

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #127 (2007-2008)

December 17, 2007

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FIRST QUARTER PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE REPORT
2007-2008

ASD Goal: *Ensure public accountability through... effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

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.

For many years, Anchorage School District schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow for individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarters.

These efforts have generally been well supported by parents and teachers, as can be seen in the information provided by each division. Through work with the Communications staff, the web site, and our school/business partners, the district will continue attempts to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities in the hope that parents can be released from work to attend. At any time of the school year, parents are welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress.

Elementary Schools

Twice each year, the elementary schools in Anchorage conduct parent/teacher conferences for the purpose of reporting student progress to parents. These conferences are held at the end of the first and third quarters of each school year. Elementary parent/teacher conference results for the first quarter are shown in Attachment A. The following information is a comparison of the last five years' participation rate in these conferences.

	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>
Fall Enrollment	25,505	25,000	24,713	24,346	23,578
District Average	96%	95%	95%	93.45%	94.65%

Currently, the teacher schedules individual conferences for the parents of each student in the class. The current ASD/AEA negotiated agreement has a provision to allow telephone conferences in lieu of personal conferences if the principal gives prior approval. This is the 23rd year this information has been recorded.

Middle Schools

Following are the percentages for completed student-led conferences for the first quarter of the 2007-2008 school year for middle schools:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>ENROLLMENT</u>	<u>COMPLETED CONFERENCES</u>	<u>PERCENT COMPLETE</u>
Begich	1192	836	70%
Central	639	455	71%
Clark	-----	-----	-----
Goldenview	808	670	83%
Gruening	587	493	84%
Hanshew	831	651	78%
Mears	920	787	86%
Mirror Lake	675	581	86%
*Polaris K-12	461	461	100%
Romig	824	639	78%
Wendler	756	634	84%

Following is a four-year comparison of completed first quarter conference percentages:

<u>School</u>	<u>% Fall 2004</u>	<u>% Fall 2005</u>	<u>% Fall 2006</u>	<u>% Fall 2007</u>
Begich	---	---	---	70
Central	62	75	78	71
Clark	57	48	68	---
Goldenview	73	75	71	83
Gruening	78	91	84	84
Hanshew	88	86	82	78
Mears	64	70	82	86
Mirror Lake	76	74	70	86
*Polaris K-12	100	100	100	100
Romig	81	78	90	78
Wendler	65	78	82	84

*Polaris distributes report cards through individual appointments

This is the first year for Begich Middle School, which had a 70 percent participation rate. Clark is closed for construction during the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 school years.

Conferences for middle schools ranged from 70 percent to 86 percent. The schools with the highest conference rates were Mirror Lake and Mears with 86 percent followed by Gruening and Wendler at 84 percent; Goldenview followed closely with 83percent.

Noteworthy are the 16 percent increase at Mirror Lake and the 12 percent increase at Goldenview. Both sites utilized all school student-led conferences for the first time this fall. All middle schools now utilize the student-led conference model.

High Schools

Senior high school report card pick-up was held on November 8, 2007, in all area high schools. This effort is intended to facilitate parent/teacher/student communication. All of a school's teachers are available in a contiguous area, such as the library or the cafeteria, and parents and staff meet as time permits. Appointments for more extensive dialogue can be made at that time.

As reported by principals, parents were actively engaged in discussion with nearly every teacher. The vast majority of those in attendance deem the conferences valuable and informative. Appropriately, many high school students accompany their parents during these visits.

Encouraging parental attendance continues to be both a school and division goal. All sites publicize this opportunity through parent newsletter announcements which start several months in advance, invitations issued at fall open houses, items on school web sites, notations on the activity calendar, and numerous reminders at monthly parent meetings.

Report Card Distribution Report November 2005, 2006 & 2007

School	% 1 st Qtr 2005	%1 ST Qtr 2006	%1 st Qtr 2007
Bartlett	32	32	19
Chugiak	60	55	46
Dimond	52	30	52
Eagle River	65	50	55
East	47	42	43
Service	49	51	42
South	62	61	69
West	60	36	48
Division Avg.	53%	45%	47%

Charter Schools

School	Enrollment	# of Conferences	% 1st Qtr 2007
Aquarian	353	342	*Conferences/Portfolio shares
Eagle Academy	164	161	98%
Family Partnership	535	**N/A	
Frontier	355	**N/A	
Highland Tech High	251	***N/A	
Rilke Schule	180	180	100%
Winterberry	169	158	****93%

*Portfolio shares: students put together a portfolio of work from the quarter and share with their parents the completed work, as well as their evaluation of themselves vs. teacher evaluation; some set goals for the next quarter.

**Parents and teachers meet on an as needed basis due to the individualized nature of these programs. FPCS has an on-line progress report (submitted by parents and sponsor teachers) due January 20, and another due in April.

***Highland Tech High issues progress reports, but report cards are distributed only at semester.

****Winterberry held their conferences during Thanksgiving week, so some families were out of town. The school is still scheduling make-up conferences for those parents.

CC/RG/PM/LV/MH/mh

Attachment

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Mike Henry, Executive Director, High School Education

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

November 26, 2007

TO: RHONDA GARDNER, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
INSTRUCTION

FROM: PATRICIA McRAE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

SUBJECT: FIRST QUARTER REPORT ON ELEMENTARY
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES 2007-2008

Twice each year, the elementary schools in Anchorage conduct parent/teacher conferences for the purpose of reporting student progress to parents. These conferences are held at the end of the first and third quarters of each school year.

Elementary parent/teacher conference results for the first quarter are shown in Attachment A. The following information is a comparison of the last five years' participation rate in these conferences.

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Attachment

cc Sheila Judge Hall
Glen Nielsen