

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2008

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 28, 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, Crystal Kennedy, Jeff Friedman, Mary Marks, Macon Roberts and Chris Tuck. John Steiner arrived at 6:40 p.m.

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, Marie Laule, Chad Stiteler, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Steele noted that Consent Agenda has been changed to reflect ASD Memorandum #195, Approval of Funding for Capital Projects Using Interest Earning, as Item #2 at the request of the superintendent.

The agenda was approved as amended by unanimous consent.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Friedman reported that he had attended the Super Saturday program last Saturday at Mountain View Elementary. He noted that the program will be held at other elementary schools in the near future and encouraged the public to attend. Mr. Friedman also mentioned that several board members had attended the Alternative Fair over the weekend.

Ms. Marks announced that the National Indian Education Association and the Department of Early Education will be in Anchorage tomorrow and will be taking testimony regarding the needs of the NIEA. Ms. Marks highlighted several needs that have been identified at the national level including the need to improve Title 12 to address the unique cultural and educational needs of native children, the need to strengthen NCLB to

provide support for instruction in Native American languages, the need to improve cooperation among tribes, states, and the federal government, the need to improve support for teachers of Native students, and the need to improve funding for NCLB especially for Title 12.

Ms. Marks reported that the Bilingual Education Multicultural Conference is also taking place in Anchorage this week.

Ms. Comeau reported that she had attended the Council of Great City Schools Executive Committee meeting over this past weekend. The reports are that if NCLB does not move quickly through for reauthorization in the next couple of months they do not anticipate it being reauthorized and the current law will continue through 2009.

Ms. Comeau announced that the district will celebrate the Rededication of Anchorage High School Auditorium at West High School from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. this Friday, February 1, at West High. It should be a wonderful celebration and she invited the community to attend.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Goldenview Orchestra, under the direction of Mary Alice Donaldson, performed several selections for the entertainment of the Board and other members of public.

ASD Memorandum # 167 - Recognition of Distinguished Title I School, Mountain View Elementary

Mr. Macon Roberts read that the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development named Mountain View Elementary School a 2007 National Title I Distinguished School for significantly closing the achievement gap between student groups, according to DEED Commissioner Barbara Thompson.

Since 2004, Mountain View students have shown a marked increase in proficiency on state-mandated reading, writing and math assessments. In particular, the students in the economically disadvantaged and limited English proficient subgroups scored significantly higher on the assessments, according to DEED.

The National Title I Distinguished School Program is a project of the National Association of State Title I Directors. Selected schools have a

poverty rate of at least 35 percent and have met or exceeded state standards for making adequate yearly progress for two or more consecutive years.

“Recognized schools give us confidence that our public schools can meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” said Commissioner Thompson.

The Anchorage School Board congratulated the staff, principal, students and families of Mountain View Elementary on earning this national recognition and their continued successes in student achievement.

Ms. Comeau noted that Mountain View is a tremendous success story. Since NCLB first began Mountain View has made extraordinary progress through focused efforts and commitment on the part of the staff, students and parents. They did make Adequate Yearly Progress this year. This is a real testament to the work of the students, their families and the educators at Mountain View. Ms. Comeau added her congratulations to Mountain View Elementary School for this honor.

ASD Memorandum # 148 - Recognition of Alaska Association for Career & Technical Education Award Winners

Mr. Jeff Friedman read that several ASD career and technical education professionals were honored at the Alaska Association for Career and Technical Education awards ceremony in November at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel.

- King Career Center Principal Guy Okada was named Administrator of the Year. Guy was recognized for expanding the offerings at KCC, including 3<sup>rd</sup> Session and summer school classes.
- Gary Gaard, consultant for the ASD Career & Technology Education Department, received the Leadership Award for his contributions in building the construction trades curriculum at KCC.
- Barb Fuller of KCC earned the title of Health Services Teacher of the Year.
- Kathy Vik of Chugiak High School was chosen as Hospitality/Tourism Teacher of the Year.
- Leah Uehling, also of Chugiak High, was named Business/IT Teacher of the Year.
- Cheryl Hembree of Hanshew Middle School earned the Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year award.

The teacher awards were based on the positive impact Barb, Kathy, Leah and Cheryl had on their students, and their efforts in strengthening their students' connections to the workplace.

The Anchorage School Board acknowledged the statewide recognition these professional educators earned for their efforts in preparing Alaska's workforce.

#### Elementary Health Presentation

Ms. Comeau noted that this year, for the first time ever, we have Health teachers full time in the elementary schools. This is a result of two things. The first was the effort to address the very important health curriculum that was too often getting sidetracked due to the press of the schedules at the elementary level. The second was due to a settlement item in the AEA contract where the district had committed, over the next two years, to add an hour of planning time each week for elementary teachers. The first installment of that time was provided through Health teachers consistently adding a half hour of instruction each week. Ms. Comeau hoped that this presentation will allow the board to see what a wonderful addition this has been to benefit our students. She noted that the teachers she has spoken with have been very pleased with this and see it as a huge benefit.

Ms. Sarah Pebbles, Health Specialist at Sand Lake Elementary, presented an overview of The Great Body Shop which is the curriculum being used for health instruction at the elementary level across the district. She noted that the program is research based, comprehensive, and effective. She indicated her belief that the program is well worth the money spent on its adoption. She noted that our students are now getting this comprehensive program in every classroom in every school across the district. Ms. Pebbles reviewed additional activities going on around the district that have been spearheaded by Health Specialists.

Ms. Jordis Clark, School Nurse at Sand Lake Elementary, shared her perspective on The Great Body Shop and the advantage of having a teacher specialist to present the curriculum. Ms. Clark also explained the benefit of having an additional adult in each building that knows every student. She thanked the board and the administration for making that available in the form of the health specialists. Ms. Clark also noted the importance of delivering The Great Body Shop curriculum in a consistent manner which was not also possible prior to adding the health specialist positions.

Ms. Clark reviewed several community activities that Sand Lake has been involved in over the past few months. She noted that Sand Lake will be hosting a Try-a-thon on Saturday, March 1 and invited board members to attend. The program will offer the opportunity to try a number of winter sports activities including snowshoeing, skating, skiing, and dog-sledding.

Mr. Roberts indicated that Ms. McRae had first shown him The Great Body Shop program four or five years ago and noted that he is pleased to see it coming to fruition. He thanked the team from Sand Lake Elementary for sharing their experience with the board.

Mr. Steiner asked about the level of staffing for health specialists at the various elementary schools. Ms. McRae explained that Health is taught opposite Art so the staffing levels are the same for those two programs. Students typically have Art for one hour per week for two weeks in a row and then they have Health for one hour per week for the next two weeks.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal reported that the SAB met earlier today. Topics of discussion included the district budget and recycling. Mr. DelReal indicated that the SAB will be developing a resolution on recycling.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Col. Luu was not able to attend the meeting this evening.

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

A representative from MECAC was not able to attend the meeting this evening.

F. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Public Testimony Regarding Upcoming Negotiations - Local 959 Maintenance

Mr. Dale Miller spoke on behalf of Local 959 Maintenance. He noted that during the last negotiations in 2005 they had employed a technique known as interest-based bargaining. That is collaborative process which attempts to negotiate through collaboration between the two parties to work collectively together to develop contracts that resolve issues and is designed to develop trust and provide for a long lasting relationship between the two parties. That process seemed to be successful in the past and the intention is to use that technique again during the upcoming negotiations. They hope to work together with the district to secure an agreement that will demonstrate this board's commitment to the employees.

Mr. Miller acknowledged the critical role that teachers play in the education of students but wanted the district to know that the employees covered by this contract are equally committed to providing a good environment for student learning. He noted that the size of the district has increased dramatically over the last couple of decades and that once buildings are built it doesn't matter whether the student population goes up or down the buildings must still be maintained. Mr. Miller explained that this bargaining group is understaffed by upwards of 30%. He asked the board to make it a priority to attract and retain dedicated employees.

G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

H. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda is attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda Recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's office.**

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Special Meeting - January 14, 2008
2. ASD Memorandum # 181 - Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

The administration recommends approval by the Anchorage School Board of the resolution recognizing February 16, 2008 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

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

4. ASD Memorandum # 195 - Approval of Funding for Capital Projects Using Interest Earnings

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the use of Capital Projects Fund Interest Earnings in a total amount of \$3,000,000, to augment the funding for the Public Sewer Service for Birchwood ABC School and Chugiak High School.

5. ASD Memorandum # 173 - Elementary Math Program Adoption

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of the 2007 edition of Everyday Math as the math curriculum for grades K-6.

6. ASD Memorandum # 172 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Shiloh Baptist Church for Fairview Elementary School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a cash grant from Shiloh Baptist Church for Fairview Elementary School in the amount of \$5,500.

7. ASD Memorandum # 196 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program.

8. ASD Memorandum # 170 - Award of Contract: Mechanical and Electrical Upgrades at Two Schools - Scenic Park and Willow Crest Elementary Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Two Elementary School Mechanical and Electrical Upgrades Project, to the lowest bidder, CYS Management Services, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$574,149, Assignment A, \$11,452, Alternate 1 for \$543,918,

Assignment B for \$11,452 and Alternate 2, for \$20,587 for a total award price of \$1,161,558. The locations identified in this contract are Willowcrest Elementary School and Scenic Park Elementary School.

9. ASD Memorandum # 171 - Award of Contract: Bartlett High School Radio Communication Enhancements

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Bartlett High School Communication Enhancement project to Motorola Inc. in the amount of \$183,189.

10. ASD Memorandum # 166 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steele requested that ASD Memorandum #195, Approval of Funding for Capital Projects Using Interest Earnings, be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Steiner requested that ASD Memorandum #131, Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Mental Health Trust Lease; ASD Memorandum #173, Elementary Math Program Adoption; and ASD Memorandum #196, Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse, be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Roberts requested that ASD Memorandum #172, Acceptance of Grant Award: Shiloh Baptist Church for Fairview Elementary School, be pulled for discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 14, 2008, and Memoranda #181, #170, #171, and #166.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 195 - Approval of Funding for Capital Projects  
Using Interest Earnings

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the use of Capital Projects Fund Interest Earnings in a total amount of \$3,000,000, to augment the funding for the Public Sewer Service for Birchwood ABC School and Chugiak High School.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Chris Tuck

To approve and authorize the use of Capital Projects Fund Interest Earnings in a total amount of \$3,000,000, to augment the funding for the Public Sewer Service for Birchwood ABC School and Chugiak High School.

Mr. Vakalis explained that in 2002 a bond was approved by the voters for \$2.2 million for the district's portion of a sewer connection to connect Chugiak High School and Birchwood Elementary School. AWWU received an EPA grant and put in a match, as did the district. At that time the total project cost estimate was around \$4.9 million. The scope of the project for the portion of monies that the district was contributing was to take care of the onsite work on the school grounds themselves to deal with the underground infrastructure and also to pay for the lift stations that were required. A small portion was also to be contributed toward the rest of the project. In 2002 the district contribution amounted to approximately 45% of the project. As a result a Memorandum of Agreement was established with AWWU. One of the key points in that agreement was the fact that AWWU would be acting as the district's agent to oversee the entire project including the onsite work at the district. After several delays the state has recently indicated that they are now ready to do the project in the 2008-2009 timeframe. As a result of that the Assembly has prepared an ordinance that would allow for the project to be done and a levy upon connection in the future if someone was to connect to the sewer line. Unfortunately, because of the difference in time and other factors the cost of the project has increased substantially. The administration is requesting that the board approve using interest earnings that have accrued over past projects in the amount of \$3 million to cover the district's cost of this project along with any contingency that may occur. AWWU is still acting as the district's agent to complete the rest of the project to include the lift station.

Mr. Curt Voss, the Engineering Division director for AWWU, explained that he has been involved off and on in this project since its inception. When the project started the estimated total project cost was \$4.9 million with the ASD contribution being \$2.2 million. Since that time the project has been delayed for a variety of reasons most notably the effect of the coordination effort that AWWU is trying to do with the Department of Transportation as they execute a project in the Old Glenn Highway corridor. The effect of the delay has been to increase construction costs due to inflation. Over that timeframe the construction costs for pipeline work have been escalating somewhere between 7 and 10% per year. A major element of the cost escalation is just time. There are other factors that have contributed as well including the need to remove the blasted bedrock material from the South Birchwood Loop Road and replace it with imported material, which was not part of the original plan at the beginning of the project. In addition the blasting necessary to excavate the trenches for the sewer will require closing the Glenn Highway. The state has also asked AWWU to repave the entire width of South Birchwood Loop Road where it was initially thought that only one-half of the road would require repaving. Additional excavation requirements will be in place due to the need for different type of pipe material in light of increased corrosion that has been identified over the past few years. These other technical factors have all contributed to the escalating cost of the project.

Mr. Vakalis noted that a request had been made for a cost/benefit analysis between this project and simply replacing the current septic system when it fails. Mr. Amsden explained that here are two systems in place at Chugiak High School. The designer of the current system under the sports field at Chugiak High School indicated that the current system, which was done in 1995, should be considered to have a 20 year life. The older system at Chugiak High School was built in 1985 and was verified in the late 1990s. That system had an expected life of about 30 years. Based on the life expectancy estimates both of the systems are advancing in age. Mr. Amsden explained that it would cost approximately \$900,000 to install a new system. He noted that a question had been raised regarding the possibility of planning to replace the septic system rather than ever hooking up to the sewer. It is hard to answer that in quantifiable terms as a number changes have occurred over time and will probably only grow worse as time goes on. He believed that the Department of Environmental Conservation would be very reluctant to grant additional on-site sewage disposal. He also believed that the design criteria and the type of system that would be required today would be significantly different than what was required in either 1985 or 1995. It would be

difficult to provide a firm answer as to whether replacing the current system with a new septic system is even possible.

Ms. Comeau explained that, following discussion of this issue during the last board meeting, she and Mr. Vakalis were both troubled by the potential expiration date of the grant and the significant amount of money involved. After researching the project, the grant, the delays, and the escalating costs the administration felt that the timing is right to complete the project. In addition, Ms. Comeau explained that she did not want to see this project added to the bond at the Assembly level when the district, with the board's approval, does have the wherewithal to do this without having to add anything to the bond proposals that had been so carefully developed.

Mr. Friedman noted that the Treasurer's Report shows a little over \$200,000 under these two bonds. That amount, plus the \$3 million, will not pay the total cost on this project which is reported to be \$4.8 million. He asked where the rest of the money would be coming from. Ms. Stokesbary noted that AWWU is holding some of the funds that the district deposited with them out of the original \$2.2 million. Mr. Voss verified that AWWU is holding some of the funds that have not yet been expended. To date AWWU has expended approximately \$1.3 million of the total \$4.8 million so only the balance of approximately \$3.5 million is necessary complete the project.

Mr. Friedman requested clarification on the note indicating that the ASD amount does not include internal ASD costs. Mr. Vakalis explained that ASD costs are basically pro-rate and legal fees. These are in-house costs and not what was done in the field.

Mr. Friedman requested that the portions of the project that will be paid for by the district be identified on the map included with the memorandum. Mr. Voss identified that every item that is in red on the map is to be paid for by the school district. The items in light green (ASD On-Site Sewer) have already been paid for. Mr. Voss also explained that the CHS Lift Station and Pipe Segment No. 1 have oversize credits included. This means that AWWU is actually crediting the district for a portion of the costs associated with those portions of the project. The school district will receive the benefit of the EPA grant for its portion of the job.

Mr. Steiner requested clarification on the timing of the project. Mr. Voss explained that the state is planning to bid Old Glenn Highway

reconstruction this spring for an award by no later than April 2008. At the same time AWWU will be entertaining bids for the work along the South Birchwood Loop Road and the Lift Stations on property. There will be two simultaneous projects going on, all in the state right-of-way. The state has indicated that it will be acceptable for AWWU, with coordination between contractors, to begin construction on its part on South Birchwood Loop Road in 2008. Project completion is anticipated by the fourth quarter of 2009.

Mr. Steele asked for clarification regarding where the necessary blasting will take place. Mr. Voss explained that virtually all of the blasting will take place on South Birchwood Loop Road. The Glenn Highway will only have to be shut down when work is being done immediately underneath or adjacent to the overpasses.

In response to a question from Mr. Steele it was explained that, in 2002, it was believed that the state would be opening bids and building the project no later than 2005. Since that time the state has shifted the schedule out for reasons outside the control of both of the parties. That could not have been predicted at the time the agreement was put together. Mr. Voss believed that there was a viable project at the time based on the information that was available prior to the detailed geotechnical studies and the design alignment studies that have since been undertaken.

Mr. Steele asked about the monthly operating costs the district will incur after the new system is in place. Mr. Voss explained that utility charges for sewer service are based on water use. Based on the water usage in 2007, AWWU predicted that the average sewer bill for Chugiak High School will be in the range of \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year. For Birchwood Elementary the cost will be between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per year, not including the maintenance costs and the power costs for the Birchwood Elementary Lift Station. That lift station will be district owned and operated. Those costs are predicted to be \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year.

Mr. Steiner asked whether both of the systems at Chugiak High School are currently being used or if they can be used as alternate substitutes for one another. Mr. Amsden explained that they are both in use today. Piping goes out of the building from certain locations within the facility to the newer system to the northwest and from other locations to the older system on the Glenn Highway side. Mr. Steiner asked whether the \$900,000 estimate for a replacement system would replace both systems or if there have to be separate replacement systems. Mr. Amsden explained that the comparative analysis was based on the experience in the

northwest field and that the estimate would only cover that field. If both systems needed to be replaced it would be at greater expense. There is also a concern in terms of where alternate fields could be located.

In response to a question from Mr. Steele it was explained that the Assembly will be reviewing the AWWU proposed alignments and the estimated assessments on February 26, 2008.

Ms. Marks asked a question regarding the piping material. Mr. Voss explained that they are looking at the use of high density polyethylene pipe. This type of piping has been successfully used in a number of areas around Alaska.

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: 1) an additional space of approximately 7,415 square feet, an increase of \$37,372 in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and an annual increase of \$149,487 thereafter; 2) janitorial services to begin August 1, 2008, at an increase of \$12,320 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and an annual amount of \$13,441 thereafter; 3) tenant improvement costs of the new space in an amount not to exceed \$400,000; and 4) extend the annual renewal options through June 30, 2020 for a total amount of \$113,678 in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and \$238,112 (includes 11 months of janitorial service) 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 recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer to the Maintenance Projects Department, Contracted Services - Building budget

from anticipated unexpended utility and contingency funds in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to cover the tenant improvements.

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to utilize the Design/Build project delivery method to accomplish the tenant improvements.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner

Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To 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: 1) an additional space of approximately 7,415 square feet, an increase of \$37,372 in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and an annual increase of \$149,487 thereafter; 2) janitorial services to begin August 1, 2008, at an increase of \$12,320 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and an annual amount of \$13,441 thereafter; 3) tenant improvement costs of the new space in an amount not to exceed \$400,000; and 4) extend the annual renewal options through June 30, 2020 for a total amount of \$113,678 in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 and \$238,112 (includes 11 months of janitorial service) 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 also moved to approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer to the Maintenance Projects Department, Contracted Services - Building budget from anticipated unexpended utility and contingency

funds in an amount not to exceed \$400,000 to cover the tenant improvements.

Finally, it is also moved to authorize the Superintendent to utilize the Design/Build project delivery method to accomplish the tenant improvements.

Mr. Steiner explained that he had pulled this memorandum because the board had discussed this issue before and requested a review of the changes that have been made.

Ms. Chenier explained that the first change is that the lease payments will begin April 1, 2008. The district will have access to the building February 2, 2008. Another change is that the ASD Facilities Department will do the tenant improvements. The Mental Health Trust will not have enough time to go through their procurement process and get us in the building for the next school year. Finally a request has been added to use the Design Build Alternate Procurement method. Ms. Chenier noted that the lease rates have not changed.

Mr. Friedman thanked Ms. Chenier for her efforts to get these changes done in such an expedient manner.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The School Board went into recess at 8:10 p.m. and was called back into session at 8:20 p.m.

ASD Memorandum # 173 - Elementary Math Program Adoption

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of the 2007 edition of Everyday Math as the math curriculum for grades K-6.

ACTION:

Moved by: Chris Tuck  
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve the adoption of the 2007 edition of Everyday Math as the math curriculum for grades K-6.

Dr. Enid Silverstein indicated that there is a substantial body of evidence in support of this recommendation. She introduced Ms. Ruth Mount, Middle School Math Support teacher, who has been at the hub of most of these initiatives and has helped to facilitate them. Dr. Silverstein also introduced the rest of the Math Team including Ms. Patty Kennedy, Ms. Penny Williams, Ms. Mary Murphy, and Ms. Sandy Schoff.

Dr. Silverstein reviewed a slide presentation on the Math Program Evaluation and Review Process. She explained that the process was very transparent and that many people were solicited to participate. As a result there was a very wide base of representation. She indicated that they were able to create a process that is teacher-based, teacher-generated and teacher-maintained. These are the kinds of endeavors that create lasting change.

Dr. Silverstein briefly reviewed the process which began in 2005-2006 with an extensive math evaluation conducted by the Assessment & Evaluation Department to identify factors associated with high math performance. The findings from that evaluation showed that one of the factors associated with high math performance at all grade levels is assessment-guided/data-driven instruction. From December 2006 through February 2007 a K-8 Curriculum Review Survey was conducted which generated huge amounts of data. In April 2007 a K-8 Curriculum Review was held to establish rubrics for each of four categories; student, teacher, content, and assessment. The data analysis generated some general topics of concern and resulted in a list of recommendations.

In a review of the rubrics resulting from the K-8 Curriculum Review, Dr. Silverstein noted that there are some constants that carry through all four of the rubrics. The first is that the math applications have to be linked to real life learning. In addition, there have to be a variety of strategies in the curriculum that allow teachers to address a variety of student needs. Also there should be a strong message that all students should believe that they can learn math. On the flipside of that, all students should know that teachers have high expectations for them.

Another important point is that the curriculum chosen should bridge the gap not only from grade to grade but from the elementary to middle school level. Another thing that the rubrics addressed was the need for assessments to be aligned not only to the Alaska GLEs and the ASD standards but that there be formative, summative and benchmarking assessments embedded in the curriculum.

One of the top priorities of the K-8 Curriculum Review team was to have a middle school curriculum materials review. That review took place in May 2007. Teachers and parents from each middle school examined four different sets of standards-based materials using the rubric tool. MathScape was the choice selected to go forward as the middle school adoption.

In November 2007 a K-6 materials review was completed by an extensive and varied group of teachers, principals, and parents. Ms. Mount explained that the sixth grade component of MathScape, which is a middle school curriculum, was included in the K-6 materials evaluation in order to provide one more opportunity for middle school and elementary school teachers to have conversation and review materials in light of continuity in the program. The result of the review was a recommended adoption of Everyday Math for the elementary level.

Dr. Silverstein noted that several changes have been made in the way that professional development is being delivered. She reviewed training issues, the changes being made and the impact those changes in training focus have had on test scores. Dr. Silverstein reviewed the outstanding results showing improved Math SBAs from 2006 to 2007 noting that the focused training approach linking data to instruction really works.

Ms. Mount reviewed the ways in which areas of concern identified during the K-8 Curriculum Review have been addressed in the new edition of Everyday Math.

Dr. Silverstein indicated that the adoption of the 2007 version of Everyday Math will be treated as a new curriculum implementation.

Mr. Ben Hardwick, Bayshore Elementary School principal, explained how his school came on board with the Everyday Math curriculum. The school, which had been using the Heath curriculum, identified a need for a more concept-based approach to math. Mr. Hardwick reviewed the process of how they transitioned to Everyday Math over the course of three years.

Mr. Dan Blanton, Lake Otis Elementary School principal, explained that math achievement at Lake Otis was somewhat below the districtwide level. He noted that Lake Otis had also used Heath curriculum and that the curriculum came into question as new students and new teachers transferred into Lake Otis as the result of the boundary changes last year. Many of those incoming students and teachers had experience with Everyday Math and expressed their disappointment that it was not in place at Lake Otis. Mr. Blanton also highlighted the importance of continuity of curriculum across the district. As a Title 1 school Lake Otis was able to purchase Everyday Math as a supplemental curriculum. He indicated that the teachers who have started using the curriculum have seen amazing results.

Mr. Mike Webb, Airport Heights Elementary School principal, noted that he had taught Everyday Math before becoming an administrator. He acknowledged that there had been some controversy with Everyday Math but indicated that he had not experienced any of it during the eight years that he taught the curriculum. He found that when parents came to him with issues he was able to explain the program to the satisfaction of the parents. The biggest problem he had as a teacher was when the teachers prior to him had not taught the program all the way through. The program is very engaging for students and is very hands-on. It is sequential in terms of going from concrete to abstract. It also gives students many opportunities to succeed.

Mr. Steiner asked whether there are consumables in the Everyday Math curriculum. Ms. Sandy Schoff reported that the student books are consumable. All of the programs being looked at either included consumables or black line masters which the teachers would then use to produce the materials for the students.

Mr. Steiner wondered whether the questions on the rubrics were weighted equally. Ms. Mount explained that a holistic approach was used for the rubrics. Each of the four rubrics includes a series of items that were used to evaluate the program. All of those items were taken into consideration to come to one overall score for each rubric. The overall scores for each of the four different rubrics were evenly weighted but the individual items within the different rubrics were not necessarily weighted equally in determining the overall rubric score.

Ms. Kennedy recalled that she had spoken out against the original adoption of Everyday Math because the intermediate teachers at the time did not like the program. She wondered whether there is still a sense of

hesitancy among any particular grade levels to this curriculum. Dr. Silverstein indicated that when a curriculum is achieving the desired results it resonates with teachers. Making the intentional connection between data and how to accomplish what is needed with the many different students and their many different needs is proving to be a successful approach. While there will always be some people that will believe that there is a better way, this recommendation is the result of a democratic process based on extensive research.

Ms. Comeau indicated that a great deal has been learned about the professional development needs associated with this adoption since the last time the curriculum was adopted. Providing focused and intentional staff development will give the teachers the support necessary to successfully meet the needs of their students. She believed that, with all of the things that have been learned about staff development over the last few years, this adoption has a very strong chance at success.

Mr. Steele asked how many of the schools will take on the Everyday Math adoption. Ms. McRae explained that the administration does not recommend that schools that are in the process of implementing the Houghton Mifflin Reading curriculum try to implement Everyday Math. There are not many schools in that situation and the administration will be working closely with those schools regarding their implementation schedule. There are also some alternative schools that will choose to use other math curriculum although most do use Everyday Math. She reiterated that the implementation of the 2007 version of Everyday Math will be handled as a new curriculum adoption.

Ms. Kennedy noted that one of the underlying philosophies of the old version of Everyday Math was a spiral approach. She wondered whether the new version of Everyday Math use the same methodology. Ms. Mount explained how the new version identifies which goals should be secure at any particular point in the curriculum as opposed to the skills that are still being worked on at that time. These identifications are made both during the lessons and as part of the assessments. Ms. Comeau noted that she was pleased that parent outreach will be stressed as part of this adoption.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the secure standards allow this curriculum to lend itself to a standards-based report card system. Ms. Mount indicated that she is facilitating the elementary math pilot for standards-based report cards and noted that new edition of Everyday Math lends itself

very nicely to standards-based assessment because it so clearly identifies which skills need to be secured in each lesson of each unit.

Mr. Steiner asked how much this program will cost and whether that cost was comparable to other programs. Ms. Comeau indicated that there is no such thing as a cheap curriculum. She noted that specific cost information will be pulled together in the form of a Request for Information response. Mr. Steiner noted that, other than the teachers themselves, there is nothing more valuable to the foundational education of our students than the elementary math curriculum and the K-3 reading curriculum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 172 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Shiloh Baptist Church for Fairview Elementary School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a cash grant from Shiloh Baptist Church for Fairview Elementary School in the amount of \$5,500.

ACTION:

Moved by: Macon Roberts

Seconded by: John Steiner

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a cash grant from Shiloh Baptist Church for Fairview Elementary School in the amount of \$5,500.

Mr. Roberts explained that he had pulled this memorandum in order to recognize Shiloh Baptist Church for their generous donation. The funds will be used for books for each child, to be selected by the child, and for enrichment activities and field trips.

Mr. Tuck extended his appreciation to Shiloh Baptist Church for considering the needs of their neighborhood school with this generous donation.

Mr. Steiner voiced his appreciation noting that it is a wonderful turn that an entity would give such a generous gift to celebrate its own birthday.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 196 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant:  
Grants to Reduce Alcohol Abuse

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program.

Mr. Steiner indicated that it had not been clear to him whether the class resulting from this grant would be a semester class or a full-year class and how it would fit into an academic program. Mr. Henry explained that it would be a single semester course. He noted that the district is willing to do just about anything to keep drugs and alcohol off our campuses and to assure that students come to school in a sober manner. He believed that the district has been very effective with the Prime For Life program for students who get caught but realized that students who do not get caught need to get that same information. At several of the high school forums students and parents alike had indicated a desire to learn about the use and misuse of alcohol and drugs. Mr. Henry does not know whether the courses will fill so the request is to do this on a limited, pilot basis at a few of the high schools to see if it will work. His belief is that the classes will be interesting and will fill.

Ms. Comeau noted that she has attended a number of meetings with young people where students indicated over and over again that they need more accurate information. The media literacy is very well received by students because they are able to learn about the messaging and how to discriminate between fact and fiction. This course will work very well with what the district is trying to do with Social Emotional Learning and Asset Building. The students want more opportunities to wrestle with these issues and talk about the consequences of the choices they make.

Ms. Kennedy indicated that she believes that this is a wonderful program to make available to students in our high schools. She suggested that the class could be considered a Psychology course as it addresses the impact that media has on people and why they make the choices they make. She wondered whether there is a parent component to this course as it is her belief that there are parents in our community who are enabling their children to participate in activities that are harmful to them.

Mr. Friedman noted that his understanding of the initial question was not so much whether this was a valuable course but rather whether it should be offered for credit because it does not fit within one of the normal subject categories. He believed that it was more important to be able to say that the content of the course is important for the education of our children for success in life than to determine what subject category the course credit falls under. If the course fits within the district's mission statement and the student is receiving valid content from qualified teachers they should get credit for it. Ms. Comeau assured board members that the specifics on how the course will be credited will be worked out through the high school administration.

Mr. Steele reviewed the specifics of the grant noting that it would provide \$350,000 a year for three years. He asked whether there would be a year to develop the course prior to the three year grant coming into play. Mr. Henry explained that there is not a year to develop. The grant application needs to be completed and, if the grant is awarded, teacher training would take place over the summer and the course will be launched during the fall semester of next year.

Ms. Kennedy suggested looking into whether the Every 15 Minutes program could be incorporated into this course.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #165 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of December 18, 2007 through January 14, 2008.

2. ASD Memorandum # 157 - Semi-Annual Report on Professional/Consultant Services on contracts over \$10,000

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

3. ASD Memorandum #158 - Conflict of Interest - Second Quarter Report FY 2007-2008

The attached listing of employee Conflict of Interest Waiver and Disclosure actions is forwarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.44. This information is provided as the second quarter report for the FY 2007-2008 school year.

4. ASD Memorandum #155 - Operating Budget Transfers November Monthly Report FY 2007-2008

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of November 2007 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000 - Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000, which includes summarized justifications.

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of November 2007 and related information are available in the Budget

Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

5. ASD Memorandum #163 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: December 31, 2007

The attached report consists of three parts: the Graphic Overview, the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Graphic Overview is presented on a quarterly basis and 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 December 31, 2007.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Kennedy announced that the next Policy Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 6.

Mr. Friedman announced that the next Legislative Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on Friday, February 1.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS LITIGATION

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of January 28, 2008, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:05 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