

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, September 24, 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, Mary Marks and Chris Tuck

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, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Tuck announced that there will be a community forum held on October 4, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Loussac Library addressing the issue of Methamphetamine usage. Mr. Eddie Hill will be the featured speaker.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Chugiak High School Choir, under the direction of Ron Lange, performed several numbers for the entertainment of the Board and other members of public.

ASD Memorandum # 42 - 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 five students for their superlative academic achievement as National Merit Scholars: **Christopher Oliver** of East High School; **Jennifer Rinker** of Service High School; **Alena Gerlek**, **Ellie Millen** and **Rosalind Worcester** of West High School.

Christopher has earned the National Merit Scholarship at Washington State University at Pullman, where he plans to pursue engineering.

Jennifer has been selected as the National Merit Scholar at Harvey Mudd University in Claremont, California, where she will study mechanical engineering.

Alena was named the National Merit Scholar for the British Petroleum Foundation and is interested in a career in environmental biology.

Ellie is Willamette University's National Merit Scholar, and will study graphic design at the Salem, Oregon school.

Rosalind plans to attend Maine's Bowdoin College as its National Merit Scholar, and will decide on a major later.

The Anchorage School Board officially congratulated these future leaders on their achievements and wished them the best for their college careers.

ASD Memorandum # 44 - Recognition of National Energy Education Development Youth Awards Presenters, Northern Lights ABC Elementary

Mr. Roberts read that the National Energy Development project listened to a new energy plan for Alaska, created by people who would most benefit from it - a bunch of smart fifth graders at Northern Lights ABC.

Teacher Tammy Black's class spent a year examining energy use in the United States and Alaska and came up with some great recommendations, which they presented at the NEED Youth Awards in June in Washington, D.C. as the NEED Alaska School of the Year. Teams of Black's students studied American energy use and devised a plan that suggested building

more dams and a natural gas pipeline, as well as using more renewable resources such as solar and wind-powered energy.

The students also organized a pledge drive for students and families at their school. They turned their peers into "Power Savers" by getting them to promise to turn off the lights when they leave a room, turn off all appliances when they are done with them, and conserve water. Families were asked to set water heaters to 120 degrees, replace their furnace filters monthly, use cold water for laundry, turn down thermostats, check the air in their tires to save gas, and change their light bulbs to energy savers.

"During our class presentations and Family Science Night, our class managed to collect a total of 110 family pledges and 359 student pledges," Black said.

The Anchorage School Board officially thanked these students for their efforts in addressing an issue so vital to their future, and for being excellent representatives of Alaska and the Anchorage School District at the conference.

The students explained the activities they were involved in with this project. They reviewed many of the things they learned over the course of their studies in preparing for this important project.

ASD Memorandum # 23 - Recognition of Outstanding Service, Joann Starzec

Ms. Marks read that Joann Starzec began her career as an Anchorage School District employee in 1979. But it was when she transferred to West High School in 1981 as the school's activities clerk that her true talents began to shine.

Joann administered tournaments for athletics and other activities at what was then the largest school in the district. Her dedication to excellence meant spending a great deal of overtime to plan state tournaments for basketball, wrestling, Drama, Debate and Forensics, as well as local and regional competitions, too numerous to count. Among the honors bestowed on her by both students and administrators, is the status of Honorary Thespian awarded by the West High Drama Club for her tireless efforts in assisting the program.

Her legacy is evident today in the rules and procedures Joann helped establish for district activities. When someone asks a question about how

to accomplish a certain goal or set a standard, they often turn to the regulations written by Joann in conjunction with her colleagues.

The district asked the Alaska School Activities Association to grant Joann a lifetime Gold Pass to all activities and events in recognition of her contributions. The district administration was pleased to join ASAA in presenting the lifetime achievement award to Joann in February.

The Anchorage School Board officially recognized Joann Starzec for her sincere dedication to the success of our students over 25 years of excellent service.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal reported that the Student Advisory Board met on September 20, 2007. At that meeting they reviewed SAB procedures and their schedule. He noted that elections will be held at their next meeting on October 8, 2007.

He reported that all of the high schools have reported good attendance at their Homecoming activities. The SAB also discussed the upcoming AASG conference which will be held at East High School.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu was unable to attend the meeting.

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

Ms. Owen reported that the MECAC met last Thursday, September 20, 2007. She noted that there are three MECAC seats open and extended an invitation to parents and community members to apply for those positions.

Ms. Owen reported that the next MECAC meetings will be held on Oct. 4, 2007 at 4:30 p.m. and noted that everyone is welcome to attend.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Jeanne McQueary, co-chair of the Strawberry Road Committee and a member of the Anchorage Road Coalition, spoke on traffic safety concerns as they relate to the proposed changes at the intersection in front of Sand Lake Elementary.

Mr. Frank McQueary, president of Anchorage Road Coalition, spoke on behalf of traffic safety concerns and encouraged the Board to take great interest in this issue. He believed that the district needs to develop expertise in the subject of traffic safety as it relates to and impacts our students and to become active participants in the process.

Col. Billy Cecil spoke on the importance of driver safety and the risks of teenage driving. He requested that the district consider providing driver's education as part of the high school curriculum.

Noting that the liability for providing driver's education with a "behind-the-wheel" element would likely entail an extremely high liability cost, Ms. Kennedy asked Col. Cecil whether he felt that simply providing a classroom course would be beneficial. Col. Cecil indicated that, while he believed that practical experience is of utmost importance to improving safety, any program addressing safe driving would help our students.

Mr. DelReal indicated that it would be difficult to introduce driver's education as a requirement for graduation but believed that it would be worthwhile to offer the program as an elective.

Mr. Friedman indicated that this is an interesting topic to discuss as the district continues to address what high schools of the twenty-first century should look like. He suspected that a large number of community members would be supportive of making driver's education available to students. He was supportive of investigating this possibility.

Mr. Steiner indicated that offering driver's education would be a very desirable thing to do but that costs must be taking into consideration. He also brought up the question of how class credit would be handled if the class were offered as part of the high school curriculum.

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 - September 10, 2007
 - b. Special Meeting - September 10, 2007
2. ASD Memorandum # 47 - Association of Alaska School Board's Belief Statements and Core Resolutions

It is the recommendation of the Legislative subcommittee that the Anchorage School Board adopt the two amendments to the Association of Alaska School Board (AASB) Belief Statements and Core Resolutions as shown in Attachment A.

3. ASD Memorandum # 78 - Recommendation for Approval of AO No. 2007-124 (S): "an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 25.25, School Site Selection and Acquisition School building Construction, and Amending Sections 21.15.015 and 25.40.015 to Provide a Site Selection, Site Plan Review and Acquisition Process for School Lands

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve AO No. 2007-124 (S): "an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 25.25, School Site Selection and Acquisition School Building Construction, and Amending Sections 21.15.015 and 25.40.015 to Provide a Site Selection, Site Plan Review and Acquisition Process for School Lands" and recommend that the Assembly approve same.

4. ASD Memorandum # 83 - ASD Board Policy Revision: 332.3(d) Time Period for Lotteries (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the revision of School Board Policy 332.3(d) Time Period for Lotteries as shown in Attachment A.

5. ASD Memorandum # 54 - Professional Services for Mears Site Improvements

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 site improvement project at Mears Middle School, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with R & M Consultants Inc., for design services.

6. ASD Memorandum # 81 - Approval of Assignment of Contract for Student Transportation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the assignment of the contract for student transportation services with First Student, Inc. to Forsythe Transportation, Inc.

7. ASD Memorandum # 55 - Acceptance of Contract: Association of General contractors for Anchorage Construction Academy

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a contract from the Association of General Contractors for \$671,000 to support the Anchorage Construction Academy.

8. ASD Memorandum # 49 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steiner requested that ASD Memorandum #78, Recommendation for Approval of AO No. 2007-124 (S), be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memorandum #51, School Business Partnership Report 2006-2007, and ASD Memorandum #52, Summer School Update, be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for presentations.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2007, and the Special Meeting of September 10, 2007 and Memoranda #47, #83, #54, #81, #55, and #49.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Steiner noted that one of the items passed on the Consent Agenda was ASD Memorandum #81 which was the assignment of the contract for student transportation services with First Student, Inc. to Forsythe Transportation, Inc. He voiced his appreciation to the individuals responsible for assisting the district with this action. Ms. Comeau thanked Bill Forsythe and Mark Foster from Forsythe, Cal Hull and Michael Jordan from First Student and Ed Sniffen from the Attorney General's Office, as well as representatives from the Teamsters, for their support on the assignment of the contract for student transportation services with First Student, Inc. to Forsythe Transportation, Inc.

ASD Memorandum # 78 - Recommendation for Approval of AO No. 2007-124 (S): "an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 25.25, School Site Selection and Acquisition School building Construction, and Amending Sections 21.15.015 and 25.40.015 to Provide a Site Selection, Site Plan Review and Acquisition Process for School Lands

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ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To approve AO No. 2007-124 (S): "an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 25.25, School Site Selection and Acquisition School Building Construction, and Amending Sections 21.15.015 and 25.40.015 to Provide a Site Selection, Site Plan Review and Acquisition Process for School Lands" and recommends that the Assembly approve same.

Ms. Comeau noted that this recommendation comes out of the collaborative efforts of district staff, the municipal planning department, the municipal attorney's office, and the Heritage Land Bank (HLB). She indicated that she has been assured that district issues regarding this action have been addressed.

Mr. Vakalis explained that the district has been working under a site selection process for several years that is separate from the public facility

process that has been established for all municipal facilities except for school sites. He noted that this action has come about, in part, as a result of concerns regarding the fact that acquiring school sites has become very cumbersome and time consuming under the current system. In addition, there is also concern as to whether the current system results in the district receiving the best value for the purchase. He briefly reviewed the process by which this recommendation came about.

Mr. Vakalis noted that the recommendation supports the elimination of Ordinance 25.25 while establishing that the actual site selection process itself will not be a codified process. It will be a process that will be done administratively between the planning department and the HLB. It requires that the entities come together to establish a set of procedures and criteria to follow each time the district looks at a site selection. This makes the process consistent by having the municipality and the district operating together. The process also protects information regarding which sites are being reviewed. The amendment also clarifies and makes allowances for compensation of properties. It sets out a process in which the district can be reimbursed if it is found that there are district properties which are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were originally acquired or when the entire acreage of a property is not needed. There is also an area in the ordinance that allows the Assembly to waive fees and charges for the district in an acquisition from HLB. The role of the Assembly in this process is clearly defined in the ordinance.

Ms. Rhonda Fallon-Westover, deputy municipal attorney with the Department of Law at the Municipality of Anchorage, was in attendance to field questions from the Board.

Mr. Steiner noted that he is glad to be moving away from the old site selection process but indicated that he had some concerns with the wording in several areas. The first concern was with the wording of section 25.40.015.D.3.b which states that "If no land available in inventory meets the need of the school district, the municipality may utilize any method set out in chapter 25.20 to identify and acquire property for potential school sites." His concern is that chapter 25.20 addresses only acquisition of land, not identification of land. He wanted to make sure that, when talking about potential future school sites, the district will not have to go through some kind of extensive needs analysis of the lands in the HLB before potential sites can be secured. Ms. Fallon-Westover did not believe that the provision in question keeps the district from looking at other potential school sites. It just indicates that the inventory is available for the district to review.

Mr. Steiner indicated his preference to simply leave "If no land available in inventory meets the need of the school district," out of the statement as it appears to be a precondition to acquisition. Ms. Comeau indicated that she believes it is important to make it clear that the district will look at the inventory first. She did not find the statement to be at all restrictive.

Mr. Steiner raised an additional concern regarding section 25.40.015.D.5 which indicates that land determined by the school district to be in excess of school need shall be returned to the HLB inventory. He indicated his concern that the action would not be something that the school district would be required to do independent of the school board. He wondered if the statement could be changed to say "determined by the school board". He raised the issue because 25.40.015.D.3.a references a determination made by the school district and approved by the school board. That statement uses language that differentiates between the district and the board. Ms. Comeau indicated that adding language spelling out that district determination would be approved by the board to the statement in question would clarify the process which is currently being used and which will continue to be used.

The last item that Mr. Steiner raised was the whole process of the planning and zoning commission and the school board making their recommendation to the assembly. It seemed to him that school site selection is an area where the request of the district and the approval by the school board should be primary with the planning and zoning commission being a recommending entity rather than having separate recommendations from the planning and zoning commission and from the school board. In particular, if the assembly does not agree with the recommendation, Mr. Steiner felt that it would be preferable to send the issue back to the school board to be reconsidered in consultation with planning and zoning rather than simply remanding it back to the planning and zoning commission with only consideration to the district's recommendation. Ms. Fallon-Westover explained that the intent of the remand is to have the issue go back through the public facility site review process which is at the beginning of this ordinance. The wording was intended to restrict the ability of the assembly to go outside of what was recommended by one or both of the recommending bodies to any of the other sites that were evaluated without going back through the public site selection process.

Following discussion Mr. Steiner offered an amendment to the original motion.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To add the following wording to the end of the original motion:

“The Anchorage School Board recommends that proposed 21.15.015.A.3.c be amended to add “and the school board” after the word “commission” and that the words “, with due consideration to the recommendations of the school board” be deleted. In addition, the Anchorage School Board also recommends that proposed 25.40.015.D.5 be amended by inserting the words “and approved by the school board” after the word “district” in the first line of that paragraph.”

VOTE on AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

VOTE on ORIGINAL MOTION as AMENDED:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Fallon-Westover indicated that she would prepare the floor amendments and forward them to assembly members Johnston and Claman so that they could be considered during the public hearing on September 25, 2007.

Returning to the topic of ASD Memorandum #81, Approval of Assignment of Contract for Student Transportation, Mr. Steele indicated that, in order for Forsythe to complete the transfer of First Student's operations in a timely manner, he needed a motion for immediate reconsideration and urged a "no" vote on reconsideration. This action would take reconsideration off of the table and expedite the process for First Student and Forsythe Transportation.

Mr. Friedman explained that immediate reconsideration presented a problem in light of current Board policy which indicates that a motion for reconsideration needs to be voted on at the next meeting. ASD Policy 174.3: Reconsideration states "A proper motion to reconsider, once seconded, suspends implementation and effect of the decision for which reconsideration is sought, until the Board takes action on that motion at a future meeting."

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner	To suspend the rules to allow for
Seconded by: Macon Roberts	immediate reconsideration without
	waiting until a subsequent board
	meeting.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner	To reconsider ASD Memorandum
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy	#81, Approval of Assignment of
	Contract for Student Transportation.

Mr. Steele clarified that a "no" vote will take reconsideration of this action off of the table. Mr. Steiner explained that voting "yes" will allow the possibility that the item can be brought up again. Voting "no" will eliminate the possibility of any reconsideration and the action will stand.

VOTE:

Ayes: None
Nays: Steiner, Kennedy,
Roberts, Friedman,
Tuck, Steele, Marks

MOTION FAILS

This action confirmed the Board's approval of the assignment of the contract for student transportation services with First Student, Inc. to Forsythe Transportation, Inc.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 50 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of September 4, 2007 through September 18, 2007.

2. ASD Memorandum # 51 - School Business Partnership Report, 2006-2007

Since 1991, the Anchorage School District has been involved in a unique working relationship between the education and business communities. The Anchorage School Business Partnership (SBP) program is continuing its seventeen-year success story. SBP has been responsible for developing more than 540 partnerships during this time with an economic value to the ASD in 2006-07 of over \$2.5 million. Supported by both the ASD and the Chamber of Commerce, Anchorage School Business Partnerships is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation with a board of directors made up of 27 members of the business community and the school district.

Ms. Tam Agosti-Gessler presented the School Business Partnership Report for the 2006-2007 school year. The Board viewed a slideshow presentation showing a variety of activities engaged in and supported by a number of schools and their business partners.

Ms. Agosti-Gessler noted that she is working hard with the coordinators and principals to help them understand that the partnership program is a relationship. She wants them to realize that a relationship is two-way. She encourages the schools to be creative

about finding ways to give back to their business partners. She reviewed several examples of how schools have supported their business partners.

Ms. Comeau noted her belief that the School Business Partnership is one of the best investments made by the district. She also extended her appreciation for the energy that Ms. Agosti-Gessler has brought to the program and for all of her efforts to enhance and advance the program.

3. ASD Memorandum # 52 - Summer School Update

Anchorage School District Summer School 2007 provided classes and support for 5,593 students. This year, the district provided 15 summer school sites. Following are reports from Patricia McRae, Executive Director, Elementary Education; Leslie Vandergaw, Executive Director, Middle School Education; Mike Henry, Executive Director, High School Education; and Jerry Sjolander, Executive Director, Special Education.

Ms. Comeau noted that the summer school program becomes more successful with every year. Ms. Gardner thanked board members for their continued support of the summer school program. The program is hugely popular with district families. The executive directors along with their principals and teachers have done a terrific job of adapting the program as the years have gone on to really meet the needs of our students.

Mr. Henry voiced his appreciation for the continued support of the high school summer school program. Over the past several years the district has done a very good job with remediation and credit recovery through the summer program. He pointed out that, in addition to remediation, there are now a great number of students who take an original course attempt during the summer in order to make room during the regular school year for courses that are more difficult to schedule. Other students attend simply to get ahead for a variety of different reasons.

Mr. Henry reported that there 4,159 students took summer school this summer earning 5,998 half credits. In addition to the traditional twenty-six day summer school the high school division offered a couple of additional opportunities. One action was to simply leave the doors open for the month of June at all of the alternative programs across the district. This allowed students who were working through

unit based instruction to continue to work right at their own school with their own teachers. That was very successful with almost 450 students taking advantage of that opportunity. Mr. Henry noted that the extended school year had been piloted for ninth-graders at two high schools last year. That program was so well received that the extended 10-day summer school option was offered at every comprehensive high schools across the district this year. About 500 students participated in that program. Mr. Henry believed that the district is more than getting their monies worth through the high school summer school program.

Mr. Steele asked how Mr. Henry would to see the high school summer program improve over the next few years. Mr. Henry explained that the high school division set up a program this summer that allowed students to earn elective credit for working for the municipality in their new Parks Program. He would like to aggressively pursue that type of program cooperation with businesses, industries and other agencies. Mr. Henry would also like to be able to provide a summer school program at every single high school across the district, a third semester if you will, within the next few years. He was confident that the numbers of participating students would double if the program were offered at every school.

Ms. Vandergaw reported that the middle school division had a very successful year. She explained that the numbers of participating students were less than may have been expected and noted that the reasons for this were related to location changes. One of those changes involved Clark Middle School which is closed for rebuilding and typically has a large number of students who attend summer school there. In addition, Hanshew Middle School was having some major work done and so the program was moved to Mears Middle School which is not on the bus route. Ms. Vandergaw publicly thanked the municipality for collaborating with the district to providing bus tokens for Clark students to be able to attend summer school in other locations. There were fifty-one students who utilized that service this summer.

Ms. Vandergaw reported that the middle school division did not offer any enrichment courses this year. They focused their attention and their financing on remediation. They focused on identifying the struggling students based on testing at the non-proficiency level on the SBA tests. Student achievement data was reviewed and remediation efforts were focused on students who are below proficient or on the

bubble between proficient and below proficient. Ms. Vandergaw briefly reviewed the program offered at the middle school level, the results of the parent survey, and evidence of achievement.

Mr. Steiner asked whether any consideration has been given to what the cost would be to provide buses from some neighborhood schools to summer school locations. Ms. Comeau explained that busing is provided to the Title I elementary schools. She also explained that it is very difficult to get bus drivers in the summer because many of them are employed by the tourist industry. It is certainly something that could be looked into. It was noted that Begich Middle School, which is now open and could provide a location for summer school in the northeast area of town next year, is on the bus line.

Mr. Steele believed that the district has enough data to effectively argue that summer school programs work to positively impact student achievement. Ms. Comeau noted that the supporting data could be used to support the need for additional state funding for districts to put together comprehensive summer school programs. She felt that this information can be an effective presentation to make to legislators.

Mr. Steele agreed that it was the right choice to concentrate on remediation but noted that it would be nice to offer enrichment courses as well.

Mr. Tuck questioned whether sixth-grader who are transitioning into the seventh grade attend summer school at the middle school level. Ms. Vandergaw noted that accommodations are made so that sixth-graders attending one of the sixth-eighth grade middle schools can attend middle school summer school. In addition, when enrichment courses were offered during middle school summer school, some of those courses were available to students moving from the sixth grade to the seventh grade.

Mr. Glenn Nielson and Sheila Hall, elementary supervisors, provided the report from the elementary level in the absence of Ms. McRae. They indicated that the elementary level served 804 students this summer. Ninety-one percent of those students completed the entire summer academic program which addressed the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, and math.

Ms. Hall reported that the summer program was a natural extension of the regular school year for those students who were below or far below

proficient. A breakfast and lunch program was provided at Mountain View, Bowman, and Ptarmigan. Transportation was provided from all of the Title I school sites to those same locations.

Mr. Nielson reported that student achievement was very high and students saw great gains academically across the board. He reviewed academic gains at each grade level. Mr. Nielson also reviewed the results of the parent surveys.

Ms. Comeau noted that the board had approved some additional funding to develop programs in support of military families and students. With that funding the district was able to meet the needs of many families on Fort Richardson and on Elmendorf who desired their students to attend summer school.

Mr. Sjolander reported that Special Education served about twice as many students this summer as they did last summer. He noted that there are a significant number of special education students who take advantage of the general education summer school opportunities offered at the various academic levels. Mr. Sjolander indicated that his report focuses on extended school year services which are mandated for certain students as part of their IEP and are part of the free appropriate public education that the district is mandated to offer to students. Mr. Sjolander briefly reviewed the services provided to special needs students around the district.

Mr. Sjolander reported that there was a special summer camp put on by Special Olympics at Wendler Middle School. The program involved students from Partners Clubs along with students with disabilities participating in summer activities together. The camp was the first Summer Olympics events scheduled by the Anchorage Special Olympics organization. They are hoping to have that activity grow over the course of the next few years. Ms. Comeau added that the high school students from the Partners Clubs were wonderful with the students with special needs. She indicated that this program was a neat addition to our summer offerings.

4. ASD Memorandum # 82 - Dimond High School Artificial Turf Field Update

The 24th Legislature passed Senate Bill 231 in July 2006 to appropriate \$750,000 to the Dimond High School Alumni Association (DHSAA) to install an Artificial Athletic Sports Field at Dimond High School.

After further development of the scope, it was determined that the cost of the project was \$1,500,000 which exceeded the available funding.

5. ASD Memorandum # 48 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of August 2007

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

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Steiner noted that he had had opportunity to discuss the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum with a kindergarten teacher who was thrilled with the program. He voiced the need to make sure that area pre-schools are aware that the district has changed their handwriting curriculum.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of September 24, 2007, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:27 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved