Insurance Contracts

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew the contract with Aetna for group medical, dental and COBRA administration for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, and renew the contract with Vision Service Plan (VSP) for group vision care insurance.

14. ASD Memorandum # 245 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steele noted that there are speakers for ASD Memoranda #234, Boundary Changes for Elmendorf AFB Elementary Schools - Aurora, Mt. Spurr, and Orion (Second Reading), and #233, Boundary Changes for Tudor, Lake Otis, and College Gate Elementary Schools (Second Reading).

Mr. Steiner requested that ASD Memoranda #247, Policy Revision: Appendix A and A-1 (Student Rights and Responsibilities) (Second Reading), and #227, Renewal of District Health Insurance Contracts, be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Steele requested that ASD Memorandum #248, Services for Children with Autism, be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for a presentation.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2006, the Regular Meeting of January 22, 2007 and the Special Meeting of April 9, 2007 and Memoranda #251, #212, #257, #263, #264, #265, #269, #270, and #245 with addendum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Steiner voiced his appreciation to the Alaska Community Foundation for the \$465,500 grant award for the renovation of the West High Auditorium. Acceptance of the grant was passed on the Consent Agenda.

ASD Memorandum # 234 - Boundary Changes for Elmendorf AFB Elementary Schools - Aurora, Mt. Spurr, and Orion (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading the following attendance boundaries for the 2007-2008 school year for Aurora, Mt. Spurr and Orion Elementary Schools. (Attachment A)

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve, on Second Reading, the Administration's recommended boundary changes for the 2007-2008 school year for Aurora, Mt. Spurr, and Orion Elementary Schools as shown on Attachment A of the memorandum.

Ms. Brandy Brown, an Aurora parent, noted that there are factors unique to a military installation that should be taken into consideration when making boundary changes. Military children typically encounter more school changes during their academic career so maintaining stability whenever possible is extremely important. She requested that the District allow children who are going into their sixth-grade year as well as any students whose families are due to relocate in the next year to continue to attend their current school. She noted her understanding that transportation of those students would be the responsibility of their parents. Moving students to a new school within a system, only to have them move to a new assignment within the same year, is detrimental to student success.

Ms. Juwarn Middleton, an Aurora parent, presented a petition with seventy-one signatures requesting that the Silver Run I, Phase I, subdivision remain in the boundary for Aurora Elementary. She reviewed the impact that frequent moves have on children. She noted the sacrifices that her family made to maintain stability for her child. She also noted that the two schools in question, Aurora and Orion, are right across the street from each other and, therefore, could not identify any benefit or savings to the district based on transportation issues.

Ms. Michelle Curtis, a military parent, questioned the need to make any changes to the current boundaries. She noted that the demographics in military housing are constantly changing so changing boundaries is not a good solution for balancing enrollment between the three schools. She believed that the district will continue to require the same number of buses regardless of where the children are attending school and, therefore, does not find merit in the argument that changes will decrease transportation costs. She asked board members to simply make the current boundaries permanent rather than uprooting everyone and upsetting the military community.

Ms. Comeau acknowledged that this is a difficult issue. She noted that a letter was sent to families a year ago advising them that a task force would be formed to study the boundaries for Elmendorf elementary schools. Part of the challenge is financial and the busing that currently exists is extremely inefficient. She had requested that the Board modify the normal procedures to allow families who are due for reassignment within the next year to be allowed to remain in their current school with the clear understanding that they would have to provide their own transportation. Ms. Comeau noted that the district is willing to look at other situations on an individual basis to determine zone exemptions based on hardship. The District simply can not afford to continue to provide duplicative bus routes. In addition, it is time to stabilize the boundaries so that the base housing office will have a permanent boundary information to share with incoming service members.

Mr. Kalmas explained that, over the years, there has been inconsistency in boundaries on the military bases. He noted the belief that the district will save one to two buses by keeping neighborhoods together rather than having multiple routes serving the same area.

Mr. Steete clarified that the hardship option is for a zone exemption and would go through the principal. Ms. Comeau reviewed the notation from the memorandum which states that individual hardship cases will be reviewed by the school principal, the executive director for elementary education, the assistant superintendent for instruction, and the superintendent. In other words, there would be a careful review. If there is room in the school at a particular grade level, based on staffing ratios and the parent's willingness to transport the students, that some of these hardships exemptions could be granted. The downside of that, for instance, is that a family with a first grader and a third grader may be able to get an exemption for one where there is room at the grade level but not for the other. The family would then have to make a decision on how to handle that situation.

Mr. Steiner had asked a question, based on the physical proximity of Aurora and Orion, whether a single bus could make a stop at both schools to drop off students picked up in the same neighborhood who were staying at their current school based on the provisions of this memorandum. Mr. Kalmas explained that the problem with this suggestion is time. The starting times at the schools on Elmendorf had already been moved back because the buses can not make it from middle schools back to the elementary schools in time. If an additional stop at another school were added to the schedule it would jeopardize getting the

students to school on time. The routes are very tight and next year, with the movement of all of the Clark students, there will be routes that are even longer.

Mr. Steiner noted that this is an unusual situation in that boundary changes are usually done to resolve capacity issues. This is unusual because it is largely to rationalize bus routes and to create permanent boundaries. Since the main goal is transportation and not overcrowding, Mr. Steiner wondered whether there would be a problem with more broadly allowing people to zone exempt subject to the review process, enrollment numbers and self-transportation. Ms. Comeau indicated that she did not see a problem with that as long as the Board is willing to go on the record to establish permanent boundaries so that new people coming in will attend the school for their boundary area. Then in this case only and only in this unique situation, she would support allowing zone exemptions for current families based on school and grade level capacity and knowing that they will have to transport their children. It is extremely important that it is clear that transportation will not be provided by the district.

Mr. Friedman noted that current policy already allows that to some extent in that there are no zone exemptions for the first year except for a number of exceptions one of which is to utilize program space. In the past the Board has indicated that that provision should not be overused. He agreed that, in this particular situation, we could be more liberal with its use and he further believed that was the intention of the superintendent. Ms. Comeau confirmed that she would like to follow that course as long as she has the support of the Board.

Mr. Steele noted that there is flexibility and that this action would not require any policy change. Mr. Roberts supported the suggestion because it is a stressful time for military families and if the Board could make some adaptation to support those families it would be beneficial to everyone involved.

Mr. Brian Griggs reported that he had spoken with leadership at the installation who are very anxious to have set boundaries established. They are also very appreciative of the efforts taken to get to this point and the time and consideration given to the situations and the hardships of many of the current military families. Mr. Griggs noted that about a 90% of the community will have had a complete turnover within the next three years. Whatever decisions or concessions are made will be short-lived and new community members will have the stability of knowing what

school they will be attending. Lt. Col Luu reiterated the importance of creating stability for the long term. In the short term it may create some instability for certain families but the change will be beneficial for the long term.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To approve an exception to Board Policy to allow those students who are currently attending a school not in the new boundaries to continue at that school with parents providing transportation if they will be leaving during or at the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

VOTE on Amendment:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Comeau clarified that, with this approval, the administration will be working with all of the families and the military community with individual zone exemption requests.

VOTE on Main Motion as Amended :

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 233 - Boundary Changes for Tudor, Lake Otis and College Gate Elementary Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading the following attendance boundaries for the 2007-2008 school year for College Gate, Lake Otis and Tudor Elementary Schools. (Attachment A)

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve, on Second Reading, the Administration's recommended boundary changes for the 2007-2008 school year for College Gate, Lake Otis and Tudor Elementary Schools as set forth on Attachment A.

Ms. Margaret Bauer explained that Providence Hospital has had a relationship with Lake Otis Elementary School for the past twenty-two years. She requested that this relationship be allowed to continue with that program which allows children of hospital employees to have a zone exemption to attend Lake Otis Elementary School.

Mr. Steiner asked for the rationale behind allowing the exemptions for Lake Otis rather than for College Gate. Ms. Bauer noted that such an option was not offered or discussed. She noted that the hospital staff would probably be happy either way. The key is the convenience of busing the students between the hospital and their school. Following this discussion it was clarified that Providence Hospital is within the boundaries for Lake Otis, not College Gate.

Ms. Comeau clarified that the issue has always been having the students transported to and from the hospital site for the convenience of parents working long shifts.

Mr. Carl Gatter acknowledged the difficult task of the boundary committee and noted that they have done a great job of balancing the schools. He requested that the Board make an exception to policy and allow the families in his small neighborhood to request a zone exemption in the first year.

Ms. Comeau indicated that, since the First Reading of the recommended boundary changes, she had driven through these neighborhoods and that she and her staff have reviewed and considered all of testimony and comments received through the process. She noted her understanding that boundary changes are difficult but continued to support the recommendations of the task force as passed on First Reading. She noted that, based on her own considerable experience with boundary changes, young people, particularly groups of kids within neighborhoods that move together, adjust to these changes very well. She explained the anticipated population growth in the areas affected by this boundary change.

Mr. Tuck commented that he had attended four different elementary schools here in the Anchorage School District. He understood the parental concerns regarding these boundary changes but his experience has been that children adjust much easier than the parents might anticipate.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Public Testimony was taken out of order on ASD Memorandum #248, Services for Children with Autism, from the Superintendent's Report.

Ms. Jennifer Card shared the experiences of her son whom she felt had lost a year of education because of the lack of expertise in dealing with autism on the part of both the teacher and principal at their school. She noted that her son has since transferred to another school and indicated that she is pleased with his current situation. She strongly supported additional training for staff as well as for increasing services provided for children with autism utilizing best practice program strategies and methodologies. The school support that children with autism receive in the earliest years directly impact their lives forever and can make a difference in whether these students will be able to live independent adult lives.

Ms. Chris Saddler noted that, according to the Center for Disease Control and the U.S. Surgeon General among many others, the main research based treatment for autism is an intensive behavioral therapy. This type of therapy is generally defined as 50-100 learning opportunities per hour 30-40 hours per week. She noted that this intensive behavioral therapy is not available in the Anchorage School District. She noted that she had watched and documented her son's regression for more than two years and now is attempting to provide this program at home. She indicated that she had engaged the services of Autism Partnership in California. That organization provides services to the Fairbanks and MatSu school districts. She noted her belief that such a program is doable in the Anchorage School District. She encouraged the Board to reconsider the needs of students at the moderate and more severe end of the spectrum and accept the help, support, and involvement of their parents and

providers. These are not throw-away kids and they don't belong in Intensive Needs classrooms.

Ms. Lisa Klessens voiced her concern regarding the alarming number of children being diagnosed with autism. The national average is 1 in 150 children being diagnosed. In Alaska the number is closer to 1 in 90. She urged the district to increase the number of trained teachers and staff to work with the students with autism in a variety of programs and methodologies. She also requested that more than one program be made available because all students are not the same and they do not learn the same. Programs need to meet each child's unique strengths and work at improving their weaknesses. It is imperative that children with autism be around their typical peers in order to learn and improve their speech and social skills.

The Board went into recess at 8:15 p.m. and was called back into session by Mr. Steele at 8:30 p.m.

ASD Memorandum # 247 - Policy Revision: Appendix A and A-1 (Student Rights and Responsibilities) (Second Reading) - AMENDED

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on Second Reading the Administration's substitute proposal for changes to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document which is comprised of Appendices A and A-1 to Board Policy 450 as shown in attachments and D.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To adopt on Second Reading the Administration's substitute proposal for changes to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document which is comprised of Appendices A and A-1 to Board Policy 450 as shown in attachments A and D.

Mr. Steiner noted that this is not exactly the same recommendation as was passed on First Reading. This brings forward what was passed on First Reading with an amendment brought forward by the Policy Subcommittee after discussion of recommendations for clarifications.

These clarifications did not change the substance but did clarify the specifics of the language in the document. The Policy Subcommittee talked to the District's legal counsel who had talked to the mediator in the Disability Law Center who had worked out the terms of a stipulated amendment. They agreed that the modifications were clearer and more appropriate.

Mr. Friedman requested that the Policy Subcommittee to review, at some point, the procedure for bringing items on Second Reading. His understanding was that the policy had been changed such that items could be brought forward from Policy Subcommittee on Second Reading with changes included without having to move the exact language of the First Reading and then amending the motion.

Ms. Kennedy voiced her understanding that, once the Board votes on a recommendation and the item is sent back to the Policy Subcommittee for an interim review then any changes must be brought forward as amendments to the original recommendation. In this case there is basically a substitution so clarifying what those substitutions are allows the Board to understand the suggestions made during the Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Gardner added that her understanding was the same as Mr. Friedman. She suggested that the issue could be discussed by the Policy Subcommittee in order to clarify the steps and perhaps prepare a flowchart of the steps which should be followed.

Mr. Steiner clarified his understanding that the Board policy is that once something has been approved by the Board that specific recommendation is what comes back before the Board. However, the Policy Subcommittee in the meantime can make a recommendation for a change which should be presented as an amendment or a substitute after the item approved on First Reading is brought back before the body.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 227 - Renewal of District Health Insurance Contracts

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew the contract with Aetna for group medical, dental and COBRA administration for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, and renew the contract with Vision Service Plan (VSP) for group vision care insurance.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew the contract with Aetna for group medical, dental and COBRA administration for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, and renew the contract with Vision Service Plan (VSP) for group vision care insurance.

Mr. Steiner voiced his concern that there is insufficient information in this document to explain the selection of Aetna and the selection process used. He also had a concern that it is not clear that our policy allows for the selection process to be done in this way. No exemption could be found from the regular competitive procurement that is used to procure services for the district that covers this. He believed that approval of this recommendation requires a conscious waiver of our procurement policy which must be approved by a two-thirds majority.

Mr. Tollefsen explained that this is a process that has been used for many years. He noted that we have a consultant that is used for Medical Services and under that contract, which was renewed in December, 2006, it states that the scope of services provided by medical and life insurance consultants shall include providing professional advice and services including underwriting, actuarial, and negotiating. The consultant goes out for bids. Not everyone that is asked chooses to bid as it is a time-consuming process. The district is on a tight time frame as we want as much experience data as possible so the process starts as late as possible. Once the bids are back there is a task force comprised of representatives from every affected union as well as exempt employees. The consultant provides information to that task force regarding adjustments that need to be made. The task force provides the recommendation to the superintendent who, after review, brings it forward to the Board. He believes that the process is very thorough.

Ms. Chenier she noted that she had pulled the policy and indicated that the policy used for this exemption is the professional or consultant services such as legal, negotiations, or educational. There should probably be a specific item exempting medical and life insurance as an additive to the exemption list. It does not currently provide specifically for that in policy. However, the scope of services specifically requires them to provide that service and act as our agent.

Mr. Steiner indicated that this appears to be an alternative procurement process. The solicitation, receipt and selection of proposals did not follow the ordinary practice that we would do on an ordinary RFP or proposals. He does not have any problem with the legitimacy of the process here or the result. It was a competition and the alternatives were evaluated. He does have some technical concern about the policy and whether it provides for an alternative procurement in the style that was done. He would like to go on record that to the extent that this is different than the ordinary policy that by two-thirds majority the Board is accepting that difference and approving this contract.

Ms. Comeau believed that this procurement policy should be forwarded to the Policy Subcommittee for review.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 244 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of March 29, 2007 through April 13, 2007.

2. ASD Memorandum # 248 - Services for Students with Autism

There has been a sharp increase the past five years in the number of students experiencing Autism in the Anchorage School District. The current rate of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the District is significantly higher than the estimated national average of 1

in 150 students. The majority of students with the disorder receive special education services and support through the Early Childhood and Elementary Special Education program (EC&E).

Ms. Dana Dugdale, the director of Early Childhood and Elementary Special Education, explained that April is Autism Awareness Month. She noted that the national symbol for autism is the puzzle piece and distributed puzzle piece pins which were made by autism students at Ptarmigan Elementary School. The symbol was also used in the quilt on display in the board room. The puzzle piece shape symbolizes the mystery of autism. The bright colors in the quilt symbolize the diversity of our students and the white pieces symbolize hope for the future.

Ms. Dugdale reported that the district has had a significant increase in the number of students identified as having Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), as have other districts nationwide. Children with autism are in virtually every school, every program, and in every grade level including preschool. Providing appropriate educational programs for students with autism is an ongoing challenge. She highlighted one of the supports for staff, the Autism Cadre. The Autism Cadre began as a small group of special educators who received additional training in autism and then were assigned to provide collegial support, coaching, and training for teachers who are working with students with autism. This year marks the fourth class of cadre members. She recognized the Autism Cadre members and thanked them for being willing to take on the added time and study that is required and helping to meet the goal of having a trained Cadre member in every elementary school.

Ms. Leann McCorder shared her experience as the parent of a moderately autistic 12-year-old daughter who has been in the Anchorage School District since she was three. When her daughter began kindergarten she was able to participate in the Positive Behavior Support system which allowed the family to form a team that followed her throughout her elementary years. Ms. McCorder was happy to report that her daughter was able to make a smooth transition into middle school with the help of a supportive special education team.

Ms. Deneen Bozeman, an ASD teacher and the parent of a 7-year-old autistic student, shared her experiences. Her son was diagnosed at three-and-a-half and immediately began the autism preschool program. She voiced her appreciation to her colleagues who are so

dedicated to go the extra mile to give her the son the very best education possible. By providing more training, resources, supplies and support our young autistic students can grow to be positive contributing members of our society. She asked the Board to continue to put money, time, and resources into our autism programs.

Ms. Comeau thanked the team for the excellent packet of information provided for the Board. She noted that she was very touched by the poem written by one of the students.

Mr. Steele referenced earlier testimony that Fairbanks and MatSu districts have additional staff and resources that this district does not have. He asked Ms. Dugdale if that was the case and whether we are providing the very best we can. Ms. Dugdale noted that every school district throughout the state and throughout the nation are in similar spots. Everyone is looking for trained personnel. Everyone is looking to increase staff development. She noted that the district trains in a variety of methodologies. The district implements and tailors the programs that are used for individual students. Ms. Dugdale could not speak to what exactly is being done in other districts around the state but reported that personnel from Fairbanks, MatSu, and other areas across Alaska have come to Anchorage to participate in trainings. She noted that everyone is looking for the same answers and, quite frankly, are in competition for the same trained staff.

Ms. Marks asked for information regarding transportation issues and how this affects our autistic students. Ms. Dugdale explained that busing is a very complicated process. She noted that buses are re-routed and tweaked, sometimes on a daily basis, to provide busing for children. As more children are identified and brought into the program and onto the buses, pick-up times are often adjusted by several minutes here and there. For a child with autism who depends on predictability these changes can be very upsetting. The challenge of educators is to help a child with autism to learn that life is not predictable. All efforts are made to keep bus routes stable and bus ride times down as much as possible. Ms. Dugdale noted that training is provided on an ongoing basis for bus drivers and attendants specifically for our autism students.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the district has the very intensive intervention programs which have been shown to make such significant impact on long-term success particularly for the youngest students. He wondered whether we were able to provide these

programs to the same level that other districts are doing. Ms. Dugdale reiterated that the district trains a number of research-based, nationally recognized methodologies. That does include ABA, which is very adaptable and can be used in a variety of settings. The mission of special education is to pull together the appropriate instruction and methodologies for the individual student and apply them. She reviewed a number of program specifics utilized in the district and indicated that she would dispute anything that was said that would indicate that we do not provide intensive services.

Mr. Steiner asked Ms. Dugdale whether, in her opinion, we have the finances to provide the best practices or are we limited by our financing. Ms. Dugdale noted that this district supports its students and when situations and requests have been brought to the administration resources have been brought together to support those identified needs. That being said, she indicated that she is always looking for ways to better use the resources available and that she has, occasionally, asked for more.

In response to a question from Ms. Marks, the training program for bus drivers was reviewed. Mr. Friedman remarked that the administration may want to talk to the teamsters union to discuss the issue of bus driver's route changes. It was noted that part of the problem is that the bidding process for new routes does happen after the school year begins.

The autism team from Ptarmigan Elementary School, Ms. Heather Dugdale, Ms. Amy Debevic, Ms. Michele Piehl, gave an update on the transition of the autism program from Airport Height to Ptarmigan. Ms. Dugdale reviewed the preparations taken and process followed during the transition. She noted that the students are thriving at Ptarmigan. The students have felt very welcome by their new peers. There are great advantages in having all three levels of the autism program in one location. Not only are the teachers able to better support each other, the transitions between grade levels for the children are no longer an obstacle. The students are now able to stay in one school from pre-school through sixth-grade. Between the three classrooms there are two sets of siblings. The parents have shared what a blessing it has been to have both of their children at the same school.

One of the parents reported that, while the transition has not been without bumps along the way, her student is doing great. She thanked

the entire time for helping with the whole transition. She also thanked the Board for making it possible to have the entire program located in one school.

Ms. Hubbard, principal at Ptarmigan Elementary School, indicated that, thanks to the teachers, the parents and the wonderful students, the transition has worked and the students are doing great. The staff that is in place and those that were in place before the transition have really embraced the program. The program itself has added a very enriching, nurturing, positive attitude to the building. It has increased the morale at the building as it helps everyone to be sensitive to the needs of all of the students.

The Board was able to view a slideshow presentation on the autism program in the Anchorage School District.

3. ASD Memorandum # 261 - Third Quarter Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report 2006-2007

Each quarter, information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as from the charter schools.

4. ASD Memorandum # 228 - Conflict of Interest - Third 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.

5. ASD Memorandum # 253 - Operating Budget Transfers - March Monthly Report FY 2006-2007

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of March 2007 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 March 2007 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

6. ASD Memorandum # 256 - Facility Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of March 2007

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

7. ASD Memorandum # 254 - Out-of-District Travel - Third Quarter Report FY 2006-2007

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the third 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 # 255 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: March 31, 2007

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 March 31, 2007.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Steele explained that, when he was running for office this time around, he had the opportunity to look back over the last six years and what had been accomplished during that time. He noted the curriculum audit and how it is the basis for many of the things that have been done in the past few years. It pointed out some of the shortcomings and some of the strengths in the district. Mr. Steele reviewed the development of the Six-Year Plan and how it has impacted the district. In the last few years the district has implemented the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam and the federal mandates associated with No Child Left Behind. The number of autism classes in the district has grown from three classes in the 2003-2004 school year to fourteen classes anticipated for next year.

In the past six years there has been a change in the district's mission. It had been to educate students for success in life. Now it is to educate *all* students for success in life. While that small addition did not necessarily change the direction of the district, it certainly brought the very thing that No Child Left Behind is trying to accomplish - to look at success for all students.

He noted the importance of identifying the needs of the students of the twenty-first century and figuring out how to address those needs. Certainly technology will be a part of it. There are problems to address. There are challenges with regards to dropout rates and graduation rates. We are doing better but these are still issues that need to be dealt with. Other issues that continue to need attention are keeping students engaged and keeping subject matter relevant.

One of the biggest challenges and opportunities is developing the twenty-first century high school. The challenge is to identify the best model and the best approach to give our children and our grandchildren the best chance at success in the twenty-first century. Mr. Steele challenged all of us to think outside the box to find something that will work for this community and for our children.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of April 30, 2007, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:53 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved