

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, September 10, 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: Tim Steele, John Steiner, Macon Roberts, Crystal Kennedy, Jeff Friedman, and Chris Tuck

Excused: Mary Marks

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Rhonda Gardner, Leslie Vandergaw, Mike Henry, Enid Silverstein, Jerry Sjolander, Jeff Wood, Eric Tollefsen, Michele Egan, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Lt. Col. Sonny Luu, Jose DelReal, Pam Chenier, Ray Amsden, Marie Laule, Chad Stiteler, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Steiner noted that there was a revised version of Memorandum #32, ASD Resolution in Support of Mayor's Diversity Month, September 15 - October 15, 2007.

Mr. Steele noted that there is a revised version of the agenda which includes a presentation on the Healthy Futures program.

The agenda was approved with the noted revisions by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Comeau noted that tomorrow is the sixth anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The president has asked that everyone fly flags at half-mast for the day and also that some time be set aside for a moment of silence. The administration has sent out a notice asking all of the schools to take some time during morning announcements or another appropriate time during the morning to have a moment of silence to reflect on the events of that day.

Ms. Comeau announced that she had been invited by Bridgebuilders to make a presentation to the Polynesian community tomorrow evening at the Fairview Recreation Center. The purpose of the presentation is to discuss what actions parents can take to support their students and to help them be successful in school. Ms. Comeau will be part of a small panel at that event.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum # 29 - Recognition of AT&T Alascom for Online Streaming of Graduation Videos

High school graduation is always a celebration of success. The walk down the aisle, the exchange of handshakes and diplomas and ceremonious changing of the tassel signifies the end of public education and the beginning of adulthood for our students. One of the Anchorage School District's partners, AT&T Alascom, donated its technology to bring such memorable moments to our U.S. troops stationed overseas and in the Lower 48, and workers on the North Slope.

Alascom Web-casted the graduation ceremonies of our eight comprehensive high schools online. The ceremonies were available live and on-demand via streaming video for 60 days following graduation dates. Alascom President Mike Felix stated one example of an East High student whose parents were both stationed overseas. The family was elated to actually watch their son walk across the stage within minutes of it actually happening.

The Anchorage School Board recognized AT&T Alascom for this donation that allows our military and North Slope families to share their children's success.

Ms. Comeau invited Mr. Mike Felix and his staff, Mr. Dan Toomey and Ms. Kathy Opinsky, to come forward to be recognized. Mr. Felix indicated that it was Alascom's pleasure to be involved with this project. He noted that this year in addition to the graduation ceremonies Alascom will be live-streaming all of the playoffs in the major sports for parents who are deployed or working on the North Slope. He looked forward to continuing the successful partnership with the Anchorage School District. Ms. Comeau noted that Mr. Toomey had indicated that there were 12,000 hits to the graduation video site. This service is obviously appreciated not

only by folks who are deployed or on the North Slope but also by people all around the world.

ASD Memorandum # 39 - Recognition of Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching Recipient Rebecca Sorenson

Rebecca Sorensen of Inlet View Elementary is often called “the best math teacher I ever had” by her former students. Her enthusiasm for her subject and ability to adapt curriculum to individual students made her a prime candidate for the 2006 Presidential Award for Math and Science Teaching for Alaska. Winning that honor acknowledges Rebecca as one of the country’s premier mathematics and science teachers in the nation.

Enacted in 1983, the awards for K-12 teachers are administered by the National Science Foundation for the White House. Teachers are recognized for their contribution to teaching and learning, and their ability to help students make progress in math and science. The PAEMST program selects 108 teachers for the awards, bringing the winners to Washington, D.C. for official recognition and presenting them with a \$10,000 prize from the science foundation.

Rebecca says she tells students that every brain in the world works differently and that what works for one may not work for another. She emphasizes that “we all have wonderful brains that are capable of great things if we just keep trying and do our best.”

The Anchorage School Board congratulated Rebecca on her outstanding achievement and her dedication to the success of Anchorage School District students.

ASD Memorandum # 40 - Recognition of National NAACP Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics Winners

Talented young people from an array of disciplines participated in the NAACP’s Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics, known as ACT-SO, in July in Detroit. Included among them were three Alaska students who had earned their spots by competing locally.

**Tiffany Cash**, a 2007 Dimond High School graduate, earned a gold medal for contemporary vocals at the Anchorage meet; **Michael Walker** of Service High School won a gold medal for sculpture at the local competition; and **Terrell Bingham** of Dimond High School also won a gold medal in Anchorage for poetry. Bingham went on to win a bronze medal in poetry in Detroit, making him the first Alaskan to earn a national

medal at ACT-SO, for his poem, "The Diploma." Terrell also received a \$1,000 award and a wireless laptop computer.

ACT-SO is a yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. Gold medalists at the local level qualify for the national finals held at the NAACP convention each summer.

The Anchorage School Board officially recognized these students for their dedication to excellence and superior achievements.

Mr. Terrell Bingham recited his poem.

The Diploma

I'm gonna have it in a frame,  
And underneath the title it's gonna say my name.  
No more taking chances, I'm doing everything right.  
That means being to class on time and staying away from those fights.  
And when it comes to the grades, there is no stopping.  
I'm going to As and Bs, Fs are no option.  
And if I get some I'm not going to keep on stepping,  
I'm gonna have a friendly talk with the teacher  
And I'm gonna keep asking questions.  
Because I gotta show my family that I'm not no fool  
And I'll be the first one out of my brothers to graduate high school.

D is for determined - which I am  
I is independent - for me becoming a man  
P is for potential - which I use  
L is for legitimate for the actions I choose  
O is optimist  
M is motivation and  
A is for articulating these powerful words that I'm saying

I'm getting that diploma and I'm gonna hold it in my hands.  
Then I'm gonna raise it above my head  
Like it's a trophy to my fans  
It would make me happy and my family very, very proud  
And up above our names for graduating,  
I will remove that dark cloud.  
So I'm gonna do what I have to do and I swear to heaven sake

That I'll get that diploma and I will graduate!

Healthy Futures 2007 Presentation

Ms. Comeau noted that the district is extremely fortunate to have some amazing school business partners. One of those is ConocoPhillips who works with the schools to increase fitness and good health in a fun way while providing our young people and staff with terrific role models.

Ms. Sharon Vaissiare introduced Ms. Dorothy Orr, a board member for the Alaska Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AHPERD). She noted that they were here to celebrate a number of initiatives in the schools that have shown great results.

Ms. Orr noted that Alaska AHPERD provides leadership and promotes quality physical education within the state as the premier organization for physical education professionals working to increase physical activity time, to improve the quality of movement of students and to encourage a healthy lifestyle for youth. They promote the Healthy Futures Initiative which is sponsored by ConocoPhillips. Ms. Orr introduced Ms. Rebecca Rieschland, the Healthy Futures coordinator. Ms. Rieschland shared the statistics from the 2006-2007 Healthy Futures. In the Anchorage School District there were 61 elementary schools, six middle schools and three high schools that participated in the Healthy Futures program. There were over 5,000 youth throughout the state who submitted over 10,000 activity or fitness logs. In Anchorage alone there were 3,700 youth submitting 7,000 logs. The logs each cover a four-week time period. There were over 1,300 youth who qualified for a sports package drawing.

Ms. Rieschland, Ms. Kikkan Randall, and Ms. Joann Phillips congratulated the two ASD winners and presented them with their sports packages. Michaela Jones, a second-grader from Chugiak Elementary School, won a sports package of winter gear and dog-mushing lessons. Aiden Haywood, a fourth-grader from Susitna Elementary School, won a sports package including a backpack and sleeping bag, as well as a pair of cross country skis. Both of these packages represent the importance of year-round physical activity and encourage people to get out during the winter and become active year round. Ms. Rieschland recognized the parents of both students for their support and encouragement for their children. Ms. Rieschland also congratulated school district staff who supported all of the students participating in the Healthy Futures program.

Ms. Orr reported that the collaboration between Alaska AHPERD, the Anchorage School District and ConocoPhillips was recognized at the national AHPERD conference last March in Baltimore. We were chosen as one of only three national programs to be recognized. She presented a plaque from AHPERD to Ms. Comeau, Ms. Vaissiere, and Ms. Phillips. The plaque will be displayed in the ASD Education Center.

Mr. Steele recognized and introduced Senator Bettye Davis who was in attendance at the evening.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal reported that the Student Advisory Board will meet for the first time on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu noted that he is looking forward to a visit from Dr. Jean Silvernail, chief of the Military Child Education program - Pacific Command later this week. He noted that the military community is very proud of the school system in Alaska. They are especially proud of the relationship they have with the administration as well as the school board. He intends to highlight that relationship with Dr. Silvernail during her visit.

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

Mr. Dan Loring thanked the Board and the superintendent for the opportunity to speak. He reported that the MECAC had two very good and very passionate planning retreats over the summer. The committee has been trying to figure out how they can, as a volunteer committee, better serve students and families and make recommendations to the Board. Mr. Loring thanked Mr. Steiner for attending both of the meetings this summer, noting that his participation was much appreciated by all MECAC members. He noted that the MECAC spent the last year speaking to members of the community to gather information about academic achievement and other issues concerning students in the district. This year they hope to take monthly action in the form of making recommendations

to the school board concerning how they can help students and families.

Mr. Loring invited everyone to attend the next MECAC meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, September 20 at 12:00 noon at the ASD Education Center. He encouraged people to attend, not only to observe, but also to interact and bring ideas to help students, families, the administration and the Board find ways to positively impact student success.

Mr. Loring noted that the cultural diversity community forum previously scheduled for September has been postponed. The forum will probably be rescheduled for late October or early November.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Senator Davis noted her pleasure on being able to witness all of the young people accept their awards this evening. She noted her appreciation for the cooperation and support from the district during the Afro-American Summit. The district and its' staff were very helpful in making the Summit a success.

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. Special Meeting - June 18, 2007
  - b. Special Meeting - August 27, 2007
2. ASD Memorandum # 32 - ASD Resolution in Support of Mayor's Diversity Month, September 15 - October 15, 2007

The administration recommends that the Anchorage School Board adopt a resolution recognizing Sept. 15-Oct. 15, 2007 as Mayor's Diversity Month.
3. ASD Memorandum # 38 - ASD Resolution in Support of the Joint Legislative Education Task Force Report

It is the School Board Legislative Subcommittee's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve the attached resolution in support of the work and recommendations of the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force. It is further recommended that, once approved, the Superintendent transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor and to all members of the Alaska State Legislature.

4. ASD Memorandum # 46 - Nomination for AASB Board of Directors

It is recommended that the School Board nominate Crystal Kennedy for a seat on the Association of Alaska School Boards' Board of Directors.

5. ASD Memorandum # 12 - Approval of School Board Out-of-State Travel for Second Quarter 2007-2008

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

6. ASD Memorandum # 34 - Acceptance of Continuation Contract Agreement: The Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation contract agreement from the Association of Alaska School Boards in the amount of \$168,700.

7. ASD Memorandum # 35 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Comprehensive Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention Services Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a two-part grant award from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$148,945.

8. ASD Memorandum # 45 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Foreign Language Assistance Program - Mission is Russian Advances! (Project MIRA)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program, in the amount of \$207,286.

9. ASD Memorandum # 36 - Recommendation for Multi-School CCTV Installation and Security System Upgrade Project, Construction Delivery Method

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to utilize the Design/Build project delivery method for the Multi-School Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Installation and Security Upgrade project, contingent upon approval of the method by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

10. ASD Memorandum # 56 - Sale of Surplus Property

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the listed surplus property by sealed bid sale or public auction in accordance with Board Policy 732.1. Prior to the sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

11. ASD Memorandum # 30 - Personnel Report

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

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memoranda #53, Student Information System Update and #33, First Two Weeks of School Enrollment Update, FY 2007-2008, be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 18, 2007, and the Special Meeting of August 27, 2007 and Memoranda #32 as revised, #38, #46, #12, #34, #35, #45, #36, #56, and #30.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Marks

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 31 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of August 20, 2007 through September 4, 2007.

2. ASD Memorandum # 53 - Student Information System Update

With Board approval in June of a contract with C-Innovations, the Zangle Student Information System implementation began in earnest. Phase I of the contract is the Fit Gap Analysis, during which the district will determine how well the proposed solution meets district requirements. Phase II is installation and implementation of the system, contingent upon the successful completion of the Fit Gap Analysis. The project is currently on schedule for secondary schools to "cut over" in August, 2008. Elementary schools are currently slated to transition in August, 2009. Listed below are several preparatory tasks accomplished or underway since the kick-off meeting on August 8, 2007.

Mr. Wood reported that they have had the preliminary kick-off meeting with the vendor and have established the timeline for the project. The project team is now at a training session and will be there with the vendor for the entire week. They will be going over the data in the current student information system to compare it with the new system to determine if changes are needed. In addition they will be getting some data input into the new system that can then be used for testing. The Fit Gap Analysis will be started when the project team returns. The Fit Gap will compare their system with our processes and make a determination on whether it would be best to change their system or our processes. The focus will be on trying to do things without changing the system because customizing the system too much will result in a system that is harder to maintain in the long turn. They do anticipate that there will be some things that may need to be slightly altered. Once the Fit Gap is complete the project plan and cost will be finalized. Everything will be in place to move forward at that point. The goal is to do some training in January and February for the secondary group and to do an August secondary implementation and to do the scheduling over the summer. Mr. Wood indicated that the Board will continue to receive monthly updates on the first board meeting of the month in order for board members to see the progress of the project.

Mr. Steele asked whether the system will be implemented in tandem such that there would not be a gap should something fail. He wondered how the implementation process will work. Mr. Woods explained that the intention is to do a straight cut into the new system for the secondary schools. He noted that there will a couple of schools who have a sixth, seventh, eighth program who will probably have to working with both systems because bringing over sixth grade would kick over all of the other elementary school. The old system will still be there as a fall-back if there is a problem.

Mr. Steiner noted that one of the first phases of the project was an introductory training to the Windows Operating System because some of the employees using the new SIS are currently on a Mac Operating System. He wondered whether part of this project is actually converting those employees so that their equipment will be all PC based. Mr. Wood explained that the system includes a front office component that is termed a "thin client" that resides within the Windows platform. Nothing will change for the teachers themselves who will still be able to use their Apples within the classroom using a web-based access to get to the system. Front office staff who work predominately with system will probable work in the Windows environment for the majority of their time. He noted that the district is also upgrading the IFAS system to a new web-based product which also requires a Windows operation. There will be some cross over for those operations within the front office personnel because many times the clerk who does the IFAS work also does the administrative SIS work. There is no intent to have two computers on anyone's desk. Mr. Wood believed that people using the front office SIS product and the IFAS product will be spending the majority of their time in the Windows environment and will be provided a Windows machine. The district is also piloting a product that runs on Apples called "Parallels" which allows the user to run Windows in a virtual environment. The district is the process of testing that to assess its' viability.

Mr. Steele noted that the report indicated that the Fit Gap sessions will enable the district to finalize the budget related to the project in time for the budget process. Mr. Wood clarified that the budget in question is the 2008-2009 school year budget.

3. ASD Memorandum # 33 - First Two Weeks of School Enrollment Update, FY 2007-2008

In accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.132, the semi-annual report for Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$10,000 for the period January 1, 2007 through July 31, 2007 is attached.

Ms. Comeau reported that the district is 601 students under projections after the tenth day of school. It is her belief that the district will not come anywhere close to the projections. She noted that the administration has been very conservative in staffing and has held back allocating teaching positions. After the early August activation period, when it was obvious that particular schools were not going to come close to their projected enrollment, the executive directors began holding back and reassigning teachers. She explained that, if the district does not make projected enrollment by the end of September, there will be a significant change in the budget projections for next year.

Ms. Comeau shared that this decrease in enrollment is a statewide trend. She noted that Fairbanks, with an enrollment of 14,178, is 265 students under projection. Juneau, with 5,072 students, is only down by 23 but had been very conservative in their projections having experienced two years of decline. Kenai, with 9,107 students, is down by about 100. The MatSu is also down 100 students with an enrollment of 15,008 students. Something is obviously going on around the state.

Ms. Comeau also noted that the district has 374 fewer military students now than we did last year. It is hoped that when many of the service men and women return from deployments in December and January we will see an increase in enrollment as families who may have relocated during those deployment return to Anchorage. The administration is watching this closely and has held back some staff in the eventuality that the district continues to gain students after the count date. In that situation the district will not get funding from the state but may end up needing to put more staff in place at certain places.

Ms. Comeau clarified that enrollment at the middle school level is up and enrollment at the high school level is off by only 45 students. The bulk of the decline is in the elementary ranks.

Ms. Kennedy noted that there appears to be about a 10% decrease in Special Education students based on the projected enrollment indicated for September 28<sup>th</sup>. Given that the district enrolls students in the pre-school Special Education program continually throughout the year as children reach their third birthdays, she wondered whether the district expects to make up some of those numbers. Ms. Comeau noted that the projection indicates the number of students we anticipated would be enrolled by September 28<sup>th</sup>. The district does not receive funding for any students, including Special Education students, who come in after the count date. Mr. Sjolander explained that the Special Education program usually comes up a little short on the number during the first ten days of school each fall because there are new-to-district students for which an IEP meeting is needed. It takes some time to have those meetings and get the paperwork in so that students are in the system and reflected in the numbers. He indicated that the Special Education should be caught up by the count date.

Mr. Steiner asked if there was any sense of whether the decrease in enrollment is a reflection of more people moving out of the district or fewer people moving in. Ms. Comeau explained that Ms. Dargon-Steed is looking at that issue but we don't have that level of information yet.

Mr. Steele asked whether the enrollment figures can be further broken down within the elementary level. He noted that the district had been growing in K-3 and he wondered whether that higher enrollment level has moved up to fourth grade which would indicate that the drop is reflective of numbers in the higher grades. Ms. Dargon-Steed noted that the district has had large kindergarten classes for the last few years. However the district has lost those extra students in the first grade.

Ms. Kennedy asked whether information on the number of new-to-district students is available to compare year-to-year in order to get a perspective on whether there is a trend and that fewer people are moving into the district. Ms. Comeau noted that that is one of the things that will be looked at over the next month. The district also contacts private schools to see if their enrollments are increasing. She noted that there are a couple of new private schools opening in the community. A complete analysis will be done to try to determine where the students are.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Kennedy announced that the Policy subcommittee will meet tomorrow, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in Conference Room 150.

Mr. Steiner congratulated Ms. Kennedy for her selection as the ASD School Board nominee to the AASB Board of Directors.

Mr. Steiner noted that the Board passed a resolution on Consent Agenda endorsing and congratulating the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force that met throughout the summer. That task force did an exemplary job of very public work to really dig into the meat of education funding issues in an open, public, bi-partisan fashion. They were able to come together with a consensus recommendation. Their work will save time and hopefully allow the full legislature to be able to adopt something that will put districts on a good track for funding for the next few years. He voiced appreciation to Chair Mike Hawker and the other members of that task force.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS  
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of September 10, 2007, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:20 p.m.

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Tim Steele, President

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Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

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Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved