

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2008

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 14, 2008, 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, Crystal Kennedy, Jeff Friedman, Mary Marks, Macon Roberts 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, Jose DelReal, Ray Amsden, Rob Boyer, Marie Laule, Chad Stiteler, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Steele noted that there were revised versions of ASD Memorandum #134, Recognition of National CASEL Award Winner, Victoria Blakeney, ASD Memorandum #145, Recognition of Fall Denali Award Recipients, and ASD Memorandum #131, Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Mental Health Trust Lease.

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

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Marks announced that she would not be seeking re-election in the next election. She indicated that she would be moving her family to Juneau. She stated that it has been a great honor to be a public servant and an advocate for the children of this community.

Ms. Comeau clarified the issue brought about by an article in the Anchorage Daily News regarding year-round schools. She noted that the district has been talking off and on over the last ten years about what can be done to give students more time for learning and teachers more time for collaboration. One of the things that school districts around the country are doing is trying to increase instruction time for at least some

students. Ms. Comeau noted that she had testified and responded to a question at the Anchorage Caucus meeting a couple of weeks ago regarding the issue of instructional time. That response triggered the article that was published in the ADN. Ms. Comeau assured the public that the district is not planning any changes to the calendar for next year. The district has been looking at this issue and has shared the need for a fund to help expand summer school and provide additional extended year opportunities for some students with legislators.

Mr. Steiner announced that the board will be holding work sessions from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on both Tuesday, January 22 and Wednesday, January 23 to discuss the 2008-2009 Financial Plan. Mr. Friedman added that, in addition to the opportunity to testify during the work sessions, the public can comment on the proposed plan through the suggestion box on the district Web page and that all board members have telephones and email. Ms. Comeau noted that the first reading of the Financial Plan is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on January 31. The second and final reading will be at 5:00 p.m. on February 7. There will be opportunities for public testimony at both of those meetings.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum # 134 - Recognition of National CASEL Award Winner, Victoria Blakeney

Ms. Mary Marks read that a true honor has been bestowed on our district. The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning has named Victoria Blakeney as the first winner of the Joseph E. Zins Purpose Award for Early Career Practitioners in SEL.

Vickie is the district's coordinator for Social Emotional Learning, which concentrates on the social and emotional development of students, making them feel more competent, responsible and able to adapt to life's changes. CASEL officials stated that Blakeney's efforts were impressive and her leadership has taken SEL to levels in ASD not typical of other school districts.

One of the award committee members, said SEL education in ASD has been an "enormous collective effort, but it has been brought to fruition in so many ways through Vickie's tireless efforts on many fronts, in classroom after classroom, with teacher after teacher, student after student."

The Zins Purpose Award recognizes two professionals under 40 years of age who make outstanding contributions to advance the science or practice of SEL. Vickie Blakeney received her award last month in New York City.

The Anchorage School Board acknowledged the district's leader of the SEL initiative for her achievements and for the national recognition she honestly deserves.

Ms. Comeau noted that she had the privilege of being in New York to make a presentation at the CASEL forum when Ms. Blakeney received her award. She explained that Ms. Blakeney is highly regarded and that CASEL is very impressed with the work that we are doing here in Anchorage to advance social and emotional learning. Ms. Comeau noted that there is a very nice article about our program in the December 19, 2007 edition of Education Week. Ms. Comeau introduced a video clip, Educating Hearts, from a program published by the George Lucas Education Foundation featuring the Anchorage School District. The Social and Emotional Learning program in the ASD is truly making an impact on our students, faculty and families.

ASD Memorandum # 156 - Recognition of 2007 National Teacher Certification Recipients

Ms. Crystal Kennedy read that on December 4, eight Anchorage School District teachers achieved a milestone in their lives - national board certification - the most prestigious credential a teacher can earn. Like board-certified doctors and accountants, board-certified teachers have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review.

National board certification is a voluntary program. While state licensing sets basic requirements for teachers, board-certified teachers successfully demonstrate advanced teaching knowledge through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete.

The following teachers received their certification December 4: Stacey Brennan and Jaime Locke of Trailside Elementary, Natalia Clark of the King Career Center, Jason Collins of Begich Middle School, Vicki McCall of Baxter Elementary, Nivol Niemi of Campbell Elementary, Amber Stout of Susitna Elementary, and Leesa Wingo of South High School.

The Anchorage School Board recognized the dedication of these outstanding professional educators and their lifetime achievement.

Ms. Comeau recognized Tara Bivins and Derry Ruyle who were instrumental in facilitating the support groups for the candidates and thanked them for their help. She also recognized Roger Miller who assisted with the videotaping for the candidates.

ASD Memorandum # 145 - Recognition of Fall Denali Award Recipients

Mr. Chris Tuck read that, to Alaskans, Denali means "great one," and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service and dedication. Twice each year, a committee of Anchorage School District employees selects a number of co-workers and a team of colleagues that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to its mission of educating students for success in life.

The certificated Denali award winner for Fall 2007 is Bobbi Jo Erb of Mirror Lake Middle School. Bobbi Jo has worked in the district for 10 years, most recently as a mathematics teacher and department chair at Mirror Lake. She organizes her classroom around Smart Board technology and updates her class Web page daily to include video podcast examples of student homework. In her letter of recommendation, principal Scott Batchelder wrote, "Her mathematics background has made her invaluable in student scheduling and master scheduling. When the district supplies raw data for schools to analyze, Ms. Erb steps to the fore and makes sense of the data, spots trends, and gives insightful meaning to the information." Bobbi Jo is also receiving recognition for her work through the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics where she has been asked to lead a session at their next conference. Her work is also posted on their national Web site. Congratulations to Bobbi Jo Erb.

The classified/support staff member receiving the Denali award is Audrey Richardson, Administrative Assistant at Romig Middle School. Audrey is described as the "backbone of Romig" and the "school mom" because she is called upon so much to help staff members and students with everything from school-related issues to personal matters. Some of Audrey's supporters say she seldom stays within the parameters of her job description and gains job satisfaction instead by fulfilling whatever need someone at the school might have at any given time. She's even been

known to give out her personal phone number to new teachers offering her assistance at any time. Romig's Counseling Department and Special Education Coordinator's letter of support reads, "When she makes decisions, they clearly reflect the best for students and staff. She makes herself available well beyond her scheduled work week, ensuring the success of Romig's many diverse programs." Congratulations Audrey.

Scenic Park Elementary School's principal Karen Pollard is the administrator/principal recipient of this fall's award. In one of many nomination letters, teacher Caroline Rodgers wrote, "I can't thank Mrs. Pollard enough for helping facilitate my love for my work. Whenever I attend a new training or class, it is strongly evident that Karen's management style and decision making skills made on behalf of our building has set Scenic Park's bar of excellence at its highest." Karen is credited for organizing several programs with high student participation rates. Those programs have created a sense of community and family at the school. Supporters say her love for physical and mental wellness is even rubbing off on them, and the staff is now proud to report they are an accumulated 300 pounds lighter. The staff's enthusiasm for healthy living is transitioning to greater awareness among students as well. The respect and care Karen gives every staff member and student at the school is noticeable. Congratulations, Karen.

The Denali team award goes to the custodial staff at Eagle River High School where they take great pride in their work and treat the school as if it were their own home. The crew is noted for the positive interactions with staff, students, parents and the community at large. In a letter of support, teacher and Lt. Col. (retired) David Ennis wrote, "The ERHS custodial staff goes out of their way to keep ERHS the cleanest and neatest high school I have ever seen. The custodial supervisor takes pride in her staff's performance and accomplishments. I am also impressed with her willingness to go above and beyond when it comes to learning who the rest of the school staff is. She was addressing me by name well before I knew hers! To me, that level of friendliness and respect goes well beyond the norm." Supporters say the entire team is pleasant, efficient and "sympathetic to the capricious nature of adolescents while holding them accountable for their actions." Congratulations to BPOs Steve Litton, and Hui-Sun Cremer, custodial supervisor Evelyn Franklin and night crew members Manuel Sanchez, Mickey Young, Fredric Boyle, Mario O'Ryan, Levy Montuya, Jr., and Fernando Gamboa.

The Anchorage School Board recognized these Denali Award recipients, and all of the nominees, for the example of excellence that they set for the entire Anchorage School District community.

Ms. Comeau read the names of the nominees including Ellen Frohlich, Abbott Loop Elementary, Esther Brouhard, Kincaid Elementary School, Vonda Roark-Martinez, Service High School, Melissa Terrell, Student Nutrition, Jean Lenoir, Music Department, and the 21st CCLC Coordinators. She congratulated each of the nominees for their outstanding efforts and thanked them for their service.

Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program Presentation

Ms. Comeau introduced Ms. Mara Gano, Ms. Ann Barnett, and Ms. Cathy Steele. She noted that these three teachers were selected to travel to Japan with the Fulbright Scholarship program.

Ms. Mara Gano, a teacher at Scenic Park, explained that Fulbright Scholars are Japanese graduate students who come to the United States to pursue higher education. The Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program is a way that the Japanese government felt that they could reciprocate. The teachers participating in the program are able to travel to Japan to see the Japanese people, their culture, and their educational system first hand. Ms. Gano reviewed a number of slides from her trip. She explained that Japanese schools have many clubs and teacher supported activities that help build their communities. Families consider their schools a central part of their communities. Ms. Gano noted that she is sharing what she has learned with her community through lessons she will be teaching. She also will be holding Japan Club in the afternoon to help teach about some of the culture of Japan. She indicated that the most important thing that she wanted to share is that even though Japanese children speak a different language they all love their schools just as we love our schools. She asked the board to support teachers to continue to be a part of the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher program.

Ms. Ann Barnett, a teacher at Begich Middle School, noted that people most often remember the teachers who got them excited about school by telling stories that excited them about a world beyond the classroom. Her participation in the JFMF program has allowed her to start to become that teacher for her students. Ms. Barnett noted that she has been able to share her experiences to help her students see the world and think globally. She asked the board to continue to support the program.

Ms. Cathy Steele, a teacher at Chugiak High School, explained that the teachers were able to have a home visit during their Japan trip. She shared that a banner was hanging in the home that she visited that became important to her as she reflected on her experiences. The banner, roughly translated, meant not to have a boring life. She noted that the Japanese Minister of Education spoke to program participants and told them that one of their goals for the nation was to inspire in their students a zest for life. Ms. Steele shared that this zest for life was evident in all of the schools that they visited and extended out into the communities as well.

Mr. Steiner voiced his appreciation to these teachers for bringing back a zest for teaching and sharing their experiences with their students.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal reported that the next Student Advisory Board meeting will be held on January 23, 2008.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu reported that the Army has recently announced a new re-stationing plan. Fort Richardson will be one of the installations benefiting from this plan. It is projected that within the next year Fort Richardson will have a new brigade consisting of about 500 soldiers. An additional 500 soldiers are anticipated the following year. Overall there will be an increase of approximately 1500 soldiers by 2013.

3. MECAC

Mr. Dan Loring reported that the MECAC heard a presentation of Everyday Math curriculum at their last meeting.

He reported that there are two new applicants to the committee which should bring the committee to eleven members. He noted that the committee is pleased with the prospect of holding joint meetings with the board. They look forward to the closer relationship that should result from joint discussions on a variety of topics important to both bodies.

Mr. Loring indicated that the MECAC had discussed whether struggling students in our district would benefit from a comprehensive audit of the types and cost of interventions that are being used to successfully impact academic achievement across the country. The committee plans to discuss this further and perhaps prepare a recommendation on developing a comprehensive plan to specifically address those students.

Mr. DelReal asked whether there is a student representative on the MECAC and indicated his belief that it would be beneficial to have one. Mr. Steele noted that there was not a student representative position on the MECAC at this time. The board guidelines for the MECAC could be modified to include a student representative if the Student Advisory Board and the MECAC were interested. Ms. Comeau suggested that Mr. DelReal discuss this idea with the SAB after which time the issue can be discussed by the MECAC. Mr. Loring expressed his belief that the committee would welcome a student representative.

Ms. Comeau expressed her desire for MECAC to prepare a written report to the board with their recommendations. Ms. Gardner noted that the committee recommendations are available in the minutes of the MECAC meetings.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Debbie Ossiander addressed the board regarding a community concern and to ask for their help and possible collaboration in an effort to solve it. She recalled the importance of building and maintaining the infrastructure for our schools from her time on the board. She believed that the district has gone a long way toward solving most of the infrastructure problems but that there are few things left to be done. The issue of concern for Ms. Ossiander at this time relates to Chugiak High School. As background she explained that there are pockets of the community, particularly in the Chugiak/Eagle River area, where there are inadequate water and wells. Because of that there has been a lot of community interest in extending public water and sewer although it is a very expensive endeavor. There was a group in the mid to late 1990s who worked very hard to get federal funding to support the infrastructure additions. The group was able to secure a \$3.5 million grant to basically be used as seed money to get the infrastructure north. During community

meetings held to determine how best to use the money the number one factor was to connect the high school. The grant enabled the Municipality to work cooperatively with the district to move forward and eventually a School Bond passed in 2002 that had money specifically listed for hooking-up Chugiak High School. There has been some work done toward that end and lines are in under the new building at the school. There is a problem now in that we are short of the money that is needed to do the rest of the work. The \$3.5 million grant has a specific life span and must be used soon or we will lose the funds. The other thing that is happening right now is that State DOT is redoing the old Glenn Highway. There are very few dollars for highway infrastructure and re-builds in the State of Alaska but this project, particularly the portion from where the existing sewer line ends at Fire Lake north up the old Glenn, is on the schedule to be done. There should be significant cost savings if the sewer line and water line could go in at the same time that the road work is done. Basically this project is supposed to go in late 2008 or early 2009 and will amount to approximately a \$12.8 million project. That budget, which was laid out and which Ms. Ossiander believed we would be following, included the \$3.5 million federal grant, the \$5.7 million from AWWU, and \$3.5 million from ASD. Ms. Ossiander also noted her belief that there was about \$900,000 left of the \$3.5 million from the 2002 bond which leaves a \$2.6 million shortfall.

Ms. Ossiander indicated that she had been trying to get figures from AWWU to show what it would cost to not take advantage of the opportunity to hook-up the high school at this time. Within the next five to seven years the cost of the project will rise from \$12.8 million to \$20 million. At that time the grant would be gone leaving the cost to be split between AWWU and ASD. Ms. Ossiander pleaded with the board to seize the opportunity to avoid sky rocketing costs in the future. She wondered whether the district is still committed to hooking up Chugiak High School and if so, when the planned to do so. She noted that determining the timing of the project could come with significant cost ramifications.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the grant money had to be used for the AWWU project even if the final connection to Chugiak High School is not done at this time. Ms. Ossiander indicated that if ASD decides to not go forward within a time certain she intends to recommend to the Assembly that the grant money be utilized for the AWWU portion along side the Glenn Highway.

Mr. Friedman indicated that it was his understanding that the cost of extending the sewer to the high school was going to be the same to the district and we were not being given credit for any of the grant money. He asked the administration to verify whether there is a subsidy from that grant to the district. Ms. Comeau indicated that Mr. Vakalis has been working with Mr. Premo and others on this issue and that she would follow-up tomorrow morning.

Mr. Steele noted that the septic system at Chugiak High School is currently working well and that the sewer project is not even on the CIP at this point. If we are going to do the project then the district will have to reassess the prioritization of it in conjunction with the projects that are on the CIP.

Ms. Comeau noted that the Capital Request Advisory Committee is reviewing the draft CIP that will go to the board in late February or early March. This item will need to be discussed to determine where it should go on the CIP. Mr. Vakalis will follow-up tomorrow to determine the specifics of the grant funding and the match. She explained that the district's CIP has been rejected by the Assembly the last two years because it had too much in it. The administration has taken the suggestion to develop a 10-year CIP very seriously and is working to do just that. The Assembly was very clear that they want to see smaller packages regardless of the fact that the district has over \$600 million in need. We are trying to respond to that and to prioritize every single project that we bring forward based on the needs across the entire district. She acknowledged Ms. Ossiander's commitment to this particular project but the items that will be coming forward to the Assembly early in February for the public hearing on the bonds are the district's highest priorities. In addition to trying to respond to the comments from the Assembly the last two years the district is also trying to keep within the limit of the amount of debt being paid off.

Ms. Ossiander tried to clarify the comments from the Assembly over the last two years. She explained that some of the frustration is that the CIP includes projects that never appear on the bonds which causes confusion in the community. The Assembly was hoping that the district could more narrowly define the CIP to make it more realistic in terms of the projects that the district would actually bond for. The Assembly and district both agree that bonding for every project in the CIP for a certain year is not feasible due to public acceptance of the size of the bonds.

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 - October 22, 2007
 - b. Regular Meeting - November 12, 2007
 - c. Special Meeting - December 17, 2007

2. ASD Memorandum # 176 - Resolution in Support of Martin Luther King Day

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board adopt the attached resolution in support of the Martin Luther King Day of Service set for January 21, 2008.

3. ASD Memorandum # 162 - Approval of Northwood ABC Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the establishment of an ABC program at Northwood Elementary School in the 2008-2009 school year.

4. ASD Memorandum # 175 - Bond Information Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$45,000 for the April 2008 school bond information campaign.

5. ASD Memorandum # 159 - Approval of School Board and Superintendent Out-of-State Travel for Third Quarter 2007-2008

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

6. ASD Memorandum # 146 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 725 Purchasing and Contracting (Second Reading)

It is the Policy Subcommittee's recommendation that the School Board adopt the proposed changes to School Board Policies on Second Reading: 725.211 Acquisition of Construction Projects valued at \$100,000 and above; 725.212 Acquisition of Architectural/Engineering Design Services valued at \$100,000 and above; 725.213 Acquisition of Projects valued at \$100,000 and above by use of Alternative

Techniques; 725.22 Acquisition of Construction Projects and Architectural/Engineering Design Services valued less than \$100,000; 725.221 Acquisition of Construction Projects valued less than \$100,000; and 725.368.2(a) Appeal Process for Aggrieved Bidders/Proposers for Contract Awards of \$100,000 and above.

These recommendations include minor changes to clarify the intent and use of these policies and to provide additional procurement methods that can be utilized when they are determined to be in the best interest of the District, reference attachment A.

7. ASD Memorandum # 160 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Mears Middle School PTSA Teacher Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant in the amount of \$46,179 from the Mears Middle School PTSA for Mears Middle School.

8. ASD Memorandum # 174 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska community Foundation for Family Math Nights

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a cash grant from the Alaska Community Foundation for Family Math Nights, in the amount of \$5,000.

9. ASD Memorandum # 177 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Science Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from Concord Consortium in the amount of \$23,000 for a two-year project to field test computer-based science UDL curriculum modules in nine classrooms in grades four and six.

10. ASD Memorandum # 131 - Approval of Amendment No.1 to the Mental Health Trust Lease

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to amend the existing lease agreement with the Mental Health Land Trust (MHT) for space within its facility at 3745 Community Park Loop to include: an additional space of approximately 7,415 square feet, an annual increase of \$149,487; janitorial services to begin August 1, 2008, at an increase of

\$12,320 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and an annual increase of \$13,441 thereafter; tenant improvement costs of the new space in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 with an eight percent interest rate if paid by installments at an annual increase of \$86,400 for the current and next four (4) years only; and extend the initial term through June 30, 2012 with annual renewals through June 30, 2020 for a total amount of \$312,193 in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and \$324,513 in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and \$325,632 through June 30, 2012 and an annual amount of \$239,253 beginning July 1, 2012 (after tenant improvements are paid). Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments will be made each fiscal year.

In addition, it is recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer in the ACE/ACT budget (where this lease is budgeted) from salary and benefits to rentals in the amount of \$91,288 to cover the additional expenditure.

11. ASD Memorandum # 154 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steele requested that ASD Memorandum #146, School Board Policy Revision: Section 725 Purchasing and Contracting (Second Reading), and ASD Memorandum #162, Approval of Northwood ABC Program, be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Mr. Friedman requested that ASD Memorandum #131, Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Mental Health Trust Lease (Revised), be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memorandum #129, Evaluation of the 2006-2007 Six-Year Instructional Plan, be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for a presentation.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2007, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2007, the Minutes of

the Special Meeting of December 17, 2007, and Memoranda #176, #175, #159, #160, #174, #177, and #154.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #162 - Approval of Northwood ABC Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the establishment of an ABC program at Northwood Elementary School in the 2008-2009 school year.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To approve the establishment of an ABC program at Northwood Elementary School in the 2008-2009 school year.

Mr. Greg Balcao, Northwood Elementary School principal, noted that Northwood Elementary has been immersed in an ABC curriculum for several years and is making a very intentional move in requesting to establish an ABC program at their location. There is a very strong consensus among the administration, staff, and parents at the school that establishing an ABC program is the right course for the school. This action will not only address the issue of decreasing enrollment at Northwood but will also help decrease the extra load at the Northern Lights ABC School. Mr. Balcao asked the Board for their support in establishing an ABC program at Northwood Elementary School.

Mr. Steiner noted his appreciation that the school community at Northwood is moving in this direction in a very intentional manner. He indicated that one of the potential concerns is whether a traditional ABC model will incorporate the Social and Emotional Learning and the Cultural Responsiveness components in their program. Mr. Steiner noted that it sounds like the program at Northwood Elementary has been able to find a way to incorporate both of those components into the more traditional ABC model. Mr. Balcao noted that Northwood Elementary has a positive schoolwide discipline plan in place and reviewed several aspects of that plan.

Ms. McRae explained that, as the Northwood Elementary community has been discussing this action, one of the non-negotiable items was that the school should remain a welcoming, inclusive environment that celebrates diversity. Northwood Elementary has considered themselves “a community of learners” long before that phrase became popular.

Mr. Roberts asked whether the current school population has shown a willingness to convert to the optional program. Mr. Balcao indicated that the current parents are absolutely behind the proposal and he does not anticipate any exodus from the school. Mr. Roberts noted that there is already a waiting list of over 200 students wishing to get into the program. Mr. Balcao explained that Northwood Elementary currently has an enrollment of approximately 255 students. There is a waiting list of about 260 students for the program at Northern Lights ABC School. He hoped that at least a portion of the students on that list will decide to come to Northwood.

Ms. Comeau noted that it has been a longstanding district priority to add an additional ABC program. The administration is particularly excited about this opportunity because the school came forward with this request rather than the administration having to approach the school.

Ms. Kennedy noted that she was very much in support of this action. It sounded like much of what an ABC program is all about is already happening at Northwood Elementary. She noted the parental involvement component of an ABC school and asked whether there were any concerns with getting the parents of neighborhood students to commit to that aspect of the program. Mr. Balcao explained that it will be a slow building process. He acknowledged that many of the neighborhood parents have very valid reasons for not becoming involved at the school. He explained several efforts currently in place to help families get involved and noted that they would continue to do everything possible to make the neighborhood families as active as possible. He believed the marriage of the neighborhood families and the optional program families will work as everyone senses a common purpose and a common goal. There has not been any opposition to the efforts to establish the ABC program.

Ms. Nanette Harville, a teacher at Northwood Elementary, indicated that the staff at the school work well together as a team. Becoming an ABC school really fits the community. The school has always had high

standards and high expectations. Ms. Harville noted that the teaching staff at Northwood is very supportive of this change.

Ms. Patti Lenhart, Northwood's PTA president, is very supportive of the program change. She noted that she has seen how beneficial it is for children to have a structured, sequential, consistent environment. She explained that ways that she has worked to increase parental involvement. Ms. Lenhart urged the board members to support this recommendation.

Mr. Steiner explained that having this program in place should impact the transient rate because, as with all of the district's optional programs, once a student is enrolled in the program they have a preference to remain enrolled regardless of where they live. The challenge will be the transportation piece. Mr. Steiner raised a concern with the possibility of over enrollment should the number of students in the neighborhood increase and how that might impact the number of optional students in the program. Ms. Comeau explained that the transient issue is seen in almost all of the district's alternative programs. She noted that the administration will undoubtedly monitor the enrollment and address the issue as necessary. The key is to make sure that the structure of the school is explained to both the students and the parents.

Mr. Friedman was unsure whether Mr. Steiner was correct in his belief that a neighborhood student would be allowed to remain at the school if they moved out of the attendance area. Ms. Comeau explained that anytime an entire school has a program like this the district has allowed students to remain in the program. There are not many examples but the administration has always been able to make it work.

Ms. Marks referenced the cost of \$25,000 for training and asked how this money would be spent. Ms. McRae explained that the \$25,000 was an estimate for the science curriculum not for training in the Spalding method. She anticipated that a Spalding trainer would be brought in but that it wouldn't be anywhere near that amount of money.

Mr. Steele asked whether there was a Preschool program at Northwood and what the status of that program would be in light of this program change. Mr. Balcao explained that there are three Special Education Pre-School classrooms and one Autism classroom at Northwood Elementary. He also explained the space usage at the school and noted that they have the space to easily handle the additional students that they would be

bringing in through a lottery the first year. Ms. Comeau noted that the district assesses the location of preschool classrooms every year.

Ms. Kennedy raised some concern with the fact that an ABC program has no multi-age or combo classes. That would indicate that there is a potential for very small classes. She hesitated to allow special programs to have those kinds of minimal class sizes when that cannot be offered throughout the district. Ms. Comeau noted that she had had this conversation with Ms. McRae and Mr. Balcao. The goal of an ABC program is to have all class instruction but there have been instances at Birchwood ABC School where they did have a combination class or a very large class at one grade level. The school does not get any extra teachers for these programs. They have to make the program work with the same allotment that is provided across the district.

Mr. Steiner noted that the district's CIP includes plans to build a new ABC school. It had been moved to a lower priority in the past couple of years with the realization that it wasn't clear if and when we would be able to do it. This action on the part of Northwood Elementary will save significant money compared to having to build an additional school while meeting the demand for an additional ABC program in the district.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The Board went into recess at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Steele called the meeting back to order at 7:40 p.m.

ASD Memorandum #146 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 725 Purchasing and Contracting (Second Reading)

It is the Policy Subcommittee's recommendation that the School Board adopt the proposed changes to School Board Policies on Second Reading: 725.211 Acquisition of Construction Projects valued at \$100,000 and above; 725.212 Acquisition of Architectural/Engineering Design Services valued at \$100,000 and above; 725.213 Acquisition of Projects valued at \$100,000 and above by use of Alternative Techniques; 725.22 Acquisition of Construction Projects and Architectural/Engineering Design Services

valued less than \$100,000; 725.221 Acquisition of Construction Projects valued less than \$100,000; and 725.368.2(a) Appeal Process for Aggrieved Bidders/Proposers for Contract Awards of \$100,000 and above.

These recommendations include minor changes to clarify the intent and use of these policies and to provide additional procurement methods that can be utilized when they are determined to be in the best interest of the District, reference attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To adopt the proposed changes to School Board Policies on Second Reading: 725.211 Acquisition of Construction Projects valued at \$100,000 and above; 725.212 Acquisition of Architectural/Engineering Design Services valued at \$100,000 and above; 725.213 Acquisition of Projects valued at \$100,000 and above by use of Alternative Techniques; 725.22 Acquisition of Construction Projects and Architectural/Engineering Design Services valued less than \$100,000; 725.221 Acquisition of Construction Projects valued less than \$100,000; and 725.368.2(a) Appeal Process for Aggrieved Bidders/Proposers for Contract Awards of \$100,000 and above.

Mr. Amsden explained that Board Policy 725 has been fairly broad in what it encompasses. As the construction industry has evolved and matured over time there have been some more defined procurement methodologies that have become employed in various public owners. The intent of these changes was to bring additional detail and focus to the policy by adding several delivery methods that are allowed, subject to board approval, but are not specifically spelled out. The three main areas of focus are the addition of Best Value Contracting, Job Order Contracting, and Term Contracting. None of these are unique or new in the industry but they have not been defined in our current policy.

Mr. Dennis Traylor explained his belief the district should adopt training as one of the criteria for Best Value Contracting. Work force development is a high priority for the future. One of the best ways to address this need is through education and training. He requested that weighted points be assigned for contractors who have apprenticeship programs. Mr. Traylor asked board members to consider that training is an important value for future workforce development and that contractors with apprenticeship programs be allowed extra points in the bidding process.

Mr. Keith Montgomery spoke on responsible contractor laws and how they benefit the community. The areas that are looked at are training programs, safety records, and providing health coverage for employees. He explained that small seasonal contractors generally don't provide health care for their employees either through misclassification or other means. He encouraged the district to allow points for these criteria rather than simply using the low bid to assign contracts.

Mr. Friedman asked the speakers exactly what they were requesting the board to do in reference to the policy changes on the table. Mr. Traylor explained that they would like the board to add different criteria to the policy changes including such items as training programs health and welfare criteria.

Mr. Bruce Davis spoke in support of added safety and training criteria to the Best Value Contracting policy. He warned of the importance of evaluating the training program to make sure that the program is a quality program.

Mr. Pat Falon requested that registered apprenticeship programs and responsible contractors be added to criteria for Best Value Contracting. Registered apprenticeship programs hire the most qualified residents who have been in Alaska for at least one year which allows training money to stay in Alaska. Mr. Falon reviewed his suggestions for responsible contractor criteria.

Mr. Charles Engblom spoke on the importance of training in the construction trades. Adding training to the criteria for Best Value Contracting will not only encourage contractors to provide initial education and training for their workers but also to further the development of their employee's skills. Formal construction training is as important as any other formal education. He urged board members to support Best Value Contracting.

Mr. John Lewis spoke on how low bid contracts without quality standards can lead to low quality construction. The criteria used to let or bid out construction contracts determines both the quality and productivity owners can expect from a project as well as the economic benefit that will flow into the community. Without consideration of a firm's quality of performance, record of cost overruns, timeliness, or completion can cost far more in the long run. A low bid system may also result in substandard employment practices. Mr. Lewis reviewed the problem with misclassification of workers as to their true job description. He urged the board to support the proposed changes in the Best Value Contracting.

Mr. Brad Loll spoke on including training as criteria to be considered in selecting the best contractor for the best price. He indicated that the district should put a weighted decision on whether or not the contractor participates in a legitimate apprenticeship program and abides by recommended standards for the apprentice to journeymen ratios.

Mr. Jared Hamlin spoke in support Best Value Contracting. He reviewed the importance of training and experience as related to job safety. Quality apprenticeship training and the increased worker retention on jobs that pay a prevailing wage reduce worker injury rates. Letting construction contracts based on quality criteria gives owners greater control over the safety practices of their contractors. In high road contracting owners can demand equipment and safety certification for workers who will be on the job minimizing costly injuries due to inadequate training and experience. Mr. Hamlin asked board members to support the changes that have been mentioned and the additions into Best Value Contracting.

Mr. Marvin Jones, Hotel, Restaurant and Culinary Union president, spoke in support of construction workers. He emphasized the importance of providing health care for construction employees.

Mr. Vince Beltrami spoke in support of Best Value Contracting. He encouraged the board to consider adding other criteria discusses, such as training and safety, to the policy. Mr. Beltrami reviewed the board goals on the memorandum and noted that, to the extent that a procurement procedure can accomplish those goals, the principals that are embodied in Best Value Contracting would probably do more to achieve them than other methods. The people that the construction industry is looking to bring into their apprenticeship programs are the same people that school board members would like to see matriculate into good paying jobs with good benefits and where they can get the best training available to them in the workplace. Adopting a couple of these procedures within Best Value

Contracting would insure that good investments are being made into ASD graduates. Mr. Beltrami urged the board to both adopt and use Best Value Contracting.

Mr. Friedman indicated that the memorandum lists some criteria that may be included with Best Value Contracting but that the actual policy leaves out the list of criteria. He asked the Policy Subcommittee whether there was any discussion about whether to include specific criteria in the policy itself. Ms. Kennedy recalled that it was a matter of not wanting to be redundant. She noted that the criteria are listed under 725.211.c and can be used under Best Value Contracting. Mr. Saul Friedman, attorney for the school district, explained that these policies have allowed for Best Value Contracting all along. The criteria for these alternative methods of contracting and procurement have already been approved by the board. The list is very comprehensive and specific. These policy changes have really just identified three specific methods of alternative procurement. This does not change the fact that criteria have already been in existence by which contractors are judged when these methods are being used. Mr. Jeff Friedman noted that the memorandum states that the safety record will be considered but the criteria included under 725.211.c do not address safety record. Mr. Saul Friedman acknowledged that safety record is not specifically addressed but that safety issues could fall under several of the other items listed such as 725.211.c (1) "the ability, capacity, and skill of the proposer to perform the contract," (3) "the character, integrity, reputation,, judgement, experience, and efficiency of the proposer," and (4) "the quality of performance by the proposer on previous contracts" could all used to address the safety record of the proposer. In addition, all of the issues about certified payrolls and misclassification of employees are covered under the obligations of contractors to have complied with the law. To the extent that they have not complied with the law on prior projects they would certainly not have points awarded to them on future projects.

Mr. Jeff Friedman asked if the existence of a training program is addressed and whether that would be an item that could be awarded points under the policy. Mr. Saul Friedman indicated his belief that that would be problematic from a legal point of view. If a proposer was denied a contract and could demonstrate that it was due to not receiving points in that category then the question would come down to whether the district can demonstrate that an apprenticeship program is important to the project that is under consideration. There has been no question that an apprenticeship program is a desirable end and that work force development is a desirable thing. The issue is whether or not

procurement in public contracting is the place to require or demand that end. The question is whether it is appropriate for the school district to address that issue under the public contracting capacity as opposed to curriculum. Mr. Jeff Friedman asked Mr. Saul Friedman whether he is aware of whether other public entities have put training in their Best Value Contracting bids. Mr. Saul Friedman indicated that he is not aware of any. He noted that he has looked at case law and has found cases where that has been not allowed.

Mr. Tuck noted that he had attended the Policy Subcommittee meeting and referenced the case from Fairbanks having to do with project labor agreements that Mr. Saul Friedman had brought up during that meeting. He wanted to make sure that everyone was clear that Best Value does not lead to a project labor agreement. Project labor agreement is an agreement between the customer and the labor organization. Best Value attempts to determine the best contractor. Mr. Tuck indicated that he had searched the internet and had found public entities who have established the framework for any lower agency wanting to adopt Best Value Contracting to be able to include safety and training combined as one element under weighted criteria. Mr. Saul Friedman clarified that the criteria used for analyzing contractors and for determining points awarded in terms of performance and quality are all already incorporated into the policy that is before the board. When talking about specific pre-conditions to bidding, such as having a registered apprentice program, there has to be a legal framework in statute which would allow that to overcome the general policy of low bidding and competitive bidding. He further noted that ASD Policy 725 states that it is the policy of the district to encourage full and open competition. The closer you get to pre-conditioning an award upon a criteria that may or may not have a direct impact on the project being bid the more of an issue it becomes. Mr. Saul Friedman also indicated that under the existing policy a contractor with a poor safety record could lose points and could conceivably not be awarded the contract because of their safety record. Requiring contractors to random drug tests or similar things goes well beyond the criteria being discussed in these policies. The district would then be telling a contractor how to do the job and who to employ. The question becomes how far into those specific details the district should inject themselves.

Mr. Tuck indicated that he would like safety and training to be included in the criteria and he would also like for the district to have the opportunity to encourage contractors to have a drug and alcohol policy. He wondered what mechanism could be used to encourage contractors to have a drug and alcohol policy. Mr. Saul Friedman indicated that the

school district already does review and consider alcohol and drugs in the work place and has policies that prohibit that. The district can preclude a contractor from having an employee on the job who has violated those policies. Mr. Amsden noted that the district has absolutely barred employees from the job site if they have violated the provisions of a contract and that is in our contract.

Mr. Roberts noted that his position is that the district has a policy and a philosophy that apprenticeship is an important goal and should be encouraged wherever possible. He believes that this can be and is being done through policy. If that is not the case and more specific tools need to be there then the policy should probably be revisited to make sure that it is being done.

Mr. Steele noted that the Policy Subcommittee had talked at length about 725.211.c (12) which states that "after the minimum acceptable qualifications have been demonstrated, enhancements offered or demonstrated by the proposer which increase the quality, efficiency, or value of the project... may be considered." He believed that that is where some of these other items could be considered and where they could be given weighted value. Mr. Price briefly explained the process used to evaluate proposals.

Mr. Tuck indicated his appreciation that Best Value is working so well with the district's design build and he believed that it is a great idea to pass that on to the district's normal contracting. He also believed that the district gets a better quality product by using this process.

Mr. Steiner indicated that some of the suggestions presented to the board raised the possibility that Best Value is actually a means or a code word for allowing positive points for kinds of programs that a union contractor would have or a non-union contractor would not have. For example, union contractors typically have the federal certified apprenticeship programs. He clarified that typically that is not what Best Value is about. Best Value is about making sure that the district will have an efficient project that comes in as close to possible at the bid price and on time for the best cost. It allows consideration of more than just the bare minimum qualifications. Mr. Steiner indicated that if he felt that this was a way to steer projects to certain kinds of contractors he would be very concerned about it. He acknowledged that some of the things discussed this evening may have larger community value but that this policy should be about the value that the district gets for the project.

Mr. Tuck indicated his belief that Best Value does not steer work toward a specific type of contractor whether union or non-union. He believed that it improves the overall quality and increases the contractor's accountability.

Mr. Friedman encouraged the administration to use the best value portion of these changes as often as is appropriate. He believed that doing so will help the district and that the district will get better quality projects. He also believed that over time the district will begin to see track records for contractors and it is likely that contractors with apprenticeship programs will be found to have better performance records.

Mr. Roberts noted his belief that the district should encourage diversity whenever possible. He also noted that work force development should also be encouraged and supported.

Mr. Steele indicated the need to be careful in terms of mixing goals here. This is a procurement issue and the district has other components dealing with work force development. The bottom line is that the district needs to get a quality project and to get it on time. He hoped that the district can take some of these things under consideration when looking at qualifying candidates but hesitated to say that a contractor without a certified training program will not be hired. He indicated that he was comfortable with the policy and believed that the changes presented in terms of alternative methods of contracting allow the flexibility to look at most of the issues being discussed.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #131 - Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Mental Health Trust Lease

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to amend the existing lease agreement with the Mental Health Land Trust (MHT) for space within its facility at 3745 Community Park Loop to include: an additional space of approximately 7,415 square feet, an annual increase of \$149,487; janitorial services to begin August 1, 2008, at an increase of \$12,320 for Fiscal Year

2008-2009 and an annual increase of \$13,441 thereafter; tenant improvement costs of the new space in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 with an eight percent interest rate if paid by installments at an annual increase of \$86,400 for the current and next four (4) years only; and extend the initial term through June 30, 2012 with annual renewals through June 30, 2020 for a total amount of \$312,193 in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and \$324,513 in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and \$325,632 through June 30, 2012 and an annual amount of \$239,253 beginning July 1, 2012 (after tenant improvements are paid). Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments will be made each fiscal year.

In addition, it is recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer in the ACE/ACT budget (where this lease is budgeted) from salary and benefits to rentals in the amount of \$91,288 to cover the additional expenditure.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
Seconded by: Mary Marks

To authorize the Superintendent to amend the existing lease agreement with the Mental Health Land Trust (MHT) for space within its facility at 3745 Community Park Loop to include: (1) an additional space of approximately 7,415 square feet, an annual increase of \$149,487; (2) janitorial services to begin August 1, 2008, at an increase of \$12,320 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and an annual increase of \$13,441 thereafter; (3) tenant improvement costs of the new space in an amount not to exceed \$400,000; and (4) extend the initial term through June 30, 2012 with annual renewals through June 30, 2020 for a total amount of \$312,193 in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and \$324,513 in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and \$325,632 through June 30, 2012 and an annual amount of \$239,253 beginning July 1, 2012 (after tenant improvements are paid). Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments will be made each fiscal year.

In addition, it is moved to approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer from unexpended funds in the amount of \$91,288 to cover the additional expenditure.

Ms. Kennedy clarified that the maker of the motion purposefully excluded the phrase "with an eight percent interest rate if paid by installments at an annual increase of \$86,400 for the current and next four (4) years only." Mr. Friedman indicated that he did purposefully exclude that phrase.

Ms. Stokesbary indicated that each of the figures in item (4) of the recommendation should also be decreased by \$86,400 because the figures used in the recommendation include the tenant improvement numbers.

Mr. Steiner agreed that the \$400,000 for tenant improvement costs should be paid up front to avoid incurring interest charges. He raised concern with entering into a contract requiring that payment without first identifying and appropriating those funds within an approved budget. He wondered whether the administration had already identified the source of those funds. Ms. Comeau explained that fund sources have been identified.

Further discussion was postponed to allow for revisions to be made to the memorandum. In the interim the board reviewed the Six-Year Plan Evaluation from the Superintendent's Report.

Ms. Comeau distributed a revised version of the recommendation for the Memorandum #131 - Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Mental Health Trust Lease.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To substitute language for the original item (4) and the final paragraph to read: (4) extend the initial term through June 30, 2012 with annual renewals through June 30, 2020 for a total amount of \$225,793 in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and \$238,113 in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and an annual amount of \$239,232

beginning July 1, 2009. Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments will also be applied each fiscal year.

In addition, it is moved to approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer to the ACE/ACT Department rentals budget from anticipated unexpended utility and contingency funds in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to cover the tenant improvements.

The amendment was approved by unanimous consent.

Mr. Steiner noted that there is an amount listed in item (4) of the recommendation from the current budget year of \$225,793 and asked how that amount compares to monies already in the budget for the current lease. He understood that the district would be expanding their space but since the renovations have not yet been done he wondered when the district would actually begin to rent the additional space and how that would impact the current year budget. Ms. Chenier explained that this is the entire cost for this fiscal year for the entire year including the additional space. When the district originally moved into their current space and while the original improvements were being done we were paying lease on that space. That is how the Mental Health Trust does their lease space. They have held the new space for several months now and even though we are not in that additional space we will be paying for it as renovations are being completed. It is expected that the district will be in the additional space late this school year. In response to a question from Mr. Steele it was noted that there is a projection of approximately 120 students for the ACE/ACT program combined. Those students are currently in three or four different locations.

Mr. Steiner noted that the annual price of the increased space is \$149,487 and questioned what portion of this fiscal year that covers. Ms. Chenier explained that that amount covers the entire fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007. She went on to clarify that the Mental Health Trust has held this space for the district since last March and that we have been working with them to figure out how we can do the improvements and get moved into the space. The way the Mental Health Trust does their leasing is such that if the space is held the entity that it is being held for will pay even if they do not occupy the space.

Mr. Friedman acknowledged the need to move the students in the ACE/ACT program out of KCC and that, in the long term, he views this as a necessary action. However, he indicated that he was not happy about paying rent for time we are not using and he was not happy with having to pay for tenant improvements. He noted that he would have like to have had some advance notice that the district was incurring this debt.

Ms. Kennedy noted that it looks as though the district had entered into a type of contract entered into without board approval. She appreciated that taking this action would free up space at KCC but it seems as though the board is now in a position where it is expected to retroactively approve funding for this lease.

Mr. Steiner indicated his awareness of how a state agency can require someone to do the tenant improvements and how they can expect that someone to begin paying lease as soon as they take occupancy to do those tenant improvements. He has never, however, heard of a state agency asking for someone to pay back rent for a period during which they did not have occupancy before the contract was signed. Mr. Steiner does not believe that it is appropriate and does not understand how the Mental Health Trust can ask the district to do that. While there may be some circumstance within which this action makes sense, Mr. Steiner indicated that there is not enough information at this time to convince him that it is appropriate to agree to pay back rent in this situation.

Mr. Steiner asked whether there is a particular urgency that prohibits taking the time to sort these questions out and revisit the recommendation at the next meeting. Ms. Chenier indicated that the district has been exchanging drafts of the lease agreement with the Mental Health Trust for some time now but felt that these issues could be revisited with them. She noted that there is no contract with them at this time and they are well aware of that.

Ms. Comeau indicated her belief that this recommendation needs to be pulled back in order that all of this be sorted through.

Ms. Kennedy clarified her earlier comment regarding having a contract with the Mental Health Trust. She noted that she used the term in the sense of having a type of gentlemen's agreement and did not mean to imply that there was a legal document involved.

Mr. Steele noted his belief that it is not appropriate for the district to be charged for the fiscal year when we have had no access and have not been using the space.

Mr. Roberts felt that it would be understandable for the Mental Health Trust to require deposit to hold the space but does not feel the amount of back rent is at all appropriate.

MOTION:

Moved by: John Steiner To postpone this recommendation
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman until the January 28, 2008 board
meeting.

VOTE on the MOTION to POSTPONE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #153 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of December 7, 2007 through December 18, 2007.

2. ASD Memorandum # 161 - Monthly Update Student Information System - Zangle

The Zangle Student Information System implementation continues to move forward.

3. ASD Memorandum #129 - Evaluation of the 2006-2007 Six-Year Instructional Plan

The Anchorage School Board adopted the Six-Year Instructional Plan at their meeting on May 10, 2004, and four additional department plans were added in 2005. The board adopted the Integrated Assessment Six-Year Plan in June of 2007. An integral part of keeping

the six-year plan viable and accountable is the annual evaluation and corresponding report to the board.

Dr. Silverstein presented a brief overview of the Six-Year Instructional Plan Evaluation. She noted that we have remained true to the compass points originally used to develop the plan. These include the idea of using data to drive instruction, lowering the achievement gap, and articulating and aligning the K-12 curriculum with standards, assessments and best practice strategies. The Six-Year Plan has provided a flexible framework which gives organization and direction to instruction. She explained that over the years the Plan has always remained true to the three board guideposts of closing the achievement gap and achievement for all students, a safe and supportive learning environment, and public accountability. All of the initiatives and all of the objectives use the measurable goals that are tied to the Profile of Performance. This results in something that is validated and reliable year after year.

Ms. Kennedy noted that there is so much in this evaluation that clearly shows what is going on in the district. One of the things that Ms. Kennedy felt embodied the whole document was found under the Assessment and Evaluation section and the objective addressing program evaluations. She wondered whether the results of the evaluations done by the Assessment and Evaluation department are found throughout the Six-Year Plan. Dr. Silverstein indicated that authentic program evaluation is something that the district has just recently begun to do. She noted that the big math evaluation done in 2005-2006 set a huge precedent in terms of evaluating programs in a comprehensive manner. Ms. Comeau recalled that the results of the math evaluation was brought to the board for review and indicated that other evaluations of that substantive nature will be brought to the board. She noted in particular that when the 1:1 Laptop Project is evaluated those results will be brought to the board.

Ms. Kennedy referenced the Bilingual/Multicultural Education report and noted that there were several trainings canceled due to low enrollment. She asked whether these trainings are considered necessary or merely helpful. In addition she wondered whether any class too small if the training is required. Dr. Silverstein indicated that it is not appropriate to continue to pursue a training program or to approach something in the same way if you are not getting the results that you expect. This is one indication that another approach might need to be written into the revisions. The goal is achieving a successful

outcome not the path you take to get there. Ms. Kennedy clarified that we will be looking more at whether the training is effective or necessary rather than looking at how to get people to the training.

Mr. Steiner recalled a discussion on targeting professional development. He wondered whether there is an opportunity to be more prescriptive with professional training programs. Ms. Gardner explained that the district has mandatory trainings, targeted trainings, and optional trainings. She noted that the majority of the trainings that were cancelled, as noted in the Plan Evaluation, were from the Academy. What happens as the Academy is that there are a huge number of courses offered initially which are culled down based on enrollment. Ms. Comeau added that the Academy is held in June and is an optional program.

Ms. Kennedy referenced the objective of testing the electronic course approval process in the Curriculum section and noted that the project is currently on hold. She asked what kind of impact having the project on hold has on the district's ability to offer electronic courses. Dr. Silverstein clarified that this does not reflect the electronic courses themselves. This is an approval process for getting a new course approved. The new process will move from a hard copy process to an electronic process. The current delay was in relation to determining whether the process needed to include a check for NCAA to determine whether the course meets their requirements. As it turns out there is not a need to associate that with the course approval process so it is now ready to go on line.

Mr. Steele referenced the 1:1 Laptop Project objectives under Education Technology and asked whether the project is going forward. Mr. Comeau noted that the 1:1 Laptop Project is one of the items that will be wrestled with during the budget process. Ms. Vandergaw noted that there will be a presentation on the 1:1 Laptop Project in February.

Ms. Kennedy reference the objectives on recruiting a highly qualified work force under Human Resources and asked for an explanation about implementing a succession plan. Dr. Boyer explained that there had been discussion in earlier Human Resource plans to look at the possibility of developing some sort of succession plans for exempt positions and positions where there were no union affiliations to make sure that we had qualified candidates in line to be ready to assume positions as major players in the district left the district. That is a very difficult task because of potential union issues, hiring practices, etc.

He noted that they are continuing to discuss the issue but have not made any notable progress.

Ms. Marks asked whether there has been any noticeable increase in the number of minority applicants over the last few years. Dr. Boyer indicated that detailed data on applicants is provided to the board in an annual accountability report which comes to the board during October. For the last two years the numbers have been relatively flat. Ms. Comeau added that the education field in general across the country is having a difficult time attracting minority applicants for a variety of reasons.

Ms. Kennedy referenced the use of the State Migrant Information System (MIS2000) as a measurement tool for one of the objectives under Migrant Education. She noted that the objective had not been met because the program did not have the capability to perform the function. She wondered whether there is another method to identify these students and why the district needs to rely on the state database. Ms. Leah Hathaway explained the district's interaction with the state system and how Migrant Education was able to identify student through our own Assessment and Evaluation department as well as through a review of transcripts.

Mr. Steele reference the objective to decrease the dropout rate under Migrant Education. He reviewed the various reasons listed for why students left school and noted that the district only has control over one of those reasons. He asked what is being done to reduce the dropout rate. Ms. Hathaway explained that the Migrant Education department is able to hire Social Service Specialists. Those specialists work very hard to mitigate those circumstances that, in most cases, our district is unable to address. She noted that Migrant Education is really focusing on improving the drop rate for Migrant students.

Ms. Marks asked what is being done to address the dropout rate of our Indian Education students. Ms. Doreen Brown explained that the Native Advisory Committee members are the eyes and the ears for the Title VII Indian Education program and are very instrumental in helping develop a program. In addition there is an annual public forum to specifically look at data to develop program initiatives for the following year. Ms. Brown explained that she also looks at research and best practices that are going on around the state. Ms. Marks asked whether they have seen good participation at the annual forum. Ms. Brown noted that last year the forum did not have particularly good

participation but Indian Education has been using a number of methods of communicating with the public including the website and phone contact.

Mr. Steele referenced the objected on providing "Options After High School" workshops under Indian Education and noted his hope that teaching careers were being highlighted as a viable option. Ms. Brown reported that there were ten Native students working as interns during the summer program last summer. Native students are also hired for the evening programs with the hope that experience in the education setting will encourage students to go into that field.

Ms. Kennedy referenced the objective that Social Studies curriculum committees will include community participants under Social Studies. The objective was not met and she wondered why community members were not included. Mr. Steve Ex reported that the opportunity was available for community members to participate through the website but that focused outreach was simply not made. Ms. Comeau indicated that the district needs to do a better job reaching out to the community and parents on district committees.

Mr. Steiner observed that this document is titled an evaluation but indicated that he views it more as an accountability report or a status report because it tells whether an objective was achieved but does not really evaluate results. For instance when an initiative was achieved it does not indicate whether the initiative is doing what it is supposed to do or whether it is worthwhile to continue. The real evaluation is what goes on among the staff to determine what results really mean and what to do with the information. Dr. Silverstein indicated that she believes that the reason the document is so successful is that people are continually drawn back to what they said they wanted to do, assessing whether the strategies being used helping to meet the goal, and making adjustments as they go forward.

Mr. Steele referenced the objective to investigate, plan and establish an alternate certification program under Special Education. The progress indicates that a tuition reimbursement program was explored and is slated to begin in 2007-2008. Mr. Steele asked whether that program is currently being utilized. Mr. Sjolander noted that the district has begun using that program. Some teachers with general education certificates have been hired to work with the special education teams to provide services to students. There has been really good response from people who are working on their endorsements. He noted that

there are over thirty teachers who are working on their endorsements who have indicated their intention to apply for tuition assistance. Our requirements are that they submit their course completion with a satisfactory grade at the end of the semester. Mr. Steele asked whether this is a model that would work with other specialties that the district is having trouble recruiting. Mr. Tollefsen indicates that this model works better with special education than with some of the other related service specialties because they require much more experience. The intent was to take teachers with regular education certifications and an interest in special education and provide them a path to move into special education.

4. ASD Memorandum #169 - One Percent for Art - Selection of Artwork for Begich Middle School

This memorandum is to inform the Superintendent and the members of the Anchorage School Board that an additional piece of artwork has been selected for the new Begich Middle School for commission and acquisition in accordance with AMC 7.40, Funds for Works of Art in Public Facilities.

5. ASD Memorandum #150 - Facility Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of November, 2007

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of November 2007 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month. A report for December 2007 will not be issued, since there were no changes to report for this time period.

6. ASD Memorandum #151 - Out-of-District Travel - Second quarter Report FY 2007-2008

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the second quarter of FY 2007-2008 for both in-state and out-of-state travel.

7. ASD Memorandum #149 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: November 30, 2007

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis. The Treasurer's report and Financial Recap are year-to-date information as of November 30, 2007.

- I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

- K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

- L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of January 14, 2008, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:20 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved