

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 31, 2007

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Thursday, May 31, 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, Jeff Wood, Eric Tollefsen, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Damita Owen, Lt. Col. Luu, Jose DelReal, Ray Amsden, Pam Chenier, Marie Laule, Robb Boyer, Todd Hess, Chad Stiteler, Leslie Preston, Larry Peterson, Stan Syta, Todd Arndt, Mark Mew, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Steele noted that there was an addendum to the personnel report.

The agenda was approved with the addendum by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Marks congratulated all of the recent high school graduates. She wished them well and success on their new journeys.

Ms. Marks thanked the community and the administration for being at the Clark Middle School Totem Pole ceremony and for sharing in that celebration.

Ms. Marks reported that the National Congress of American Indians conference will be coming to Anchorage next month. She invited board members and the administration to attend the conference.

Mr. Friedman noted that he had the opportunity to represent the Board at the Totem Pole ceremony. It was a nice ceremony and a good start to the renovation and renewal of that school. A piece of that Totem Pole will be

in the display case at the new school and the remaining portion was burned.

Mr. Roberts announced that there will be an Audit Subcommittee meeting tomorrow, June 1st at 2 p.m. in Conference Room 150.

Ms. Kennedy announced the High School Forum will be held Saturday, June 2nd from 10a.m. – 2 p.m. here in the ASD Board Room. This will be a good opportunity for people to talk about some of the things that they would like to see and do to improve our high school. She hoped that the community, especially students, will participate.

Ms. Comeau noted that there will be some kind of a media event at Clark Middle School on June 20th at 11:30 a.m. which will mark the start of demolition and signal the beginning of the renewal process.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

BP Teachers of Excellence Awards

Ms. Comeau introduced Ms. Tammy Anderson who recognized the B.P. Teachers of Excellence. Ms. Anderson explained that this is the twelfth year of the program. It is a program that was created to honor excellent educators in our community. The process begins with nominations from community, the students, parents, and administrators. All of the nominations speak to what a great group of teachers we have in this community. Ms. Anderson introduced the ten 2007 Teachers of Excellence. These include Lynn Bannin (East High School), Regina Dietrich (South HS), Jerry Dowling (Aquarian Charter), Gretchen Hopkins (Campbell Elementary), Perry Lewis (Eagle River High School), Susan Milane (Wendler Middle School), Pamela Orum (West High), Anita Vansell (Rogers Park), Andy Bidland (Ravenwood), and Stephanie LaPoint (Rabbit Creek). Ms. Anderson noted that each of these teachers will receive \$500 for educational resources and had been honored at a special dinner last week.

ASD Memorandum #322 - Recognition of Presidential Scholars

Ms. Kennedy read that the Anchorage School District graduated two of the nation's finest high school students this year. They have joined an elite list as Alaska's 2007 U.S. Presidential Scholars. Duncan Arie of West High School and Hillary Walker of East High School will celebrate earning

the U.S. Department of Education's most prestigious student award in June in Washington, D.C., where they will take part in educational events, meetings with government officials and receive their Presidential Scholar Medallions.

Only 141 of the nation's outstanding seniors are named Presidential Scholars. U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings said Duncan and Hillary have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship, and service to their schools and community. They exemplify the standard of excellence that is strived for in the United States, and their skills, energy and innovation will help our country meet the demands of the future.

A 27-member commission appointed by President Bush selects the scholars based on their academic records, artistic excellence, essays, and personal recommendations.

The Board recognized Duncan Ariey and Hillary Walker for their esteemed accomplishments and dedication to their ideals.

ASD Memorandum #323 - Recognition of National Merit Scholars

Mr. Tuck read that, in their junior year of high school, the following members of the Class of 2007 took the first step toward earning one of the country's highest academic honors, the National Merit Scholarship. Along with about 1.4 million other juniors, they took the PSAT exam and last fall were among the 16,000 semifinalists selected based on their scores. This year, they submitted copies of their academic records, essays on their interests and goals, and personal recommendations to be considered as finalists.

The Anchorage School District is proud to recognize these eight students for their superlative academic achievement as National Merit Scholars: Matt Crimp of Steller Secondary School, Nicholas Bybee and Joseph Falcone of South High School, Stephanie DeMay of Chugiak High School, Amelia Josephson and Anson Moxness of West High School, and Megan Rawson and Hillary Walker of East High School.

Matt, Joseph, Amelia, Anson, Megan and Hillary will receive \$2,500 scholarships. Nicholas has chosen to accept the National Merit Scholarship from Arizona State University, and will major in Aerospace Engineering. Stephanie has chosen to major in Environmental Science as a University of Idaho Merit Scholar.

The Anchorage School Board congratulated these graduates for their accomplishments and acknowledged their success.

Presentation of Girls Math

Dr. Enid Silverstein explained that this presentation will help explain opportunities that the district provides for our students, particularly our female students. The presentation consisted of a powerpoint presentation, a video of student interviews and live student interviews.

Ms. Penny Williams, Ms. Patty Kennedy, Ms. Mary Murphy, Ms. Sandy Schoff, and Ms. Ruth Mount reviewed the powerpoint presentation. It was noted that there are four main extra-curricular math activities for district students. They include the Bartlett Invitational at the high school level, MATHCOUNTS at the middle school level, and Math Derby at the elementary level. In addition to these there is the Middle School Girls' Math Experience conference.

It was explained that the Barlett Invitational brings high school students from around the district to participate in a competitive individual problem-solving event.

The MATHCOUNTS allows middle school students to compete at the district, state and national levels. There were 122 girls from ASD participating in MATHCOUNTS in 2007.

The goal of the Math Derby is to provide groups of fifth and sixth graders from all elementary schools an opportunity to participate in a math competition based on interactive problem solving. While there is a competition within each derby, competition is not the main focus. There is no districtwide competition. It is solely a locally organized and run activity. While there are no records, the presenters recalled that the earlier days had a definite majority of boys in the derbies. This has changed over the years and slowly the numbers have evened out and lately there are a greater number of girls participating.

The goal of the Middle School Girls' Math Experience conference is to inspire more middle school girls to continue in the study of mathematics, to know that they can be successful in mathematics and to see the importance of mathematics in their lives. Over 250 girls registered for the 14th Annual Conference in 2007. There were 24 motivational speakers and professional women in careers from across the community who

volunteered to participate in the conference. These volunteers send a message that math is a gateway to many interesting career choices in the 21st century.

It was noted that the number of girls enrolled in upper level mathematics across the district mirrors the current high school population with about 48% girls and 52% boys. Within the teacher population almost 60% of high school math teachers are female.

The presentation group reviewed a number of profession development opportunities provided for teachers. These include the Alaska Math Consortium and the Journeys in Mathematics project.

Board members were shown a video of interviews of current female students enrolled in upper level mathematics courses around the district. A number of students were interviewed in person. These students shared their journeys through math over their academic careers. The students also shared their ideas of how the district can better encourage girls to pursue higher level mathematics. Ms. Roberta Gordeoff, Ms. Karen Jamison, and Ms. MenHe Kim were present to answer the interview questions and field questions from the board members.

Mr. Roberts asked whether the speakers believe that there are many students who have an unfounded fear of math. The students believed that there are a lot of students with a general uneasiness with math.

Mr. Steele asked how students get through the struggle to reach the point where the light comes on and math concepts become more understandable. The students shared some ideas and suggestions that would help others struggling to master particular concepts.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal noted that the Student Advisory Board is not meeting over the summer and he, therefore, did not have a report.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu reported that there had been a change of command ceremony on Fort Richardson. Major General Charles Jacoby relinquished his command. On his behalf, Lt. Col. Luu extended appreciation to the Board, the administration, and the staff members at each of the schools around the district for all of the support given to the soldiers and their families, particularly in this time of deployment.

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

Ms. Damita Owen reported that MECAC would hold an end-of-the-year planning meeting beginning at 7:00 a.m. on June 9th at the Starbucks on Dimond and Old Seward. The public is invited to attend. The final meeting for the year will be June 21st at 12:00 noon in Conference Room 150.

Ms. Owen noted that the MECAC is still seeking applicants. Persons interested in applying for membership are asked to contact Ms. Owen through the district's administrative offices.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Lisa Cadavos, a parent of a nine-year-old with autism and ADHD, voiced her concern that the district is cutting funding for a Behavioral Specialist whose services she believes are critical to her son's well-being. She asked for an explanation of the situation. Ms. Comeau noted that it is important for Ms. Cadavos to share her information one-on-one with the special education director so that he can follow-up on her particular situation.

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 - January 31, 2007
- b. Regular Meeting - February 8, 2007
- c. Special Meeting - May 14, 2007

- 2. ASD Memorandum # 301 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Anchorage Principal's Association 2007-2010

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Tentative Agreement between the District and the Anchorage Principal's Association which will establish terms and conditions of employment for individuals in this unit during the period between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2010.

- 3. ASD Memorandum # 310 - Revision to FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the projected revenue and expenditure adjustments as set forth in Attachments A and B and maintain the total FY 2007-2008 Revised Financial Plan in the amount of \$698,655,250. This includes maintaining the individual fund budgets as currently approved by the Anchorage Assembly on May 1, 2007 as follows:

<u>FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan</u>	
General Fund	\$546,162,511
Food Service Fund	16,322,000
Debt Service Fund	80,435,739
Local/State/ Federal Grants Fund	<u>55,735,000</u>
Total - All Funds	<u>\$698,655,250</u>

- 4. ASD Memorandum # 319 - Acceptance of Additional Grant Funds: Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) in the amount of \$82,684 to provide additional support to the Intel ® Teach to the Future - Master Technology Teacher Leader (MTTL) Grant Program.

- 5. ASD Memorandum # 289 - Award of Contract: West High School Auditorium Seat Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the West High School Auditorium Seat Replacement, to the lowest bidder,

BRAG Investments, Inc., dba Saxton Bradley, for the Base Bid amount of \$304,854, Additive Alternate Number 1 in the amount of \$27,415, Additive Alternate Number 2 in the amount of \$107,752, Additive Alternate Number 3 in the amount of \$185,276 Additive Alternate Number 5 in the amount of \$31,470, Additive Alternate Number 7 in the amount of \$2,173 and Additive Alternate Number 8 in the amount of \$15,033 for a total award of \$673,973.

6. ASD Memorandum # 290 - Award of Contract: Turnagain Elementary School Window Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Turnagain Elementary School Window Replacement to the lowest bidder, Reynolds General Contracting, Inc., for the Base Bid amount of \$193,747 and Additive Alternate Number 1 in the amount of \$127,030 for a total award of \$320,777.

7. ASD Memorandum # 297 - Award of Contract: clark Middle School General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/GM) Construction Services

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) contract for the construction of the Clark Middle School project to Davis Constructors and Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$51,920,391.

8. ASD Memorandum # 225 - Award of Contract: Custodial Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Frontier Paper Inc. to furnish Custodial Supplies in the estimated amount of \$368,437 from date of award through June 30, 2008 with two one-year renewal options.

9. ASD Memorandum # 285 - Award of Contract: Independent Audit of the Anchorage School District's Financial Records

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a three year contract to Mikunda, Cottrell & Company to perform audits of the Anchorage School District's financial records at a cost of \$64,000 for 2007; \$73,000 for 2008; and \$75,000 for 2009 for a total fixed fee amount of \$212,000.

10. ASD Memorandum # 320 - Professional Services Selection for Chugiak Elementary Traffic Safety Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of R & M Consultants Inc, as the Designer of Record for the traffic safety upgrades project at Chugiak Elementary school, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with R & M Consultants Inc, for design services.

11. ASD Memorandum # 321 - Professional Services Selection for Rogers Park Traffic Safety Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of USKH Inc., as the Designer of Record for the traffic safety upgrades project at Rogers Park Elementary school, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with USKH Inc. for design services.

12. ASD Memorandum # 311 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steele noted that there was a speaker for ASD Memorandum # 301, Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Anchorage Principal's Association 2007-2010, and asked that it be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Steiner asked that ASD Memorandum #310, Revision to FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan, be pulled for discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 31, 2007, the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2007 and the Special Meeting of May 14, 2007 and Memoranda, #319, #289, #290, #297, #225, #285, #320, #321, and #311 with addendum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Ms. McRae announced that Ms. Wendy Brauns will be the new principal at Ursa Minor Elementary School.

Ms. Vandergaw congratulated Ms. Lisa Prince-Smith who will be the new principal at Central Middle School. She also congratulated Mr. Sven Gustafsen, currently the principal at Gruening Middle School who will be transferring to Romig Middle School.

ASD Memorandum # 301 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Anchorage Principal's Association 2007-2010

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Tentative Agreement between the District and the Anchorage Principal's Association which will establish terms and conditions of employment for individuals in this unit during the period between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2010.

ACTION:

Moved by: Mary Marks
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To approve and adopt the Tentative Agreement between the District and the Anchorage Principal's Association which will establish terms and conditions of employment for individuals in this unit during the period between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2010.

Mr. John Kito, Anchorage Principal Association (APA) president, noted that he has been associated with the Anchorage School District for several years and has bargained sitting on both sides of the table. He commented that this year the conversations with the bargaining team have been both rewarding and positive. He noted that they appreciated the opportunity to utilize the Interest-Based model and hoped that this trend would continue in the years to come. After listening to the bargaining teams' presentation, the APA membership voted overwhelming to ratify the tentative agreement and asked the Board adopt the same. Mr. Kito indicated that the APA feels very good about the relationship that has been developed between the ASD and the APA. They are hopeful for this trend to continue.

Ms. Comeau noted that she was equally pleased with the way that bargaining went and that the Interest-Based model should be developed and used for other bargaining units.

Eric Tollefsen indicated that both sides engaged in very good discussion and were able to work through all the issues. The APA had some very dedicated, hard-working members on their side of the table. It was a very successful endeavor for everyone involved.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The Board went into recess at 7:45 p.m. and was called back to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. Steele.

ASD Memorandum # 310 - Revision to FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the projected revenue and expenditure adjustments as set forth in Attachments A and B and maintain the total FY 2007-2008 Revised Financial Plan in the amount of \$698,655,250. This includes maintaining the individual fund budgets as currently approved by the Anchorage Assembly on May 1, 2007 as follows: General Fund - \$546,162,511, Food Service Fund - \$16,322,000, Debt Service Fund - \$80,435,739, and Local/State/Federal Grants Fund - \$55,735,000 for a Total in All Funds of \$698,655,250.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the projected revenue and expenditure adjustments as set forth in Attachments A and B and maintain the total FY 2007-2008 Revised Financial Plan in the amount of \$698,655,250. This includes maintaining the individual fund

budgets as currently approved by the Anchorage Assembly on May 1, 2007 as follows: General Fund - \$546,162,511, Food Service Fund - \$16,322,000, Debt Service Fund - \$80,435,739, and Local/State/Federal Grants Fund - \$55,735,000 for a Total in All Funds of \$698,655,250.

Ms. Comeau realized that these revisions are coming to the Board later than expected. She explained that the administration delayed moving these forward to make sure that we understood the legislative intent because the funding for the district's operating budget is in two different bills. Ms. Comeau noted that the administration had carefully reviewed the six year plan when developing these recommendations. They also looked at the cuts that had been made in January working through recommendations for reinstatements first and then addressed possible enhancements. She believed that this recommendation is a very responsible budget proposal. Ms. Comeau urged the Board not to delay action on this recommendation. She noted that staffing needs to be done next week, purchasing needs to place orders for textbooks and supplies, and a variety of other issues need to be addressed as one school year is closed out and before the next begins.

Ms. Comeau reviewed the reinstated items and program enhancements listed in the memorandum in detail. She noted that these revisions are not an increase to the upper limit of the tax cap at this time.

Mr. Steele explained the process he would like to follow as the Board reviews the budget. He asked board members to review the list of items and pull those that they had questions about. The Board would then go through the list of pulled items, discussing each one in order. Board comments will follow the overall discussion.

Ms. Comeau reiterated the importance of taking action that will allow the district to promptly address staffing issues at the schools which had been delayed beyond the end of the school year.

Ms. Kennedy pulled the reinstatement of the Administrative Assistant/Accounting, the Senior Administrative Clerk/Purchasing, and the Truck Driver/Warehouseman. She recalled that these cuts were originally recommendations from the budget review teams. She questioned whether the positions had been cut to force more productivity

in these departments or if they simply were the result of trying to find the least painful means to meet the requested reduction in expenses. Ms. Comeau explained that all three of these positions were cut to meet the required reductions in each of the departments. None of them were recommended because they were not needed. They were recommended strictly to meet the target. Mr. Friedman added that he had suggested reinstating the position at the warehouse because the district has been adding more schools and as that happens more work is added to the warehouse and truck drivers.

Ms. Marks pulled the reinstatement of funds to School Board Travel and Legislative Lobbying. She questioned why this was being reinstated. Ms. Comeau recalled her understanding that board members had indicated that they would like to continue to each be able to attend one conference every year. She also noted the importance of board members being able to go to Juneau. Ms. Kennedy noted her appreciation to the superintendent for reinstating these funds and retaining the opportunity for board members to attend national conferences. She asked for clarification between the funds designated for conferences as opposed to those designated for legislative activities before deciding exactly what to do with the funds in question. Mr. Steiner noted that this amount is small enough that it can be moved between conference expenses and legislative expenses at a later date as necessary and does not warrant a lot of time at this point. The item should be watched judiciously so that the funds can be transferred to something more productive should legislative activities be accomplished at less expense.

Ms. Marks noted that, if this amount is reinstated to the travel and legislative lobbying account, she would like to see more Board participation in local conferences such as NIEA.

Ms. Marks pulled the reinstatement of funds for the Youth Reception Center for Covenant House. In light of all of the other needs in the district, she had a difficult time justifying the reinstatement of this expense. Mr. Friedman noted that there are many items in the budget that he believes should be paid for by the community rather than the district. However, looking at this item in light of the amount of district staff time saved by the use of the Youth Reception Center he believed that the amount in question represents a very conservative estimate of the savings. He believed that this is money well spent and supported the reinstatement of funding.

Mr. Roberts noted that in addition to educating our students we are also charged at times with protecting them. He believed that this is a wise investment. Ms. Comeau noted that this is just partial funding for the Youth Reception Center. A number of community agencies also provide funding. This is a community service program that keeps some kids who have no safe place to go from wandering the streets. She noted that this has been a good investment over the years and has provided a necessary safety net for children in the community.

Ms. Marks asked whether there is evidence that student achievement is positively impacted by utilizing the services of the Youth Reception Center of the Covenant House. Ms. Comeau explained that there are no statistics showing a direct correlation between student achievement and the Youth Reception Center but using the facility has allowed police officers to be on the street where they need to be. The program provides an assessment and acts as a referral agency to get the children connected to the appropriate community agency services or medical services. Mr. Roberts shared his personal knowledge and anecdotal evidence regarding the effectiveness of the services provided by the Youth Reception Center.

Ms. Kennedy explained that the Covenant House exists completely separate from the district. She believed that the real question is not whether the program is doing a good thing for children, because obviously it is. The real question is whether it is the right thing to do to take district money and put it into this kind of a program. She believed that, as a non-profit organization, the Covenant House and the Student Reception Center will be there regardless of the financial support from the district. Mr. Steele noted that the district partners with non-profit organizations all the time. He believed that this is a safety issue for our students. Mr. Steiner had a concern as to whether the program would, in fact, remain available without financial support from the district. Without that information he indicated that he would not be in favor of pulling funding. He does believe, however, that it is a fair question to ask in the future.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: Mary Marks
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To remove the reinstatement of \$50,000 in funding for the Youth Reception Center at Covenant House from the Revisions to the FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan.

Ms. Kennedy commented that the district gets an incredible amount of value from the School Resource Officers however the burden of providing

those services is carried by the municipality. She does not believe that the district has to support particular organizations in this way when we know that the municipality and other organizations do provide those services with their funding. Ms. Comeau noted that she is very disappointed to hear some of this discussion because she believes that this is a direct service to our students. She also noted that we get huge benefit from our School Resource Officers funding for which comes directly out of the municipality's budget. The district is a part of this community and should be collaborating more with other organizations, including collaborative blended funding where appropriate.

VOTE on Amendment:

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

MOTION FAILS

Mr. Steiner pulled the proposed reduction in class size from the list of program enhancements. He asked for a discussion of having a .25 reduction in class size across the board as opposed to a targeted reduction in class size at particular levels. He wondered whether a reduction in class size has the same benefit in high school that it has in middle school, the upper elementary grades or the lower elementary grades. Ms. Comeau noted that the goal was to get the ratios back to where they were two years. Even though the number sounds small it gives programs at all three levels some flexibility. She noted that this is really the number one community priority. There are still differentiated staffing levels across the three instructional levels. Ms. Comeau explained that the executive directors get their staffing allocation based on these formulas. They then go through an analysis to determine where and how to use the FTEs based on a number of different variables such as program needs and facility space.

Mr. Steiner noted that this will add about fifty positions on top of the number of positions restored through recommended budget reinstatements. The issue of funding PERS/TRS also raised concern. Mr. Steiner felt the need to be cautious and conscious of the number of unknown variables in funding as decisions are made to add more full-time equivalent staff. Ms. Comeau noted that discussions with a number of other districts indicate that they are all adding staff. The belief is that districts need to show the legislature that they are investing their resources in quality education.

Ms. Marks pulled the on-line remediation teachers for high school from the list of program enhancements. She asked what services are available for students at NorthStar. Mr. Sjolander reported that a PLATO lab has been set-up for students while they are in the hospital there. The on-line programs have been very effective for students that are there for a period of time. They are also something that the students can continue using as they transition back to their schools. In response to another question, Mr. Sjolander noted that the district has also begun a collaboration effort with the South Central Foundation at their facility. Mr. Steiner asked whether these interventions utilizing on-line remediation also help with credit recovery. Mr. Henry indicated that they do.

Mr. Steiner pulled the addition of a systems analyst form the list of program enhancements. He asked about the relationship between the proposed systems analyst and the SIS implementation manager that is also being added. Mr. Wood explained that the implementation manager will be the person that is managing the team and the implementation of the system. They will work closely with the vendor and actually do that project. The systems analyst will be the person that will be the technical expert that will coordinate with the users and will do system and software configurations. When the project is completed the implementation manager will go back to do other jobs. He noted that we are moving away from a development model into more of a purchased application. Therefore we are hiring fewer programmers and moving more toward system analysts. As the new system comes on line the staffing needs will continually be re-evaluated to determine what skill set and where the staff is needed.

Mr. Steiner pulled the Creating Successful Futures program from the list of program enhancements. He noted that funding for this program is currently coming out of elementary education. He wondered what the money being freed up by additional funding directly for this program will be used for. Ms. McRae noted that the basic result of this action will be an addition of four teachers in the elementary allocation. These were FTEs that had been diverted from meeting the target class size.

Mr. Steiner pulled the foreign language positions at elementary schools from the list of program enhancements. He asked about the logic in providing some exposure to a language at the elementary level when there is no program at the middle and high school levels for students to continue in the study of that language. He wondered whether this is the first step in a plan to actually create a Mandarin Chinese program throughout the grade levels. Ms. McRae explained that foreign language

elementary instruction in a school with a relatively stable population does result in a great deal of language instruction over the seven years that students are in the school. She noted that the district is starting with the Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) model at the elementary level and is looking at this to eventually become a K-12 program. She explained that content-based FLES means that the foreign language is based on the content that the students are learning. The teachers are teaching information that supports what students are learning in the various curriculum areas so that it actually expands the students' understanding of what they are learning in the regular classroom. Ms. Comeau noted that this is the most targeted language nationwide and it is expected that grant funding will be available in the future.

Ms. Kennedy pulled the Library Coordinator position from the list of enhancements. She noted that she supported the library coordinator but was concerned about not reinstating the library liaison positions. She questioned whether this one position is meant to replace the two liaison positions or is this a position that, while filling one need, will leave needs unmet that were previously met by the liaisons. Ms. Comeau noted that the only reason the liaisons were being funded was that a coordinator position could not be funded in the past. She believed that the coordinator will be able to work closely with all of the librarians to identify the core needs. She made the choice to recommend the coordinator position because of the need to coordinate with the curriculum department and to support instruction. Ms. Kennedy shared her concern that, in many cases, the elementary librarians are doing a lot of the technical work as well. They are coordinating technology in their building and coordinating between teachers. In many cases they have taken on another role besides just the functions of maintaining the library and doing library instruction. Ms. Comeau noted that she had recommended five additional education technology teachers. The intent of that action was to give each of those positions across the district responsibility for fewer schools which should reduce some of that type of work for some of the librarians.

Ms. Kennedy pulled the Certification Video Teacher Coach from the list of enhancements. She voiced her frustration with this unfunded mandate. She was concerned with the cost of this position and wondered whether it takes someone at that rate of salary to videotape teachers. Ms. Gardner noted that this position entails much more than videotaping. It will encompass all issues regarding teacher certification requirements. She explained the thought process was to roll this system into the district's

mentoring induction program and really use it as an opportunity for professional development with our new teachers as well. The paperwork that goes along with developing these videos is tremendous. It asks them to speak to their lesson design. It asks them to talk about what data they have analyzed and the results of that analysis. It asks them to talk about the GLEs they are addressing and how they are doing that. It asks them to address how they are differentiating instruction. These are all things that we really need to work with our teachers on from a professional development standpoint. So this position is more than helping teachers learn to use video equipment. It really is about those issues of lesson design, mentoring, and induction. It will help the new teachers be the best teachers they can be. The person in this position really needs to be a high level person with a great deal of experience. Mr. Robb Boyer added that this position really needs to become the teacher certification expert so that we don't lose staff members due to certificate issues.

Mr. Tuck pulled the 504 Coordinator position from the list of program enhancements. He questioned the need for a full-time position for this function. Mr. Sjolander explained that 504 Accommodation Plans have to do with broader categories of disability outside of special education. While there is staff that monitor IEPs there is not a designated person districtwide that can work with school teams on the policy and procedures regarding development of 504 Accommodation Plans as well as providing training at those sites. This position will also monitor the plans and make sure that the district is in compliance. Ms. Comeau noted that the district has been audited and have fallen very short in this whole area. This is an effort to comply with federal and state mandates. In order to do that someone is needed to focus on this so that the plans are being tracked and transitions between schools are being monitored. Mr. Steele asked whether this is going to help the staff in the school do their jobs better or is it merely a legal compliance issue. Mr. Sjolander explained that this most definitely will help the staff in the schools do their jobs done better.

Ms. Kennedy pulled the fourteen Level 1 addenda for pre-algebra pilot from the list of program enhancements. She asked for clarification on how this pilot will work and how students in elementary schools who are not part of the pilot will access pre-algebra instruction. Dr. Silverstein explained that the design is to select seven sites geographically located such that there will be one in each high school enrollment area. They would be in a central location so that students from other elementary schools could attend. Ms. McRae noted that this idea came about because of some frustration with parents' inability to get their students to middle

school for zero hour classes. This pilot project to see if more students can have the opportunity to benefit from pre-algebra instruction than were previously benefiting from it when it was offered as a zero hour class at middle school. Some elementary students will be able to take pre-algebra in their own elementary school. Others will still have to find their own transportation to the pilot sites. Pre-algebra will no longer offered for elementary students during zero hour at the middle schools.

Mr. Steiner pulled the standards-based report card staff development from the list of program enhancements. He noted that he supports the standards-based report card concept but was not aware that the district was ready for staff development. Ms. McRae noted that we are ready to engage in the staff development effort. This funding will allow all elementary teachers to take the training to learn about standards-based grading. Dr. Silverstein noted that the district has been working on this process for four years. This is a teacher-led initiative. The teacher-leaders are volunteering to become part of this pilot where between thirty and fifty teachers will be using this process in their classrooms. They will provide feedback to the rest of the elementary teachers on how this works. This will do a two-prong effort. The teachers who have been involved in the standards-based report card for the last four years are ready to go. They have a high level of understanding and they want to try it. At the same time we want to provide staff development for all teachers so that they can come to the same level of understanding that the teachers who have been engaged in the effort for four years have. Mr. Steiner voiced his concern that beginning staff development at the early part of the pilot would necessitate retraining those same teachers once feedback from the pilot is available. Ms. McRae explained that the staff development is more about the concept of what standards-based grading is, what it means and the philosophical thinking about grades. It will be introductory and conceptual. There will be more staff development once the actual implementation begins. Everyone needs the basic grounding that the core group has been engaged in for four years.

Ms. Kennedy pulled the science kit materials from the list of program enhancements. She asked for clarification based on testimony during the budget process that science kits could just be eliminated. Ms. Comeau noted that the hands-on curriculum for science is well-established and highly regarded. The kits have evolved and are very integrated with literacy. The science kits are our elementary science curriculum so it is really important to keep them up to date.

Ms. Kennedy pulled the offset of vending machine revenue at the middle and high school levels from the list of program enhancements. She noted that she thought that the offset provided in the budget this year was meant to be a one-time offer and that schools would have to find a way to fundraise for their activities. Ms. Comeau noted that there has been an increase in the cost of activities. There has been increased fundraising but the shortfall at both levels is roughly \$1.25 million. It is important to make sure that school activities get up and running and that they are not short-changed next year. Mr. Henry explained what the vending money has been used for over the years. This includes many essential items. He noted that every single high school has a zero balance in their activities account. Ms. Vandergaw added information regarding how the vending funds have been used at the middle school level. Mr. Steele questioned whether the issue is due to increased cost or because of a decrease in vending machine revenues. Mr. Henry explained that the contracts that the schools have had with Pepsi and Coke have been very lucrative. He explained how the contracts have changed. We have seen a reduction of approximately 71% in vending revenues. Ms. Comeau noted that we believe that getting the junk food out of the schools was the right thing to do. The challenge now is to make sure that we support activities where we can. Mr. Steiner noted that, in the future, this should not be looked at this as reduction from loss of vending machine revenue. It should instead be viewed as paying the cost of our activities. We are no longer being subsidized to advertise for other products that weren't healthy for our students anyway. Ms. Comeau indicated that, from now on, she would like to approach this as the actual cost of activities and doing business.

Mr. Steiner pulled the swimming pool increased costs from the list of program enhancements. He asked for an explanation. Ms. Comeau reported that it reflects increased rates from the municipality.

Ms. Marks pulled emergency radios from the list of program enhancements. She recalled that we had already purchased radios. Mr. Vakalis explained that these are the radios that will put us in sync with the city. The radios that had already been purchased are the smaller ones that are in the schools. Mr. Mew explained how these radios work, how they will be used and how they will be distributed around the district. He reported that the funds will purchase at least 320 radios.

Mr. Tuck thanked the administration and support staff for their help in clarifying several issues regarding these recommendations.

Mr. Roberts thanked the staff for their work in pulling these recommendations together. He noted that he was pleased to see many of the items restored, especially in the library program.

Mr. Steiner voiced his frustration at being put in the position of having to respond to something with such a short turn-around time. He was concerned about not really having as good an idea as he would like to have as to how much of the funding is one-time and how much can be expected to be recurring. It is a frustration that the district can't do longer term funding. He also voiced his concern with the affect that added staff will have on PERS/TRS.

Mr. Friedman noted that while the shortness of time is certainly an issue many of these items are a continuation of discussions that have been ongoing through the budget meeting, the budget review team reports, and the six-year plan. He believed that the discussion this evening shows that the Board is really on top of what this funding is about and where it is going. He is comfortable that the Board had the ability to analyze these recommendations and make a good decision. He noted that we are putting money to good use in the classroom educating students. Mr. Friedman indicated that now is the time to thank legislators. They need to know that we are appreciative.

Ms. Marks noted that she was particularly pleased with the enhancements that will improve support of our special education department. She also emphasized the importance of board members attending local conferences.

Ms. Kennedy was pleased to be able to have the opportunity to go through these recommendations one item at a time. She thanked the staff for being available to field questions. She voiced her appreciation to the legislators and the governor. She also recognized members of the staff who have been advocating for education for a long time.

Mr. Steele noted that a lot of people went to Juneau with high expectations this year. The governor had said that she was going to fully fund education. He applauded the legislators for the extremely difficult work that they did. This budget has a few items that symbolize funding above and beyond maintenance level funding which is a huge accomplishment. He applauded the staff for finding the balance between one-time and ongoing expenditures.

Ms. Comeau thanked the Board for having this discussion. She also noted her appreciation for allowing her the time to review each of the items on the memorandum. She applauded the staff who worked so hard on this and all of the people who gave input. She also applauded her staff for bringing forward recommendations that were truly focused on the School Board goals, the six-year plan, safety needs, and critical issues, but with a focus on what can be done to improve the school environment for increased instruction and student achievement.

Mr. Steiner added his appreciation. Despite some immediate short-term frustration on the process, the addition really is great. We saw some real increases in our scores this year. What we see in this budget is targeted, in very large part, to continue those increases. He noted that, while it is not as early as he would have liked it, it is wonderful to get it and it is wonderful to get a substantial amount that we can do some real good with. He wanted to make it clear that he is celebrating that fact and is very appreciative.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 312 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of May 1, 2007 through May 15, 2007.

2. ASD Memorandum # 313 - Third Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report 2006-2007

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

3. ASD Memorandum # 314 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of April 2007

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of April 2007 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

4. ASD Memorandum # 315 - Operating Budget Transfers - april Monthly Report FY 2006-2007

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

5. ASD Memorandum # 316 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: April 30, 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 April 30, 2007.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 31, 2007, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:50 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved