

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 2007

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, November 12, 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, Ray Amsden, Marie Laule, Chad Stiteler, Ophelia Dargon-Steed, Laurel Vorachek, Pam Chenier, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Steele noted that ASD Memorandum #116, Approval of Family Partnership Charter School Enrollment Adjustment, was withdrawn from the agenda.

Mr. Steiner requested that ASD Memorandum #115, Appointment of Controversial Issues Review Committee Members, be postponed in order to secure some additional information. The memorandum will be moved to the December 3, 2007 agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Mary Marks reported that Ms. Crystal Kennedy was elected to the Alaska Association of School Boards Board of Directors during their recent conference. She extended her congratulations to Ms. Kennedy.

Ms. Marks reviewed some of the activities of the AASB conference and indicated that it had been well attended and well received.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The South High School String Quartet, under the direction of Kathryn Hoffer, performed for the entertainment of the Board and other members of public.

ASD Memorandum #59 - Recognition of East High Partners Club

Ms. Crystal Kennedy read that the National Association of Secondary School Principals will feature the East High School Partners Club in the December 2007 issue of its professional journal, "Principal Leadership," which is distributed to secondary school principals nationwide. The article, "Linking Severely Disabled with Non-Disabled Students in High School Extra-curricular Activities," was written by Dr. Jim Frasier of the University of Wisconsin's School of Education.

East High's Partners Club is sponsored by Special Olympics Alaska and supervised by ASD teachers Jean Brown and Rebecca Jesse. The 45-member club provides an opportunity for students with and without disabilities to get to know each other through sports like snowboarding, rock climbing, track and field, bowling, and through social activities like pizza parties, movie nights and community service projects. All of the students work on developing skills of acceptance and understanding. They meet weekly to discuss upcoming activities, which are funded by earnings from the club's espresso stand at East.

Dr. Frasier told Principal Michael Graham that the club was an exemplary organization well deserving of national recognition.

"We are very proud of the students in our Partners Club and our partnership with Special Olympics. The students learn from each other, develop friendships, and manage a business together," said Graham.

The Anchorage School Board enthusiastically acknowledged the national recognition the East High Partners Club has achieved, and for its exemplary demonstration of our mission - to educate all students for success in life.

ASD Memorandum #97 - Recognition of Library Donation, Anchorage Republican Women's Club

Mr. Chris Tuck read that students at several ASD schools are benefiting from gifts from the Anchorage Republican Women's Club, which donated three different picture books by author Peter Barnes on how the nation's

laws are made. As part of its 2007 literacy campaign, the club donated "Woodrow, the White House Mouse," "House Mouse, Senate Mouse" and "Marshall, the Courthouse Mouse."

Elementary school libraries at Abbott Loop, Airport Heights, Campbell, Lake Hood, Mountain View, Ocean View, Ravenwood, Turnagain, Williawaw and Wonder Park received copies of the three books, and Scenic Park Elementary received "Woodrow, the White House Mouse."

The Anchorage School Board officially recognized the Anchorage Republican Women's Club for its generosity and dedication to literacy and civic education in our schools.

ASD Memorandum #98 - Recognition of Donation, Anchorage Police Department Employee's Association (APDEA)

Mr. Macon Roberts read that third-grade students in teachers Leanne Goetchius and Barb Crandall's classes at Nunaka Valley Elementary School played host to some special guests Sept. 19. Principal Jacqui Gorlick introduced Anchorage Police Detective Robert Lutes and Detective Clerk Pati Rhea to the students, who were thrilled to have real detectives in their classrooms.

Det. Lutes and Ms. Rhea had come bearing gifts from the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association - gifts that would unlock the world of words for the students - copies of Webster's dictionary for each of the 38 students. Det. Lutes shook the hand of each child as he handed over the books, which were then inscribed with their names by their teachers. Some of the students asked the detective to autograph their dictionaries as well.

The nonprofit Dictionary Project had given Det. Lutes the idea to offer the dictionaries. He asked his wife, Ashley, currently a teacher at the district's Family Partnership Charter School and a former teacher at Nunaka Valley, if she knew of any third-graders who could benefit. She quickly chose her former school. The students were grateful, and said Mrs. Lutes had chosen them, "because you miss us."

The Anchorage School Board recognized the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association for its random act of kindness and providing a reference to each of those students that will last a lifetime.

ASD Memorandum #110- Recognition of Alaska Teacher of the Year finalist, Dan Sparkman

Ms. Mary Marks read that the wizard of Radio and Television Production at the King Career Center is Dan Sparkman, a finalist for the title of 2008 Alaska Teacher of the Year. Through his commitment to excellence, integrative approach to teaching, and community connections, Dan has made Radio and Television Production one of the most exciting and creative classes in the district.

Dan has spent 20 years in ASD as a special education and vocational education teacher. He is also on the adjunct faculty for the University of Alaska Anchorage and Alaska Pacific University, and teaches staff development courses for ASD personnel through Colorado State University. Dan has won statewide honors before, having been named Industrial/Technology Teacher of the Year by the Alaska Association of Career and Technical Education in 2005. He is also listed in the 2006 edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers."

Reacting to negative news coverage of Anchorage teens, Dan developed a weekly television show featuring all the good things teens do in their schools and communities. The series, "Kids Can, and You Can, Too," was aired on KAKM public television. The response motivated Dan to create a second show, the "Sourdough Joe Show" aimed at elementary-age children.

A statewide team will select the Alaska Teacher of the Year this month, but his students and co-workers already know Dan is a winner. The Anchorage School Board joined them in congratulating Dan Sparkman on his outstanding achievements as an educator and for being a finalist in the Alaska Teacher of the Year recognition program.

ASD Memorandum #114- Recognition of Alaska Assistant Secondary School Principal of the Year, Shannon Gallagher

Mr. Friedman read that one of the district's own has once again been named the Alaska Assistant Secondary School Principal of the Year by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals. Shannon Gallagher, an assistant principal at Mears Middle School, has dedicated the last 20 years of her life to improving public education – first as an elementary teacher and since 2003, as a principal. She is known for her superior skills as an instructional coach, mentor and community advocate.

Shannon is a positive role model for Mears' diverse student population. She is a member of the district's Native Advisory Committee, and has participated in the International Bullying Prevention Conference and the Framework for Understanding Poverty workshop. She brings new insight to her school, supervising and coordinating the Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders program at Mears, as well as a new middle school Internet safety program.

Her administrator, Michael Perkins, says Shannon has organized numerous classes and study groups for teachers that focus on improving literacy and instructional skills.

"Shannon is an exceptional example in the area of customer service, acting like a magnet for positive relations with students, teachers and parents. She also has tremendous leadership skills, and is a model of continuous professional growth," Perkins says.

The Anchorage School Board recognized Shannon for this statewide honor and for her accomplishments in the Anchorage School District.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal reported that the Student Advisory Board (SAB) met on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. He explained that the Board had discussed the process of developing and approving resolutions. They also discussed the fact that resolutions coming from the SAB represent that body. Mr. DelReal noted that the SAB had passed a resolution that will be submitted to the School Board at the next meeting.

Mr. DelReal reported that he had attended the High School Forum held at East High School. He noted that there were only a small number of students in attendance and emphasized the importance of encouraging students to attend future forums.

Mr. DelReal reported that he and Mr. Matt Cook, SAB Vice-President, had attended the AASB Student Leadership Institute. Both students extended their appreciation to the superintendent and the Board for the opportunity to participate in that very educational program. Mr. DelReal noted that they particularly appreciated being able to network with other student leaders from across the state.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu reported that he had recently attended an Annual Conference on Education held by Pacific Command. The conference allowed discussion among representatives from throughout the Pacific Rim. He noted that he was pleased to be able to brag about both the Anchorage School District and the statewide education system in Alaska. He explained that one of the programs that are gaining a lot of momentum is the Military Impact School Program that links together teachers, administrators, and others associated with education from different geographical areas so that they can discuss specific issues impacting military children such as deployment and re-deployment. The conference also generated a lot of discussion regarding what needs to be done to improve not only education but also the relationship between the military and the community.

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

Mr. Dan Loring noted that the MECAC has met a couple of times since their last report to the Board. At their last meeting members had a presentation from the ASD Human Resources and EEO offices concerning the Board goal to increase employee diversity. That presentation led to a discussion regarding the barriers and challenges to increasing diversity among the district's work force. MECAC members believe that there are innovative solutions to the problem and will be making recommendations to the Board regarding those in the near future.

MECAC had also briefly reviewed the Profile of Performance. The group looked specifically at the high school graduation rates at East, West, and Bartlett high schools. The MECAC also discussed the issues of merit pay and decreasing the student to counselor ratio in the district. Mr. Loring anticipated that the MECAC will be forwarding resolutions to the Board on each of these issues in the near future.

Mr. Loring noted that MECAC will be holding their annual elections soon and that there are seats open on the committee. He encouraged interested community members to make application.

Mr. Loring noted that Governor Sarah Palin requested that any Alaska student who is thinking about dropping out of school call her personally. He indicated that Governor Palin does return calls. He believed that Governor Palin has the opportunity to create a legacy of being the Education Governor. With her leadership in making education a priority, Alaska would have much higher academic achievement.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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 - September 24, 2007
  - b. Special Meeting - October 22, 2007
2. ASD Memorandum # 106 - Resolution in Support of Principal Appreciation Day

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 16, 2007 as Principal Appreciation Day in the Anchorage School District.
3. ASD Memorandum # 107 - Resolution for American Education Week and All School Employees

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 11-17, 2007 as American Education Week for all employees in the Anchorage School District.
4. ASD Memorandum # 105 - Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Financial Planning

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2008-2009 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the budget for FY 2008-2009 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenues and use of fund balance not-to-exceed \$737,337,790. This includes individual

fund budgets currently projected as follows: General Fund, \$581,340,756; Food Service Fund, \$16,277,000; Debt Service Fund, \$83,720,034; and Local/State/Federal Grants Fund, \$56,000,000 for a Total for all Funds of \$737,337,790.

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated cost increases, School Board requests; further review of the fee structure; and Administration, community, staff, student and prior Budget Review Team recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility is requested for adjustments if updated information on any issues that affect the District's FY 2008-2009 Financial Plan come forward.

5. ASD Memorandum # 92 - ASD Board Policy Changes Due to Anchorage Equal Rights Commission Recommendations (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on Second Reading the proposed changes to School Board Policies 114 Nondiscrimination; 114.1 Display of Prejudice Toward Others; 332.3 Lottery Procedures - Open Enrollment; 344.12 District Provisions; 490.14 Prohibited Material; 527 Equal Employment Opportunity; 532.241 EEO Policy Statement; 604 EEO Policy Statement; 725.31 Non-Discrimination; and 725.31 Non-Discrimination, as shown on Attachment A.

6. ASD Memorandum # 108 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award Reading First

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for \$1,113,187; the fifth year of a five-year project.

7. ASD Memorandum # 109 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Demonstration Program - Creating Successful Futures

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Office, in the amount of \$377,899; the third year of a three-year project.

8. ASD Memorandum # 112 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Teaching American History Grant Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Teaching American History Grant Program.

9. ASD Memorandum # 113 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Railroad Summer Youth Employment Program 2008

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Railroad Corporation for an ongoing program described in a current Memorandum of Agreement. This award for \$33,000 supports supervised summer employment for youth from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Career Center.

10. ASD Memorandum # 123 - Personnel Report

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

Ms. Marks requested that ASD Memorandum #106, Resolution in Support of Principal Appreciation Day, and Memorandum #107, Resolution for American Education Week and All School Employees, be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Ms. Kennedy requested that ASD Memorandum #105, Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Financial Planning, be pulled for discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 24, 2007 and the Special Meeting of October 22, 2007 and Memoranda #92, #108, #109, #112, #113, and #95.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 106 - Resolution in Support of Principal Appreciation Day

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 16, 2007 as Principal Appreciation Day in the Anchorage School District.

ACTION:

Moved by: Mary Marks	To adopt the attached resolution
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman	designating November 16, 2007 as
	Principal Appreciation Day in the
	Anchorage School District.

Board members read the resolution into the record:

Whereas, the success and prosperity of the nation and Alaska depends on the quality of education our youth receive from elementary through high school; and

Whereas, the school principal is recognized as the instructional leader and a key factor in effective and productive learning in the classroom; and

Whereas, the principal's leadership skills and abilities directly affect the performance of teachers and paraprofessionals in achieving their goal of quality instruction for all students; and

Whereas, these professional administrators direct the activities in their schools and also serve as liaisons to the communities their schools serve, ensuring that parents and taxpayers are aware of school goals and achievements; and

Whereas, Principal Appreciation Day is dedicated to recognizing the significant contributions of Anchorage School District principals to their schools and to the education of our youth;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Anchorage School Board designate Friday, November 16, 2007 as Principal Appreciation Day and encourage all citizens to recognize the important role of school principals, and to support their efforts to educate the future generations of Alaska leaders.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 107 - Resolution for American Education Week and All School Employees

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 11-17, 2007 as American Education Week for all employees in the Anchorage School District.

ACTION:

Moved by: Mary Marks

Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To adopt the attached resolution designating November 11-17, 2007 as American Education Week for all employees in the Anchorage School District.

Board members read the resolution into the record:

Whereas, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing students with the tools they need to maintain freedom, civility and equality; and

Whereas, our public schools work to nurture and cultivate our nation's future leaders; and

Whereas, equipping Anchorage students with knowledge, skills and confidence gives them hope for a productive and successful future; and

Whereas, public education employees strive to serve our children and communities with dedication, care and professionalism; and

Whereas, schools are community cornerstones which bring together students and parents, educators and volunteers, community leaders and elected officials; and

Whereas, providing the best education for our students is one of the greatest legacies of our community;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Anchorage School Board designates November 11-17, 2007 as American Education Week for all school employees in the Anchorage School District.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 105 - Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Financial Planning

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2008-2009 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the budget for FY 2008-2009 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenues and use of fund balance not-to-exceed \$737,337,790. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows: General Fund, \$581,340,756; Food Service Fund, \$16,277,000; Debt Service Fund, \$83,720,034; and Local/State/Federal Grants Fund, \$56,000,000 for a Total for all Funds of \$737,337,790.

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated cost increases, School Board requests; further review of the fee structure; and Administration, community, staff, student and prior Budget Review Team recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility is requested for adjustments if updated information on any issues that affect the District's FY 2008-2009 Financial Plan come forward.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy  
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2008-2009 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the

budget for FY 2008-2009 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenues and use of fund balance not-to-exceed \$737,337,790. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows: General Fund, \$581,340,756; Food Service Fund, \$16,277,000; Debt Service Fund, \$83,720,034; and Local/State/Federal Grants Fund, \$56,000,000 for a Total for all Funds of \$737,337,790.

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated cost increases, School Board requests; further review of the fee structure; and Administration, community, staff, student and prior Budget Review Team recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility is requested for adjustments if updated information on any issues that affect the District's FY 2008-2009 Financial Plan come forward.

Ms. Comeau noted that much of this information was laid out during the Work Session on the Budget last week. Efforts were made to incorporate many of the comments from that session into this memorandum. To quickly summarize, Ms. Comeau noted that the Joint Legislative Education Task Force (JLETF) recommendations were being used as the basic premise upon which this budget is built. The key elements of those recommendations are increasing the base student allocation from \$5,380 to \$5,480, increasing the Special Education Intensive Needs factor from 5-times to 9-times the base student allocation, and to recalibrate the pupil transportation funding. Also included is the PERS and TRS retirement cost sharing intent that is found in Senate Bill 125 (SB125) brought

forward during the first session of the Twenty-fifth Alaska State Legislature which provides the mechanism for allocating the annual payment on the retirement under funding which becomes a state responsibility on behalf of the district.

Ms. Comeau noted that it is important for the public to know that the administration has had discussions with Director of OMB and the Governor's Office, as well as the Department of Education, and it is their understanding that it appears that the Governor's Budget due out on December 15<sup>th</sup> will reflect, at a minimum, using the JLETF recommendations as the base. She noted that, while the Board is on record as advocating for a \$200 per student increase in the base student allocation, the administration does not feel comfortable in using that figure to build the budget at this point.

In addition, based on guidelines from the Board to cautiously proceed with the use of a portion of the undesignated fund, this recommendation includes the use of \$2.959 million of the fund balance to eliminate the projected fiscal gap of \$1.618 million and \$1.341 million to be used to cover the computer related unamortized depreciation for equipment currently in use. This will leave the district with a fund balance of approximately 3.5 percent. In addition, seed money of \$1.0 million from the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance to establish a Computer Replacement Fund is being recommended. The use of fund balance as seed money for a Computer Replacement fund is in alignment with the School Board's interest in establishing a technology refresh. The intent of the Computer Replacement Fund is to accumulate sufficient funds to replace computers and printers when needed. The intent is to bring a separate recommendation to establish the Computer Replacement Fund for board approval under separate cover. The Technology Steering Committee is now in the process of developing guidelines for managing the Computer Replacement Fund.

Ms. Comeau noted that the biggest challenge is the district's declining enrollment. An enrollment projection of 47,944 students reflects a decrease of 513 students which impacts all of the assumptions used in building the budget. Another important factor that will impact the district is that as the assessed valuation goes up in the community, which it currently is, more funds must be contributed to the state through the funding formula.

Overall, the Alaska Public School Funding Program is expected to provide approximately 55.8 percent of the district's General Fund revenues

excluding the TRS and PERS projected annual payment by the state on behalf of the district.

Ms. Comeau briefly reviewed all of the assumptions used to build the budget, anticipated revenues, and anticipated expenditures. She also highlighted the many uncertainties that face the district during this budget development process.

Mr. Steele asked whether there is any recommendation to change the class size. Ms. Comeau indicated that no changes were recommended and that the class size would remain at the level it was readjusted to last spring.

Ms. Kennedy noted that the Student Information System Update indicated that district users would, through the use of distribution servers and Remote Desktop Connection, be able to access Front Office and/or IFAS which would eliminate the need to purchase as many new computers. She wondered whether some of the savings realized from that discovery could be used to offset some of the \$1 million recommended to establish a Computer Replacement Fund. Mr. Wood explained that an estimate has not yet been made in terms of the actual workstation replacement because the Fit Gap Analysis has not been completed.

Mr. Steiner requested additional information regarding how a determination will be made regarding spending the funds allocated as seed money for the Computer Replacement Fund. Ms. Comeau explained that the Technology Steering Committee is now in the process of developing guidelines for managing the Computer Replacement Fund. Ms. Stokesbary explained that the district has an estimated \$18 million worth of computers and printers that are valued at under \$5,000 individually so are not, therefore, covered in our Equipment Replacement Fund. Of that \$18 million worth of equipment, about \$9 million is fully depreciated based on a five-year life cycle. The \$1 million in seed money is just a small portion of funds needed to catch up to that \$9 million mark. The additional \$1.341 million which will also go into the Computer Replacement Fund reflects the amortization of the additional \$9 million of computers and printers that are not fully depreciated yet.

Mr. Steiner whether the five-year life cycle was still under consideration. Ms. Stokesbary indicated that that five-year life cycle is still under discussion. The Technology Steering Committee has recommended the five-year life cycle and a proposed plan will be brought forward for approval by the Board. Ms. Comeau noted that there may be a different recommendation for life cycle on computers based on where they are located and how they are being used.

In response to a question from Mr. Steiner, it was explained that the district will be seeking approval from the Assembly to go to the local tax cap which would be an increase in taxes. Ms. Stokesbary explained that there is a tax cap formula which was approved by the voters. The formula consists of mainly the CPI and a change in population growth over a five-year period. That, plus the mill levy on new construction, increases the property tax cap limitation over the prior year. The overall assessed valuation creates the mill levy but does not create the amount of taxes for which the district is eligible.

Mr. Steiner pointed out that the district anticipates a nearly \$8.5 million decrease in income from the state due to the increase in assessed valuation. So the bulk of the requested increase in local taxes is necessary just to keep up with what is being lost in state funds.

Mr. Steele noted that, at this time, the administration is not looking for big cuts in the budget but would continue to look for efficiencies. Ms. Comeau reiterated that there continues to be a lot of unknowns that could require budget cuts.

Mr. Friedman pointed out that the recommendation includes plans to use some of the undesignated fund balance to fill the fiscal gap. He noted that he has been hesitant to use the undesignated fund balance to fund ongoing programs in the past. However, in this instance and at this preliminary stage, Mr. Friedman believed that it makes sense to start the budget planning on the assumption that the budget gap will be filled, particularly in light of the large number of unknowns which may require cuts during the course of developing the budget.

Mr. Steiner noted that one way to look at this issue is that it is not so much that the Board is requesting to use the Undesignated Fund Balance but rather that they are authorizing its use if necessary to fill the gap. It may be that the Legislature will provide a large enough appropriation to alleviate the need to use the Undesignated Fund Balance in this manner.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 96 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of October 11, 2007 through October 30, 2007.

2. ASD Memorandum # 103 - Monthly Update Student Information System - Zangle

The Zangle Student Information System implementation continues to move forward. Phase I of the project 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 scheduled for Secondary schools to "cut over" in August, 2008. Elementary Schools are slated to transition in August, 2009.

Ms. Comeau explained that there were questions raised earlier regarding where the district is with the Fit Gap Analysis and whether there is any possible slippage in the schedule.

Mr. Wood explained that they will have a much better idea about the schedule and the project as a whole once the Fit Gap is complete. The district is really in the analysis phase at this time. They are finding, however, that the project is probably going to slip, but by how much remains unknown. He noted that they have found that there is a great deal of work that needs to be done organizationally that had not been anticipated. It is being discovered that the information in the original SIS system is going to take a lot more work to clean up than anticipated.

Mr. Steele noted that there is currently an August start date for the secondary schools and wondered whether there will be a problem bringing the new system on line during the school year if the start date slips back. Mr. Wood indicated that it would be extremely difficult to initiate the new system at the secondary level during the school year because of the class scheduling process done at that level. He noted that a variety of different options are being evaluated in case the schedule does slip. Mr. Wood indicated that he hated to speculate as to what needs to be done until the Fit Gap has been completed.

Ms. Comeau noted that, while there is concern regarding any delay in implementing the new SIS system, the key is to make sure that everything is in place to assure that the transition goes smoothly when the system goes live the first time.

3. ASD Memorandum # 88 - Annual Report of Exempt Purchases

In accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.132, the annual report for purchase orders exempt from formal competitive procedures over \$50,000 for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 is attached.

4. ASD Memorandum # 102 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2007-2008 School Year

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

5. ASD Memorandum # 99 - First Quarter End-of-Month Membership Summary - October 31, 2007

The total active membership at the end of October was 48,348. This membership represents a decrease of 109 students when compared to the September 28, 2007 total of 48,457.

6. ASD Memorandum #100 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of October, 2007

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of October 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. Friedman noted that the Legislative Subcommittee will meet at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 16, 2007 in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Ms. Kennedy noted that the Policy Subcommittee will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 in Conference Room 150.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS  
LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of November 12, 2007, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:55 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