

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 14, 2007

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, May 14, 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, Chris Tuck, 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

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. Friedman noted that the legislative session is winding up. Legislators are working very hard to come up with an education funding bill. It is critical that legislators hear from their constituents that education is the top priority and that the legislature needs to do what is fair for everyone throughout the state.

Ms. Comeau explained that the legislature and the governor are working through a number of issues and she is cautiously optimistic that we will see a strong increase in educational funding. She also encouraged the public to contact their legislators to reiterate the importance of investing in our youth.

Ms. Comeau announced that high school graduations will be held throughout this week. This is a wonderful time of year which offers the opportunity to celebrate all of the hard work of our students, our teachers, and our principals in getting our seniors to graduation with a diploma.

Ms. Comeau announced that she had rescinded her previous decision not allowing the student government conference in October at East High School. She has now approved that conference. That information was sent to Ms. Waters and the Student Government Association earlier today.

Ms. Marks explained the upcoming Totem Pole Ceremony at Clark Middle School. She noted that the Pole will be uprooted and portions of it will be burned to symbolize a peaceful passing. The ceremony will follow proper and established protocol.

Mr. Steiner announced that the School Business Partnership luncheon was held today. He was extremely pleased to note the number of community members who attended the luncheon. There are over 500 businesses in the community who actively support schools across the district. He noted his appreciation for the contributions made by each of those businesses to the education of our youth.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Scenic Park Elementary Choir, under the direction of Carolyn Downie, performed several numbers for the entertainment of the Board and other community members present.

ASD Memorandum #299 - Pencils Full of Stars Recognition

Ms. Crystal Kennedy read that in 1970, Bell Benton, a first grade teacher at Northwood Elementary, collected student poetry into the first edition of "Pencils Full of Stars." Elementary student poetry continues to be showcased in the publication, which was put together this year by the Pencils Full of Stars Committee: Carol Dahl, Melinda Dale, Lori Davis, Louise Gallop, Celeste Long, Keith Perrins, Margaret Phillips, Jamie Stein, Majel Toyofuku.

Ms. Comeau commended these individuals on the incredible dedication that have given over the years in keeping this publication alive. It saddened her to announce that this is the final publication of Pencils Full of Stars after many, many years.

This year's **Gold Nugget** winners are: **Karoline Vainikolo** of Taku Elementary School; **Koralyn Sereyko** of Scenic Park Elementary School; **Haley Jones** of Spring Hill Elementary School; **Burke Croft** of Chugach Optional Elementary School; and **Madelynne Dey** of Rogers Park.

Named after Alaska's first poet laureate, the **Margaret Mielke Memorial Poetry Awards for Promising Young Poets** went to: **Te'Shawn Anderson** and **Cassandra Katchatag** of Muldoon Elementary School; **Narine Vartanian** of Northwood Elementary School; **Matthew Janusiewicz**, **Magda Cwik** and **Annisa Henschel** of Taku Elementary; **Rachel Zaphren** of Rogers Park Elementary; **Darryl Salisbury** of Fairview Elementary School; **Clare Howard** of Chugach Optional Elementary; and **Maddie Powelson** of Sand Lake Elementary School.

And in honor of her efforts, the committee bestowed the **Bell Benton Memorial Poetry Awards** each year. This year's winners are: **Alexis Bagneschi** of Northern Lights ABC Elementary School; **Joshua Daigneault** of Kasuun Elementary School; **Lyric Dotomain** and **Kennedy Webster** of Scenic Park Elementary; **Leah Hardenbergh** of Huffman Elementary; **Camille Griffith** and **Clare Howard** of Chugach Optional Elementary; **Regina Rivard** of Spring Hill Elementary; **Austin Sabin** of Taku Elementary; and **Kelly Woods** of Muldon Elementary.

The School Board recognized these young writers whose creativity and imagination inspire the poets in all of us.

Mr. Steiner read the following poem that he had composed in honor of the students being recognized this evening:

A poem like a songbird locked up a cage
Cannot soar and cannot sing while locked onto a page.
But you can free its' music, you can let the poem fly.
Pick up the page and read it, for your mind's a poem's sky.

ASD Memorandum #271 - Recognition of Spirit of Youth Winners

Mr. Friedman read that service is celebrated by the Spirit of Youth Awards program, which brings recognition to teenagers for positively impacting the lives of others and their communities. This year's winners are:

The Azoy Geferlakht, or "Big Deal" for non-Yiddish speakers, Klezmer Band, whose members include Anchorage School District students: trumpet player **Rachel Hull**, clarinetist **Max Shayer**, and bassist **Sophie Wiepking-Brown** of **West High School**; trombonist **Scott Kugel** of **East High School**; and keyboard player **Vincent Wolfsturm** of **Dimond High School**. Klezmer music is usually played at celebrations because of its

frolicking nature, and this band shares it to introduce people to their Jewish heritage.

The Youth Group at St. Anthony's Catholic Church has organized multiple community events for preschoolers, senior citizens and other diverse groups. Several ASD students are members of this dynamic group, which is supervised by Bonnie Cler, St. Anthony's Director of Faith Formation.

Ally Beischer, a full voting member of the Anchorage Municipal Parks and Recreation Commission, takes her job seriously. A student at **Goldenview Middle School**, Ally finds time to research her board materials and prepares intensely for the commission meetings. Her perspective brings a unique voice to issues facing the commission.

Caralyn Cox, a 10th grader at **Chugiak High School**, lost the use of her right arm following a 2005 sledding accident. Today, she educates her peers about the dangers of inner-tubing and sledding, no doubt providing a dose of reality to teens who think their youth makes them invulnerable.

Andrew Bryner and **Reed Tompkins** are college students now. But while they were at Stellar Alternative School, they made a feature-length film, "Man's Club," that focused on the challenges faced by boys as they turn toward manhood. Life can't be stopped, the film shows with humor and wit, and accepting the mantle of adulthood is difficult, but rewarding.

The Anchorage School Board commended the 2007 Spirit of Youth Award winners for their creativity, compassion, and dedication to community service.

ASD Memorandum #272 - Recognition of Serum Run Participants

Ms. Marks read that Alpenglow Elementary PE teacher Lynda Barcome and her team of canine athletes mushed the 2007 Colonel Norman Vaughan Serum Run this year, and took the Anchorage School District along for the ride. Starting from Nenana on Feb. 18, to the finish line in Nome on March 8, ASD teachers, staff, students and their families followed her 776-mile journey. ASD-TV cable channel 14 aired nine episodes featuring the Serum Run and Lynda's expedition, and curriculum-related adventures were provided for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. A Family Activity Pack filled with fun, interdisciplinary activities, reading recommendations and online resources was created and distributed by ASD elementary schools.

This was a cooperative effort across the curriculum put together by the following team: Mardell Keisel; Tony Freeman; Joanna Hubbard; Trisha Herminghaus; Gail Raymond; Sandy Schoff; Mary Murphy; Patty Kennedy; Steve Ex; Sharon Vaissiere; Myrna Clark; Barbara Yanoshek; Marilyn Balluta; Doreen Brown; Nancy Gould; David Molletti; Alex Mayo; Mary Wegner; and Heidi Embley. The team also included two students from Service High School - Stephanie Rapp and Kelly Rossberg. Special recognition should also go to Andy Rabung, Dan Toomey, and AT&T Alascom.

The Anchorage School Board recognized their significant efforts in bringing this uniquely Alaskan event and its historical importance home to our students. The Board appreciates their creative accomplishments and looks forward to next year's run.

ASD Memorandum #274 - Recognition of Spring Denali Winners

Mr. Steiner 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 winners for Spring 2007 are Kathy Adamich, special education teacher at Gruening Middle School and Kelly Dennis, music teacher at Chugach Optional.

Kathy Adamich applies a caring demeanor and strong work ethic to interacting with parents and students. She is an active community volunteer coordinating educational gifts for young mothers and babies and working with Operation Hero, an after-school tutoring program for children of military parents. One parent describes Kathy's work with her son in this way: "She never gave up on him, even when he exasperated her to the limit. She did not let my son's "label" prevent her from pulling out the potential she knew was within him."

Kelly Dennis brings the joy of music to Chugach Optional students while integrating classroom study themes. She spends her lunchtime teaching African drumming and organizes the choir after school. Students so enjoy

the way she uses humor and games to teach that one teacher says she often has to tell students “walk, don’t run” as they head to the music room.

Pat Walker, assistant principal at South Anchorage High School, is the administrative recipient of the Denali Award. Pat has dedicated 27 years to education and has made her mark at five Anchorage high schools. Pat seeks out problems to be solved, is thorough and always has an attitude of helpfulness. According to her colleagues, Pat is a loyal, dependable, hard-working and kid-centered educator, perfectly suited for a Denali Award.

Two exemplary teams of ASD employees earned the Denali Award. The four-person Assistive Technology team provides services to a growing number of special education students. The devices and training they provide make it possible for non-verbal children to tell stories, children with low-vision to read independently and hearing impaired children to listen to music. They are the cheerleaders, counselors, coaches and advocates working behind the scenes to make classroom participation possible for all children.

The Eagle River Elementary Special Education staff includes aides, teachers, speech-language specialists, school psychologists and occupational and physical therapists. They work cooperatively, balancing their strengths and bringing out the best in their students. One parent summed up praise for this team by saying, “Instead of finding basic, simple support for our son, we found a team of individuals implementing complex strong support, who have the willing ability to not only adapt to the needs of our son, but also adapt differently to the needs of other classmates.”

The Anchorage School Board recognized Kathy Adamich, Kelly Dennis, Pat Walker, the Assistive Technology team and the Eagle River Elementary Special Education staff for their outstanding achievement, service and dedication.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Feriani reported that the Student Advisory Board met on May 1, 2007. The SAB passed a resolution at that meeting which addressed the issue of prom. Mr. Feriani noted that six proms were held on the

same night this year which impacted the attendance at several of those functions. The resolution indicates that schools within the same geographic location should not schedule prom on the same evening.

Mr. Feriani reported that the Student Advisory Board held elections for officers for the upcoming school year. He introduced Jose DelReal who is the new Student Representative to the Board.

Mr. Feriani thanked the Board and the superintendent for their support during his tenure. He noted that he will be attending Gonzaga University next year and will be studying Business with concentrations in International Business and Pre-Law.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu was not able to attend the meeting.

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

The MECAC representative was not able to attend the meeting.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Jan Edwards introduced Ms. Kristy Darr, president of the PTSA at Service High School. Ms. Edwards noted that she has volunteered at Service High School for the past eight years. She reviewed the size of the library, the number of students who use the library on a regular basis, the variety of activities going on in the library, and the long list of responsibilities of the library staff. She suggested that rather than cut the library assistant position at Service High School that the administration should be thinking about adding to the staff there.

Ms. Mary Jo Iagulli, the librarian at Eagle River High School, commended the Board for their continued commitment to the library program in the schools. The library system has been down the road of cuts several times and has been spared the final blow as the Board has recognized the value of the libraries and has reinstated the positions when the money has become available. She encouraged the continued recognition of the significance that a strong library has on academic achievement. She acknowledged that the Board has heard several times what the impact will be in school libraries with the loss of aides due to budget cuts. She

believed that it is worth repeating that every middle school student will have less of an opportunity to learn the critical skills they need when one librarian is attempting to provide for every student in the building. Middle school is where students really start to discover the vast resources available to them and they need a library that is responsive to their inquiries. The high school will also suffer with fewer people to help the many students and staff. It was her opinion, however, that if only a few positions are able to be reinstated, middle schools should be the priority.

Ms. Barbara Widtgeldt, librarian at Central Middle School of Science, addressed the potential problems from the library media assistant position cuts and the impact those cuts will have on library access. In order for librarians to support technology, teach classes in the library and collaborate with teachers whose classes are working in the library there needs to be a library assistant. Library doors could be locked during the day if requests require the librarian to leave a library where there is not an assistant. Having both a librarian and library assistant present will allow full access to the library and for extended hours before and after school, as well as during the lunch hour. The library is the hub of the school and supports both students and staff. We are in the twenty-first century and the potential is only limited by access. Ms. Widtgeldt asked that the Board to enable the libraries in the district to be full access libraries by reinstating the library assistant positions.

Ms. Kennedy asked for an explanation about graphic novels. Ms. Iagulli explained that graphic novels are a very advanced form of the comic book. Graphic novels are available on any number of subjects from the Holocaust to the events of September 11, 2001. There are also fictional graphic novels. These novels allow the reader to see the action as they read.

Mr. Roberts noted that the Board recently had a work session on the 21st century library. Many librarians spoke at that meeting on subject of instructional technology in the library. Mr. Roberts asked the speakers for their opinion regarding the choice between computer technology and staff in the library. He wondered whether it would be less damaging to cut back on computers or to cut back on staff. Ms. Iagulli indicated that without the staff the computers will soon be non-operational. Nothing really works without the staff.

Mr. Steiner made the observation that other districts around the state have identified our good fortune in that this district is lucky to have librarians in every school. He agreed that we are very fortunate that we have been

able to have librarians and assistants in most situations. He also noted that he is hopeful that actions being taken by the legislature in the next couple of days will allow us to be in the position to retain that staffing.

Ms. Debra Fitzgerald, a parent with two children in the district, noted that she has been working as a bilingual tutor at Romig Middle School for the last year. She spoke in support of maintaining the library aides that are currently in the schools. She noted that there are currently three aides at West-Romig library to serve a combined 2,700 student population. Under the proposed cuts the number of aides would be reduced to one. Librarians and assistants teach a variety of library skills. She explained the importance of teaching students how to access reliable databases, narrow down search requests, evaluate internet sites, and manage computer systems. The aides make sure that students learn to use library resources efficiently and teach research skills so necessary in today's world of massive amounts of information. She reviewed a number of ways in which the library aides provide valuable support for student achievement. She urged the Board to consider how important it is to have library aides in the libraries so that students can get the maximum use out of the resources.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting - April 19, 2007
 - b. Special Meeting - April 30, 2007
 - c. Regular Meeting - May 7, 2007

2. ASD Memorandum # 273 - 2007-2008 Hazardous Transportation Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through G for the 2007-2008 school year.

3. ASD Memorandum # 226 - Acceptance of Grant Award: 21st Century Alaska Community Learning Centers

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 \$618,206 for the first year of a five-year grant period. Funding will maintain after-school programs in four elementary schools. The sites are Mountain View, Northwood, Taku, and Willow Crest elementary schools.

4. ASD Memorandum # 296 - Acceptance of Grant Award: AASB 1:1 Student to Computer Pilot Project Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept additional grant funds from the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) in the amount of \$205,947.00 or two-thirds of the cost of this project expansion. The remaining one-third cost of this project expansion will be paid by ASD funds for a total of \$102,973.00. The 1:1 grant is a partnership between ASD, AASB and Apple to provide computer hardware and software and professional development services to a select group of Wendler Middle School teachers and students. The project began in the 2006/2007 school year and focused on one seventh grade team. This expansion will provide for an additional full team at the eighth grade level for the 2007/2008 school year.

5. ASD Memorandum # 324 - Prior Approval of Grant Application: Safe and Drug Free Schools Mentoring Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Safe and Drug Free Schools Mentoring Programs in the amount of \$194,726.

6. ASD Memorandum # 295 - Budget Transfer: Special Education Extended School Year (ESY) Services

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer in the amount of \$88,255 to partially fund Special Education Extended School Year Services in June, 2007.

7. ASD Memorandum # 318 - Budget Transfer: AASB 1:1 Student to Computer Pilot Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer in the amount of \$45,000 from under-expended accounts to complete the ASD portion of the funding required to expand the

AASB 1:1 Student to Computer Pilot Project at Wendler Middle School.

8. ASD Memorandum # 281 - Award of Contract: Abbott Loop Elementary School Mechanical and Electrical Repairs

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Abbot Loop Elementary School Mechanical and Electrical Repairs Project, to the lowest bidder, Consolidated Contracting and Engineering for the Base Bid amount of \$422,222, Alternate Number 1 in the amount of \$49,444, and Assignment in the amount of \$10,423 for a total award price of \$482,089.

9. ASD Memorandum # 282 - Award of Contract: Three Elementary School Mechanical and Electrical Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Three Elementary School Mechanical and Electrical Upgrades Project, to the lowest bidder, Christensen Builders Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$870,000 and Assignment 1 for \$26,659, for a total award price of \$896,659. The locations identified in this contract are Russian Jack, Trailside, and William Tyson Elementary Schools.

10. ASD Memorandum # 279 - Award of Contract: Nicholas Joseph Begich Middle School Classroom Multi-Media System

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Nicholas Joseph Begich Middle School Classroom Multi-media System Project to Quality Electric, LLC, for the Base Bid amount of \$313,000.

11. ASD Memorandum # 276 - Award of Contract: Food Service Expendable Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America and Form Plastics Company, to furnish Food Service Expendable Supplies in the estimated amounts of \$351,487 and \$111,219 respectively.

12. ASD Memorandum # 277 - Award of Contract: Food Staples

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Country Foods and Food Services of America to furnish Food Staples in the estimated amounts of \$341,236, and \$282,770 respectively.

13. ASD Memorandum # 278 - Award of Contract: Frozen Food Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America, Mike's Quality Meats and Teddy's Tasty Meats to furnish Frozen Food Products in the estimated amounts of \$694,326, \$706,228, and \$245,725 respectively.

14. ASD Memorandum # 287 - Award of Contract: Benny Benson School Fire Alarm & Sprinkler System Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Benny Benson School Fire Alarm & Sprinkler System Replacement to the lowest bidder, Consolidated Contracting & Engineering for the Base Bid amount of \$312,222.

15. ASD Memorandum # 232 - Award of Contract: Hanshew Middle School Intercom & PA System Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Hanshew Middle School Intercom & PA System Replacement Project, to the lowest bidder, Northstar Electric Company, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$159,290.

16. ASD Memorandum # 288 - Award of Contract: Hanshew Middle School Locker Replacement Project

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Hanshew Middle School Locker Replacement Project, to the lowest bidder, Christensen Builders Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$127,432 and Additive Alternate Number 2 in the amount of \$45,935 for a total award of \$173,367.

17. ASD Memorandum # 293 - Award of Contract: Life Insurance

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

contract for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to Symetra Life Insurance Company.

18. ASD Memorandum # 249 - Institution of Surcharge for Use of High School Auditoriums

It is recommended that the Anchorage School District institute a replacement fee to be assessed to all non-School District groups using ASD high school auditoriums. This fee is being instituted as a recommendation by the Rasmuson Foundation in order to receive funds for improvements for the current restoration project of the West High Auditorium. To expand the focus of the Rasmuson recommendation, the Administration is proposing that a comparable replacement fee be implemented for all high school auditoriums. This fee, as implemented, would not increase facility rental revenues; instead, the fee would be put into an account outside of the General Fund and would be used to establish an ongoing FFE (facility, furniture and equipment) replacement fund. This fund would be used to help offset the costs for future replacement and restoration of auditorium items such as replacement chairs and other large items.

19. ASD Memorandum # 286 - Personnel Report

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

Ms. Comeau asked that Memoranda #304, #305, #306, #307, #308, and #309, the Charter School End of Year Reports, be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for presentations.

Ms. Kennedy asked that ASD Memorandum #318, Budget Transfer: AASB 1:1 Student to Computer Pilot Project, and ASD Memorandum #249, Institution of Surcharge for Use of High School Auditoriums, be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, the Special Meeting of April 30, 2007 and the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2007 and Memoranda, #273, #226, #296, #324, #295, #281, #282, #279, #276, #277, #278, #287, #232, #288, #293, and #286 with addendum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Henry introduced Ms. Cheryl Huber as the new principal at SAVE.

ASD Memorandum # 318 - Budget Transfer: AASB 1:1 Student to
Computer Pilot

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer in the amount of \$45,000 from under-expended accounts to complete the ASD portion of the funding required to expand the AASB 1:1 Student to Computer Pilot Project at Wendler Middle School.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer in the amount of \$45,000 from under-expended accounts to complete the ASD portion of the funding required to expand the AASB 1:1 Student to Computer Pilot Project at Wendler Middle School.

Ms. Kennedy noted that she is in support of this recommendation but requested some clarification as to whether this action puts money into a 2006-2007 school year program or if it is to help with the expansion of the program for the 2007-2008 school year.

Ms. Gardner indicated that it is a combination of the two. When the AASB grant was originally approved there was a certain amount of funding, part of which was to be used at Wendler Middle School and part of which was to be used at East High School. The East High School part of the project did not come to fruition due to a lack of technology support for such a huge project. That decision left a certain amount of funding remaining in the ASD account and in the AASB account dedicated to Anchorage. The district can take advantage of those remaining AASB

funds if we choose to do so. There is currently one seventh grade team at Wendler Middle School operating in the 1:1 project. We would like to have one eighth grade team as well so that the seventh graders can continue in the project as they move to eighth grade. This would allow a complete model for a good and thorough evaluation. The students would not get those computers until next year but it would be with this year's funding. Ms. Comeau noted that this type of action is very common at this time of year to allow the district to order equipment so that it will be available at the beginning of the school year.

Mr. Steiner clarified that there is no question that the grant is eligible for purchase of these computers at this time as long as they are applied toward the next year of the same project. Ms. Gardner indicated that the district has verified with Mr. Bruce Johnson, the AASB coordinator for this program, that the grant allows this action.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 249 - Institution of Surcharge for Use of High School Auditoriums

It is recommended that the Anchorage School District institute a replacement fee to be assessed to all non-School District groups using ASD high school auditoriums. This fee is being instituted as a recommendation by the Rasmuson Foundation in order to receive funds for improvements for the current restoration project of the West High Auditorium. To expand the focus of the Rasmuson recommendation, the Administration is proposing that a comparable replacement fee be implemented for all high school auditoriums. This fee, as implemented, would not increase facility rental revenues; instead, the fee would be put into an account outside of the General Fund and would be used to establish an ongoing FFE (facility, furniture and equipment) replacement fund. This fund would be used to help offset the costs for future replacement and restoration of auditorium items such as replacement chairs and other large items.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve the Administration's recommendation to institute a replacement fee to be assessed to all non-School District groups using ASD high school auditoriums. This fee is being instituted as a recommendation by the Rasmuson Foundation in order to receive funds for improvements for the current restoration project of the West High Auditorium. To expand the focus of the Rasmuson recommendation, the Administration is proposing that a comparable replacement fee be implemented for all high school auditoriums. This fee, as implemented, would not increase facility rental revenues; instead, the fee would be put into an account outside of the General Fund and would be used to establish an ongoing FFE (facility, furniture and equipment) replacement fund. This fund would be used to help offset the costs for future replacement and restoration of auditorium items such as replacement chairs and other large items.

Ms. Comeau explained that the district has been talking about this kind of an idea for a number of years as new auditoriums have been built. These facilities are very popular rental sites for many community groups. The more the facilities are used, the more wear and tear they experience. When Rasmuson came forward with the grant for the West project they strongly suggested that the district look at this for all of our auditoriums because of the high community use and the need for ongoing repairs and upkeep. This fund will provide the means to address repairs and upkeep on a regular basis. This is very much like the equipment replacement fund. The administration believes that it is good management to establish a fund so that we will be able to assess non-district user groups for repairs. These auditoriums are a nice option for community groups to use our facilities rather than higher priced options in the private sector.

Ms. Kennedy asked whether this fee is being instituted as a recommendation by the Rasmuson Foundation in order to receive funds for improvements for the current restoration project of the West High Auditorium as is stated in the recommendation. Ms. Comeau indicated that it is a true statement. Mr. Vakalis explained that the Rasmuson Foundation notified the district that they were on the verge of awarding a grant to the Alumni Association for the restoration. They indicated at that time that normally when they make these types of grants that they like to see some type of fund established in perpetuity to help replace or repair the asset to which they are contributing. Mr. Vakalis notified Rasmuson at that time that the district did not have such a fund but that we would look into the possibility of establishing one. Subsequent to that the Rasmuson Foundation went ahead and awarded the grant. The administration has since decided that this is probably a good action to take and that all district auditoriums and auditerias should be included. This is not a requirement for the grant but it came about as a recommendation from the Rasmuson Foundation in the process of awarding the grant.

Ms. Kennedy understood the wording of the recommendation to indicate that the fee would be instituted in all of the auditoriums yet the fees that are collected will go toward the West High Auditorium restoration project. Ms. Comeau clarified that the intention of the recommendation is that the fee will be assessed for all auditoriums and auditerias and the fund established would be utilized to address replacement and repair needs for all auditoriums and auditerias across the district, not just at West High School.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To remove the sentences "This fee is being instituted as a recommendation by the Rasmuson Foundation in order to receive funds for improvements for the current restoration project of the West High Auditorium. To expand the focus of the Rasmuson recommendation, the Administration is proposing that a comparable replacement fee be implemented for all high school auditoriums." from the original recommendation. In addition it is requested that the words "and

auditerias" after the word "auditorium" in the original recommendation.

The amended recommendation will read "To approve the Administration's recommendation to institute a replacement fee to be assessed to all non-School District groups using ASD high school auditoriums and auditerias. This fee, as implemented, would not increase facility rental revenues; instead, the fee would be put into an account outside of the General Fund and would be used to establish an ongoing FFE (facility, furniture and equipment) replacement fund. This fund would be used to help offset the costs for future replacement and restoration of auditorium and auditoria items such as replacement chairs and other large items.

VOTE on AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Kennedy voiced her assumption that the majority of users of the auditoriums and auditerias are school user groups. Ms. Comeau indicated that the majority are community user groups. It was clarified that this whole issue relates to evening and weekend rentals. The schools have primary access to the facilities. This fee will only kick in for non-school use. Ms. Kennedy noted that she was attempting to establish the amount of activity that goes on, on a daily basis, in these facilities regardless of the user group. Ms. Preston reported that, for the most part, the facilities are being used, on a day-to-day basis, by the schools during the day. Community groups usually come in to use the facilities on weekends and holidays. Ms. Kennedy clarified that we expect that the facilities are being used on a fairly regular basis by classes and school-

related groups. She was trying to establish whether the district is applying this fee fairly to the user groups designated as being non-school related. It appeared to her that the community groups are not putting any more wear and tear on the facilities than the school groups. She also noted that the district does not apply a user fee to any of our other facilities such as gymnasiums or outdoor athletic fields. She wondered if this fee is an attempt to pass off the cost to a smaller portion of the user groups rather than trying to find a way to attach that fee to a lot of different groups. She asked if there had been any discussion on the possibility of including a 5% fee to ticket sales as opposed to adding it to the rental fee. She agreed that there is value in establishing the FFE fund but believed that other means could be found to spread the cost more evenly across all of the groups who use the facilities on an after school basis.

Ms. Comeau noted that the district is constantly challenged by the tax payers as to whether we are getting the full cost back when renting our facilities. There is a problem with replacement costs which end up coming out of the General Fund budget. She also noted that people who do not have as much invested in the school often times don't take as good care of the facility as those affiliated with the school. She noted that the administration will be looking at rental costs for multi-purpose rooms and other high use facilities. She believed that this is the beginning of spreading the costs much like the municipality has started to do to recapture some of the replacement costs.

Ms. Kennedy wondered whether the district had ever looked at requiring a deposit against damages. While she agreed with the need to establish a replacement fund she again noted that there are so many more people using these facilities than just non-school user groups and questioned the fairness of trying to target those groups. She would rather see a fee tacked on to ticket sales where everyone pays the fee regardless of who is sponsoring the event they are attending.

Mr. Steiner indicated that part of the issue is what the fee should be and how much of the recovery of the depreciation of these facilities the district should try to recover from the user groups. It is not so much a question about whether we should institute the fee as it is about the way we fund the depreciation on the facilities generally.

Mr. Steiner had asked a question regarding whether it is permissible to set up a dedicated fund outside of the General Fund. The memo states that district counsel has indicated that, as a school district, we are not covered

by the prohibition against dedicated funds. In response to Mr. Steiner's question, Mr. Vakalis noted that the district has received that opinion in written form from district counsel. Mr. Steiner believed that this is a very sound thing to do. There is an important consideration to how the fee is set and whether the district is trying to fund the replacement of facilities completely on the backs of a narrow number of groups.

Mr. Friedman noted that he supports this surcharge and would support expanding it to other district facilities. He would not, however, support adding fees or surcharges to student groups using these facilities. Student activities taking place in these facilities are part of the educational program. He believed that it is appropriate that wear and tear by students, whether it is in the science classroom, the cafeteria, or the auditorium should be addressed as part of the General Fund or the Bond Fund.

Ms. Kennedy noted that the proposed fee, as stated in the summary of the memorandum, would be five percent. This would be a relatively nominal addition to ticket sales. She noted that it does not make sense to her to pass this surcharge off onto one particular user group and indicated that she would not be able to support the recommendation.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy
Seconded by:

To change the first line of the recommendation to read "It is recommended that the Anchorage School District institute a fee based on the percentage of ticket sales to be assessed at all Anchorage School District high school auditoriums and auditerias."

The amendment failed due to lack of a second.

VOTE on ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION as AMENDED:

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

Nays: Kennedy

MOTION PASSED

The board went into recess at 8:00 p.m. and was called back into session by Mr. Steele at 8:15 p.m.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 302 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of April 13, 2007 through May 1, 2007.

2. ASD Memorandum # 303 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Third Quarter 2006-2007 School Year

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

3. ASD Memorandum # 304 - Annual Review/End-of-Year Report for FY 2006-2007 Winterberry Charter School

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School.

Ms. Connie Bensler introduced Ms. Shanna Mall, principal of Winterberry Charter School, and Ms. Melissa Janigo, chairman of the Academic Policy Committee. Ms. Mall thanked board members for their continued support for choice in schools. She noted that it was exciting to start the year with a building. Winterberry had an enrollment figure of 160 students and met their budget. The school was able to repay the district the \$172,273 deficit from the previous year while offering their students a full curriculum. Ms. Mall reviewed several school fundraising activities including a back-to-school barbeque, a harvest dance and silent auction, a lantern walk and a winter fair.

Ms. Mall noted that Winterberry had an outside mentor visit this year to work with the teachers, the staff. In addition, two people came to work with the parent board, the academic policy committee board, and the faculty on visioning for the future. Ms. Mall noted that Winterberry continues with ongoing teacher training. There are three

training sessions scheduled throughout the year. These sessions provide a great opportunity to learn the methods of Waldorf teaching.

Ms. Mall indicated that the current Winterberry community has determined that they would like to remain a small community, staying within a maximum enrollment of 220 students. This will ultimately translate to one class at each level, kindergarten through eighth grade.

Ms. Mall noted that the school continues to work on park improvements. The parent who was able to get the grant has really mobilized the parent body to make a more user-friendly space for the students to play during recess.

Ms. Mall noted that Winterberry is looking forward to next year and the possible addition of a seventh grade class. The seventh grade curriculum is just being finalized. The school anticipates a total enrollment next year of between 180 and 190 students. The school will be getting an additional staff member next year in the form of a full-time office assistant. The school anticipates an increase in the supply fee charged to students. The current fee is \$25 and will be raised to \$50 next year. This increase still does not cover the cost of supplies which was reported to be approximately \$170 per student.

Ms. Janigo noted that Winterberry has an amazing administrator who works very hard to make the school run. They have a very supportive and dedicated parent guild. The entire community is very dedicated to what the school represents and they work hard to make the school a great place for their children.

Ms. Bensler reported that this has been a good year for Winterberry. The Academic Policy Committee is an outstanding board dedicated to making this school work. They do not shirk their responsibilities as the policymakers for the school. The parent guild is an incredible group of people who have really gone above and beyond in their fundraising efforts. The administrator and staff have done a terrific job. Ms. Bensler noted that Winterberry is a very viable and strong school at this point.

Mr. Friedman emphasized the importance of retaining current students and attracting new students in order to meet enrollment goals. He noted that he was very impressed by this report, particularly in light of the struggles that Winterberry went through last year.

Mr. Steiner voiced concern about the plan to have a single class at each grade level. Logic would indicate the need to have a larger enrollment in the lower grades in anticipation of attrition as you move up into the higher grade levels. He questioned whether the enrollment targets can be met if the system begins with only one class at each of the lower grade levels. Ms. Mall explained that anticipated attrition is lower in the Waldorf program due to the fact that the teacher moves up through the grade levels with the students. The relationship is built from the first grade. She recognized that attrition could be a factor and explained that she was aware of other schools practicing the Waldorf method that have two classes in each of the lower grades and move into a single class at the fourth grade. That model does require a second lottery at the fourth grade in order to address the issue of too many students. Winterberry would like to avoid that scenario. Ms. Janigo added that Winterberry is also limited by the physical space available.

Mr. Roberts noted that he was impressed with the progress that Winterberry has made over the year and with the parental support they have garnered. He explained that he had initially had some concern regarding the physical location of the school but has come to believe that the downtown location is a good fit for the school and benefits both the students and the community

Ms. Marks asked for a clarification regarding the building lease. Winterberry currently has a three-year lease on the property and, in light of the discussion regarding enrollment and space issues, Ms. Marks wondered whether the school intends to remain at that location. Ms. Janigo indicated that the school is in discussions with the landlord and is looking to extend their lease for three additional years. The school community is taking a very thoughtful approach to the issue of growth. They have established a Growth Committee to discuss how they would like the school to grow and what they would like the school to look like over the next few years. Plans at this time are to remain in the current location.

Mr. Steiner raised a question regarding the course of study for the Waldorf Teacher Education Program at Rudolf Steiner College. He noted that, in Year Two, the course of study refers to "Sacred Architecture". Mr. Steiner recalled that there had been discussion of the anthroposophy aspect of the Waldorf philosophy and the concern that it not bridge into a non-secular field. His recollection was that there was an assurance that that was not actually going to be part of

the teaching even if it was behind some of the concepts. Seeing that the teachers are attending these classes, he requested some comment regarding whether there will be any problem with that once the teachers receive this kind of training. Ms. Mall explained that the Rudolf Steiner College provides two programs. The programs are provided for private school teachers and for public school teachers. The program does indicate that teachers need to at least learn the philosophy. Winterberry has been able to fund the philosophical side of things through the efforts of their parent guild. The actual teacher method training is funded through general funds. She noted that the program is definitely presented differently to public school teachers than it is to private school teachers. Ms. Mall noted that the Winterberry staff has not had the course yet but assured the Board that she is very aware of the concern and is careful not to cross that line.

4. ASD Memorandum # 305 - Annual Review/End-of-Year Report for FY 2006-2007 Highland Tech High Charter School

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School.

Ms. Connie Bensler introduced Mr. Mark Standley, principal of Highland Tech High Charter School, and Mr. Rob Lang, chairman of the Academic Policy Committee. Mr. Standley voiced his appreciation for the continued support that the district has shown for alternative schools. Mr. Standley noted that the recent move from the east end of the Boniface Building to the west end allowed the school to design the location to better fit their needs as well as alleviating the financial pressure they had been experiencing due to the cost of the of their lease.

Mr. Standley noted that Highland Tech is a standards-based school that serves seventh through twelfth grades with six levels that roughly correlate to those grade levels. The students are expected to know or do 1200 things before they are given a high school diploma. They are asked to demonstrate their knowledge in a skill-based manner, an analytical manner, and a contextual manner. The students have to know, at a proficient or mastery level, the standards at each level before they can move on to the next level.

Mr. Standley noted that Highland Tech graduated sixteen students last year and this year they will be graduating over 25 students. Highland Tech is a performance-based school rather than a time-based school so

they are very comfortable not hurrying students but meeting them at their own pace. Mr. Standley reported that, after four years, achievement is beginning to happen in a real meaningful and systemic way. Mr. Standley reviewed a number of activities that assist in promoting leadership in students.

Mr. Lang, chair of the Academic Policy Committee (APC), indicated that he was extremely pleased with the progress that Highland Tech has made over the last three years. The core principle of providing a culture of respect for everyone results in an environment where the students and the staff feel very positive about being at the school. He noted that the APC has good representation of parents, teachers, staff and students.

Mr. Steiner asked for an update on the status of the promissory note that was involved with the initial renovation of the space. Mr. Standley noted that, in general, the premise is that if Highland Tech has over 290 students the income from the 291st to the 300th student would go toward that promissory note. There are seven more years on the contract with J&L. As long as Highland Tech has an enrollment below 290 it is acknowledged that they will not be making payments on the promissory note. Mr. Standley explained that he is out of his comfort zone in terms of explaining the details of the contract. Mr. Steiner indicated that he was interested in getting some more information regarding the details of the promissory note. Mr. Standley noted that the language is in the lease which is part of the report.

Ms. Kennedy asked for some explanation on the cost of sending students to King Career Center (KCC). Mr. Standley explained that the district has a cost for charter school students to take classes at KCC. That cost limits the ability for Highland Tech students to participate in KCC. Ms. Gardner explained that the cost for Highland Tech students to attend KCC is \$2136 per class.

Ms. Marks noted that she is very pleased to see the diversity at Highland Tech High Charter School.

Ms. Bensler indicated that Highland Tech has had a great year. She noted that, even though there were some significant concerns, the school has corrected the major problems that needed to be addressed. The parent involvement at the school is remarkable which she believed was one of the reasons the school is doing so well.

5. ASD Memorandum # 306 - Annual Review/End-of-Year Report for FY 2006-2007 Frontier Charter School

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School.

Ms. Connie Bensler introduced Mr. Tim Scott, principal of Frontier Charter School, and Ms. Narda Butler, chairman of the Academic Policy Committee. Mr. Scott noted that Frontier is finishing their fourth year and will be graduating the first class of students to have completed all four years of high school at Frontier. He noted that he attributes the success of the program to the teachers and staff who have established themselves as learning experts.

Mr. Scott noted that the Department of Labor and the Department of Education are partnering in with a program called "Work Keys" which is essentially the same type of thing that Frontier has been trying to develop on their own. This program will round out Frontier's software program as they add work skills and work assessments to their assessment tools. The Department of Labor is very excited about their participation in the program, so much so that they have agreed to fund it.

Ms. Butler, chair of the Frontier Academic Policy Committee (APC), expressed her pride at being an established part of the educational offerings for the district. One of the hallmarks that set the Frontier home school program apart is the use of the learning profile. Ms. Butler explained that two of the foundational values that Frontier is built upon are accountability and flexibility.

Ms. Butler voiced concern with the prohibitive cost that Frontier students incur to take a class in a traditional brick and mortar school. A local vendor can charge a home school student \$400 - \$500 for an entire year of instruction for a year-long high school class. Online classes also run \$400-\$500 for the entire year. It costs almost \$900 for a home school student to take a class in a traditional school in the district. Those opportunities are priced out of the market given current student allocation. She felt that there should be some consideration for the mil and bond money that is contributed by in-district families that help to financially support the brick and mortar schools in the district. This consideration should be in terms of lowering the cost for home school program students to be able to take a class. Her second point in support of looking at the funding issue is the understanding is that the cost associated with taking a class was

originally derived from the necessity to assess a cost to those out-of-district students who came into the district to take classes. If that is true then there is something to be said for the fact that Frontier families are in-district families who are contributing locally to the financial support of the brick and mortar schools. She noted that dual enrollment would be an easy fix and is something that Frontier has discussed since the inception of the school. Unfortunately, there are technology complications which prohibit Frontier students from being dually enrolled. The second suggestion that Ms. Butler brought up was to employ an option currently in use in the Kenai School District. Kenai allows their in-district correspondence school students to take one or two free classes a year. That would alleviate the immediate financial impact on a student's allocation and their student allotment. It would also expand the affordable excellent options that ASD can provide. That may serve as an incentive to draw those students who are currently enrolled in out-of-district statewide correspondence school programs back into the district which would, in turn, bring them back into the foundation formula count. Ms. Butler noted that there are about 3,000 Anchorage students who are enrolled in out-of-district statewide correspondence school programs. If there was an incentive to bring some of them back into the district she believed that the impact could offset the cost of offering a free class.

Ms. Comeau indicated that the issue regarding the cost of classes has been around for some time. She noted that she is interested in revisiting the issue and will be consulting with Ms. Gardner and Ms. Bensler to develop a recommendation that will need to go through the Policy Subcommittee. She noted that the administration is definitely open to suggestions regarding this issue.

Ms. Bensler noted that Frontier had taken on some students who were failing in the traditional high schools and managed to not only get them enrolled but have succeeded in getting them graduated. Mr. Scott noted that Frontier brings in a number of students who haven't done so well in brick and mortar schools for any number of reasons. He noted that helping these students is cause for celebration even though it is sometimes difficult to see when looking purely at statistics. It doesn't look too good to be graduating only 25 students out of a class of 55 seniors. It does, however, become more impressive to discover that about 40 of those 55 students came into the program with very few credits. Mr. Scott noted that he would rather help a few kids and miss meeting AYP than the other way around.

Mr. Steiner indicated that one of the things that Frontier does that has real value is the initial assessment of student learning. He was curious as to whether those assessments have greater or lesser value at different time frames during the course of an academic career. He also wondered whether students who are originally assessed at a young age have to be reevaluated later. Mr. Scott briefly explained how the program was developed along the lines of a series of assessments in three domains: cognitive, emotional, and volitional. The desire was that the assessments would result in a powerful tool with staying power which could help families. The majority of the profile is how the student is wired which doesn't change much over a lifetime. He suggested that the profile would be completed twice over a student's career.

6. ASD Memorandum # 307 - Annual Review/End-of-Year Report for FY 2006-2007 Family Partnership Charter School

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School.

Ms. Connie Bensler introduced Mr. Reed Whitmore, principal of Family Partnership Charter School, and Ms. Annette Lopez, chairman of the Academic Policy Committee. Mr. Whitmore explained that the Family Partnership uses the sponsor teacher model which supports children in home-based schools. The program assists families in making educational decisions. The families have to agree to the educational decisions and submit individual learning plans to the program administration for approval. He indicated that the real trick is to educate the families on all of the opportunities available for their students. Family Partnership also provides classes where families may get together to schedule a particular class for a small number of students.

Mr. Whitmore noted that Family Partnership accepted about twenty-eight new students at the semester this year. Several of those students have no intention of continuing at Family Partnership next year but it was where they needed to be to keep their credits or meet some other temporary personal need. He noted that home-schooling is a decision that needs to be made every year and both the parents and students need to be dedicated. Some students want to take up to three classes at a traditional school which gets pretty expensive. In reference to the earlier conversation regarding offering free classes to in-district home-school students he added that the district could look at the issue from

both sides. He suggested that traditional high school students who need credit recovery courses could come to Family Partnership to meet that need while remaining enrolled in their current school of record.

Mr. Whitmore was pleased to announce that Family Partnership gave a great deal of effort to improving their testing participation rate this year and it appears that they have met their goal. He reviewed several of these efforts. Mr. Whitmore reported that Family Partnership has used their Quality School Grant money to put on preparatory high school graduation qualifying exam classes and standards based preparatory classes to get students who are not used to being in classes ready for those tests. The students who participated in those classes did very well on the exam.

Ms. Bensler noted that Family Partnership is the largest charter school in the district and one of the oldest. The program is amazingly complicated but it works very well for those families involved.

Ms. Marks asked about the recommendation for remediation for poor student performance referenced in the report. She wondered whether there is a plan in place to address the listed items. Mr. Whitmore explained he meets with families and students personally to address performance issues. He noted that, as a public school, Family Partnership does not limit the students who attend the school. Their directive is that families direct their own education. It is a very tricky to find a solution to identified performance issues and then to convince the family to buy-in to the changes.

Ms. Marks requested an explanation of the parent workshops referenced in the remediation recommendations. Mr. Whitmore noted that he felt it necessary to be careful when it comes to educating parents with district funds. With such a wide variety of families involved it is difficult to determine what should be addressed via parent workshops. They do have workshops to try to set guidelines for grade level equivalencies, expectations, and other goal setting topics. Mr. Whitmore also indicated that they would be holding several workshops this summer on how the program works and to address some frustrations voiced by current Family Partnership families.

Ms. Marks asked Ms. Lopez whether there has been any success regarding the testing incentive program as developed by the APC. Ms. Lopez believed that the incentive program has been beneficial in

increasing participation in mandated testing. The program has helped families understand how important testing is to the school and to the district.

Mr. Steiner noted that there is a requirement for highly qualified teachers under No Child Left Behind. He wondered whether there was some kind of exemptions for charter schools that are home school based not to comply with that requirement. Ms. Gardner indicated that there is not an exemption however the district is working with the state to come up with some better coding for the home school based charter schools as well as the online courses in the traditional high schools.

Mr. Steiner acknowledged that home school students are not closely regulated in terms of hours of instruction in this state. He wondered, however, how the matter of hours of instruction is addressed given that home schooled students enrolled in both Family Partnership and Frontier charter schools are presented a diploma from a public institution. Ms. Comeau indicated that there are a number of schools and districts who do not base graduation requirements on so-called seat time. Students must meet the criteria as established in the school charter and approved by both the district school board and the Department of Education.

7. ASD Memorandum # 308 - Annual Review/End-of-Year Report for FY 2006-2007 Eagle Academy Charter School

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School.

Ms. Connie Bensler introduced Mr. Mary Meade, principal of Eagle Academy Charter School, and Ms. Len Niesen chairman of the Academic Policy Board. Ms. Meade indicated that this is the second "first" year at Eagle Academy as there has been a significant turnover in staff positions. The school anticipates no staff turnover for next year. She noted that all of the classrooms will be at capacity next year and there is a waiting list at every grade level. The decision has been made to postpone adding a seventh grade until at least the 2008-2009 school year. She noted that their building owner has assured them that there will be space in their building when they are ready to expand. The school has great parent involvement and a wonderful variety of after school programs for the students.

Ms. Niesen explained that this has been a stabilizing year for Eagle Academy. She is pleased to report that the school has overcome earlier concerns with the building, the budget, and enrollment numbers.

Ms. Bensler noted that Eagle Academy is a good example of how pre-planning and patience really pays off. Ms. Comeau noted that she believed that Eagle Academy is a wonderful example of good planning. She noted that it was worth it for the school to wait a year to open in order to do it right. She highlighted the low student turnover rate experienced at Eagle Academy.

8. ASD Memorandum # 309 - Annual Review/End-of-Year Report for FY 2006-2007 Aquarian Charter School

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School.

Ms. Connie Bensler introduced Ms. Susan Forbes, principal of Aquarian Charter School, and Mr. Matthew Fagnani, chairman of the Academic Policy Committee. Ms. Susan Forbes reported that Aquarian is at enrollment capacity and has a substantial wait list. Ms. Forbes noted that Aquarian has implemented a system which allows each teacher group a half-day planning period each month. The school has also implemented "explorations" this year. This program entails one full day, five times a year, where each student gets to choose a classroom that has some wonderful activity or subject to explore. Ms. Forbes noted that cultural diversity has been a high priority and she was pleased to report that the school now has almost 20% minority enrollment.

Mr. Matthew Fagnani noted that the best way to describe Aquarian is happy. He was impressed with how orderly things are handled and with the interaction between the parents and teachers. He noted that the program attracts quality teachers who in turn help meet the program that the APC directs and that the principal enacts.

Ms. Bensler noted that when someone voices a desire to start a charter school she suggests that they visit Aquarian because their program is the way that that charter schools should be developed and run.

Mr. Roberts applauded Aquarian for developing a system for carpooling and for reaching out to broaden their student base in terms of lower income students.

Ms. Marks asked whether there has been any discussion regarding looking for a new building. Mr. Fagnani noted that Aquarian has an active Building Committee who is currently working with the Foraker Group to try to understand what the process is. Aquarian is also working with the district to find a solution that would meet the needs of the school, the district, and the municipality. Ms. Comeau explained that the previous bond counsel who was employed by the municipality gave the district a ruling that no bond funds could be used to upgrade that facility. She noted that she would be setting up a meeting this summer with the new bond counsel and our facilities group to revisit that discussion.

Mr. Steiner noted his belief that the district needs to face the question regarding disparity among the different charter schools. Aquarian has about 360 students and they have no rent expense. Winterberry has half of the number of students, so half of the amount of funding, and they have to pay \$242,000 a year in rent. Eagle Academy also has half the number of students and has an even larger rent expense. That means that Aquarian can do much more than other charter schools because they have a lot more money due to the net effect of not having to pay rent. He agreed that the building housing Aquarian has value to the district but he is not sure that it is fair to have bond money go to benefit a single charter school without some kind of a charge back just as is done with administrative support. Ms. Forbes acknowledged the disparity among charter schools relative to rent. She noted, however, that Aquarian pays a significant amount for facility upkeep, custodial support, and utilities which are almost equal to the rent that some other charter schools pay their facilities. Ms. Comeau acknowledged that there is an inequity and indicated that the issue is one the board needs to wrestle with. She noted that other districts have chosen to subsidize all of their charter schools while this board has chosen not to do that. She explained that there are two ways to approach this issue. One way is with a charge back, the other is with a very intentional allocation for every charter school except this one. These are budget and policy issues. It was also mentioned that this is a statewide issue and must, at least partially, be addressed at that level.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Kennedy announced that the Policy Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, May 16th at 8:30 a.m. in Conference Room 150.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 14, 2007, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:52 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved