

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 5, 2008

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, May 5, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, Jeff Friedman, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, Jeff Friedman Presiding

Board Members Present: Jeff Friedman, Crystal Kennedy, Macon Roberts, Tim Steele, John Steiner, and Chris Tuck.

Board Members Excused: Pat Higgins

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Rhonda Gardner, Leslie Vandergaw, Patricia McRae, Enid Silverstein, Jerry Sjolander, Eric Tollefsen, Michele Egan, George Vakalis, Jose DelReal, Col. Sonny Luu, Ray Amsden, Marie Laule, Chad Stiteler, Ron Fuhrer, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

C. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Eagle River High School Choir, under the direction of Andrea Lang, performed several numbers for the entertainment of the Board.

ASD Memorandum # 280 - Legislative Citation in Recognition of Anchorage Daily News "Perfect World" Reporters

Mr. Tim Steele read that the Anchorage School District is joining with Sen. Johnny Ellis and the 25<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature in paying tribute to the achievements of the editors, staff and advisor of the "Perfect World" section of the Anchorage Daily News. For 12 years, "Perfect World" has given teen writers just what they need - space. In that space they have shared opinions, ideas and information on subjects important to their peers and in their own language.

In return, the students have learned a great deal about the freedom of the press and the responsibility and need for integrity that goes with it. They work together to foster story ideas and creative photography for the section, working with Anchorage Daily News staff advisor Leslie Boyd. Their perspective is essential to creating a responsive community. They give voice to a group resting on the edge of adulthood, which can feel powerless because of their age. "Perfect World" gives them an outlet that tells Anchorage, "we're here and we matter."

The Anchorage School Board acknowledged the outstanding work of the "Perfect World" writers and to join in the recognition by the 25<sup>th</sup> Alaska Legislature and Sen. Ellis of these young citizens.

Sen. Johnny Ellis thanked the board and the superintendent for their advocacy this year for public education. He indicated that that in his opinion this has been the most accomplished legislature in the last twenty years and that public education was at the top of the list. He celebrated reaching the goal of not only increased funding but early funding and forward funding for education all in a single legislative cycle. Sen. Ellis congratulated the students for their hard work.

Ms. Comeau thanked Senator Ellis for his leadership and noted that it really has be an historic year. She thanked him for honoring our students and the work that they do.

ASD Memorandum # 285 - Recognition of Sprint 2008 Denali Award Winners

Ms. Crystal Kennedy 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 all students for success in life.

The certificated Denali award winners for Spring 2008 are Ellyn Derman of Inlet View Elementary School, Andy Holleman of Goldenview Middle School and Roxy Kohler of Highland Tech High Charter School.

Third grade teacher Ellyn Derman has taught in the Anchorage School District for 23 years. According to her principal, Ellyn takes the time to understand and appreciate the unique qualities of each of her students,

emphasizing diversity and high expectations. One parent said, "Ellyn has an uncanny way of making all of her student feel special. This reassurance gives them the confidence necessary to achieve their full potential."

Goldenview Middle School technology coordinator Andy Holleman is admired by parents, students and staff alike. Andy has a special touch with middle school students -- he maintains a high regard for their natural innocence, their growing independence and their ability to further their knowledge through inspiration. Colleagues applaud the way he supports technology in their classrooms, whether he's taking the lens cap off a mysteriously darkened projector or fixing a complex network problem.

Highland Tech High Charter School teacher Roxy Kohler exemplifies the school's values of leadership, ethics and integrity. According to one parent, Roxy sees the greatness in each student and looks at each student's ideas as a way to promote self-confidence and learning. Roxy connects Highland Tech with the community, working with over 150 businesses as well as local and state representatives.

The classified staff award recipients are Jaybee Delara, BPO at Airport Heights Elementary School and Jennifer Westrom, executive secretary in business management.

The Airport Heights building is old and requires a lot of "tender loving care," according to the principal. Jaybee Delara makes the most of the building and keeps everything in tip top shape. Numerous staff members call Jaybee's demeanor calm, emphasizing that he takes pride in his work, maintains a positive attitude and always puts the children first.

Jennifer Westrom helps keep the business management division focused, organized and on-track to meet objectives. Jennifer politely and persistently ensures that all employees complete the School Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming Survey. Thanks to Jennifer's tenacity in seeing that 100% of employees complete the survey, the district receives over \$1 million in Medicaid related revenue.

Many staff, students and parents contributed to the nomination of administrative award winner Patrick Garrity, noting that it is obvious Patrick truly cares about children. As principal at Sand Lake Elementary School, Patrick sets a positive tone in the building and leads by example. He can often be found working into the evenings and weekends and

mopping up after events. Teachers say he is eager to share ideas for lessons and classroom management and has helped the staff become tech savvy.

The Denali team award goes to the Argon teaching team at Central Middle School. All who visit the ASD Education Center see the handiwork of this team through the colorful spirit bears gracing the entrance. By infusing social studies, math, language arts and science into the multi-year spirit bear project, these four teachers truly exemplify the collaborative middle school model. Author Ben Mikaelson says the team has honored the *Touching Spirit Bear* book with their work and allowed the book to grow larger than its pages.

The 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.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Kennedy mentioned that King Career Center's Horticulture program will begin their annual sale today. The flowers will be available as long as they last.

Mr. Steele announced that it is graduation season. He extended his congratulations to all of the students who will be graduating over the next few weeks.

Mr. Steele announced that *Sonic Boom* is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8 at the Sullivan Arena. The program, which includes choir, band and orchestra performances from sixth-graders from all around the district, is free for anyone who would like to attend.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal reported that the SAB met on May 1 to honor many of their members. The SAB membership extended their thanks to the board and the superintendent for listening to their concerns. The SAB will reconvene in the fall and will elect new officers at that time.

2. Military Delegate

Mr. Brian Griggs reported that the military will be working to develop a military education forum in the upcoming months to get parent representatives from each of the high school areas to provide feedback on news and views from different areas of the district.

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

There was no report from the MECAC.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Kelsey Reeves, a student at Gruening Middle School, presented her findings from a research project she recently completed on the issue of middle school students attending activities without having an adult with them. The current policy indicates that students have to be accompanied by an adult in order to attend after school activities. This policy often prevents students from attending activities because of their parent's work schedules. Ms. Reeves research indicated support for punishing students who violate rules while attending events but felt that all students should not be prohibited from attending because a few students may misbehave. Ms. Reeves presented a couple of solutions to this problem including having students participate in modifying the rule, putting a demerit system in place, and allowing teachers to sponsor students into activities. Ms. Reeves asked the board to reconsider the policy that prevents middle school students from attending events unless they are participating in the event or are accompanied by a parent.

Mr. Steiner asked whether this is a local rule at Gruening Middle School or if it is a board policy. Ms. Reeves explained that the rule is in the Middle School Handbook. The handbook states that all students have to leave the school at 2:45 p.m. and that they are not allowed to stay for after school activities without an adult.

Ms. Comeau asked whether Ms. Reeves had brought the issue forward to her Student Advisory Board representative to bring to that board. She also wondered whether she had discussed the issue with Mr. Jefts and Ms. Vandergaw. Ms. Comeau noted that there could certainly be some discussion regarding this issue. Ms. Reeves indicated that she had spoken to Mr. Jefts who believed that the rule was fair because it helps make a safe community.

Mr. Steele indicated that this is an issue where some progress can be made if the students get involved.

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 - April 28, 2008
2. ASD Memorandum # 284 - Resolution in Support of National School Nurses Day, May 7, 2008

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board adopt the attached resolution supporting National School Nurse Day as Wednesday, May 7, 2008.
3. ASD Memorandum # 293 - Nomination for AASB Board of Directors

It is recommended that the School Board nominate John Steiner for a seat on the Association of Alaska School Boards' Board of Directors.
4. ASD Memorandum # 302 - Modification of the Bilingual Education Plan of Service

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Bilingual Education Annual Plan of Service proposed by the Bilingual/Multicultural Education Program (BMEP) and presented in Attachment A of this document. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Superintendent to submit the Bilingual Education Plan of Service to Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.
5. ASD Memorandum # 290 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Teaching American History Grant Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$994,326 for a three-year project to improve teachers' knowledge and understanding of American history.

6. ASD Memorandum # 286 - Acceptance of Grant Award: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Alaska Community Learning Centers

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$403,000 for the first year of a five-year grant period. Funding will continue after-school programs in three elementary schools. The sites are North Star, Fairview, and Williwaw. Funding for Clark Middle School will be included in year two through year five of the grant, bringing the total award to \$500,000.

7. ASD Memorandum # 259 - Acceptance of Funds: Beringia Shared Cultural Heritage Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept an award from the National Park Service in the amount of \$28,190 for the first year of a three-year contract.

8. ASD Memorandum # 310 - Acceptance of Grant Award: AASB 1:1 Student to Computer Pilot

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) in the amount of \$26,441.10 for the 2007-2008 school year.

9. ASD Memorandum # 287 - 2008-2009 Hazardous Transportation Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through G, presented by the Hazardous Transportation Committee, for the 2008-2009 school year.

10. ASD Memorandum # 282 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steele requested that Memorandum #302, Modification of the Bilingual Education Plan of Service, and Memorandum #310, Acceptance of Grant Award: AASB 1:1 Student to Computer Pilot, be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Kennedy requested that Memorandum #287, 2008-2009 Hazardous Transportation Recommendations, be pulled for discussion.

In addition, Memorandum #309, Discussion of Budget Adjustments FY 2007-2008, and Memorandum #304, Technology Plan Update, were pulled from the Superintendent's Report for discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele  
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 28, 2008, and Memoranda #284, #293, #290, #286, #259, and #282.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Excused: Higgins

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 302 - Modification of the Bilingual Education Plan of Service

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Bilingual Education Annual Plan of Service proposed by the Bilingual/Multicultural Education Program (BMEP) and presented in Attachment A of this document. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Superintendent to submit the Bilingual Education Plan of Service to Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele  
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve the Bilingual Education Annual Plan of Service proposed by the Bilingual/Multicultural Education Program (BMEP) and presented in Attachment A of this document. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Superintendent to submit the Bilingual Education Plan of Service to Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Ms. Comeau noted that this is a modification of the Bilingual Education Plan of Service that was passed earlier this school year and transmitted to the state. This item is being brought before the board at this time due to regulation changes.

Mr. Steele explained that he had pulled the memo because of the changes at the state level regarding how students are qualified for services in the Bilingual program. He was concerned that the changes will move students out of the program too soon. He acknowledged that the new rules provide a means for moving the students back into the program if they do not do well. He felt that process, which forces the students into a situation where they must fail in order to get the help they need rather than assure that students are both proficient and confident before moving them out of the program, is a step in the wrong direction.

Ms. Gardner clarified that all LEP students, with the exception of first year immigrants, are required to take the standards based assessment regardless of whether they are receiving services or not. The change in regulation is that it used to be that the student had to pass the English Language Proficiency test twice and test as proficient on the SBA before they were exited from service, now they just have to pass the English Language Proficiency test once and they are exited from service. The concern, which has already been shared with the state, has been that students are exited too soon and without having appropriate supports in place. Part of what is before the board at this time is the plan that the district has had to develop to get those students back into service because the state did not have a plan.

Mr. Steele indicated that one of the items that caused him concern is that the State Board is moving too fast to the detriment of some of our students.

Ms. Comeau indicated that the administration has registered strong protests all the way along and will continue to monitor this. The plan that has been developed will go a long way to support these students. The reason why the administration has to be so vigilant in monitoring regulation proposals and testifying is because we really are concerned about this population and other students who are struggling. It is not good for any student to move in and out of services.

Mr. Friedman indicated that he had discussed having a board member, perhaps the Legislative Subcommittee chair, participate when district staff

testifies before the State Board of Education. It might be helpful to have testimony from a board perspective how this is not working.

Mr. Steiner asked about the scope of participation in the development of the original plan from persons both within the administration and the teaching staff. He wondered whether there was participation by teachers who are not specifically devoted to the program in the review of the policy. Ms. Christine Garbe explained that the plan was developed over two years with regular classroom teachers and administrators and parents all participating. Mr. Steiner wondered whether there was similar participation with this modification. Ms. Garbe explained that this came about with a very short time frame. She noted that she did meet with two groups of parents and that she had taken concerns voiced by parents and classroom teachers over the past year into consideration.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Excused: Higgins

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 310 - Acceptance of Grant Award: AASB 1:1  
Student to Computer Pilot

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) in the amount of \$26,441.10 for the 2007-2008 school year.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele  
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB) in the amount of \$26,441.10 for the 2007-2008 school year.

Mr. Steele asked for clarification whether this is last year's money or if it is new money. Ms. Comeau explained that this is end-of-year, one year only funding. Mr. Steele understood that there was a conference call scheduled

in the next few days to look at this year's money and wondered whether the district will be participating in that conference and where the district stands on filing an application for additional funding.

Ms. Gardner introduced Ms. Darla Jones and Ms. Mary Wegner. She noted that they are both incredibly visionary and wonderful coordinators for our Educational Technology. She indicated that they will both be on that conference call. In preparation for that call and for what we anticipate will be a very short turn-around on an application they are preparing a couple of different approaches to this depending on what the state will allow.

Ms. Jones passed around the EeePC that the district will be investigating with this first round of additional funding that the AASB has approved. Ms. Jones reported that, building on the success of the 1:1 Computer project at Wendler Middle School this year, they have been working with Ms. Vandergaw and Mr. Roylance and the team from Wendler to try to expand that project to one additional team next year if funding will allow. In addition, they have been meeting with a team of ninth grade teachers from several different schools that are working on a Language Arts and Social Studies interdisciplinary project that will launch next year with the possibility of exploring some additional EeePC units as part of the application.

Ms. Gardner added that one real benefit of using something like these EeePC units in a pilot such as the interdisciplinary project is that can run some of the programs that the students are already using. Adding the EeePC units will free up the computer lab space at the schools to allow the bigger computers to do other multi-media types of projects. There is a lot of potential with these high access devices.

Mr. Steiner asked whether it has been determined where these EeePC units might be piloted and how that determination is made. Ms. Jones indicated that there has been interest at all of the divisions and that final decisions are still being made. She noted that the money will fund approximately 90 units and that they are trying to identify locations that are already making good use of the programs that can be run on the units such as My Access writing program and Achieve 3000. Ms. Gardner indicated that they would very much like to see what the program would look like at all three instructional levels.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the instructional software is proprietary and whether the district has to have separate licenses and, if so, does that

entail annual fees. Ms. Wegner indicated that we would have to work with each vendor to determine what the license requirements and costs would be. Ms. Gardner noted that in some cases the licenses the district already has for these programs would be able to be transferred to the smaller units and out of the computer lab setting. In other cases we would have to purchase additional licenses. Those needs are being considered as part of the planning process. Ms. Jones added that AASB supported the purchase of licenses for My Access and Achieve 3000 last year because they thought they were such promising programs. Those programs can be accessed from any of these computers because they are web-based applications.

Ms. Kennedy asked whether the pilot program for these computers will be similar to the program currently at Wendler Middle School. Ms. Jones explained that it will be a little bit different. The initial plan does not include sending the computers home with students or quite the extensive program that they have going on at Wendler. The desire is to put them in some classrooms to determine what issues will be encountered. The units will reside with the teachers throughout the day so they will benefit a larger number of students. Ms. Wegner noted that the district is actually piloting this for AASB. They are very interested in these high access devices and the role that they can play in a 1:1 program. The reason that they are funding 100 percent of the cost for this pilot is because they want to find out what kinds of resources and supports are needed. We will be using our Education Technology staff for the professional development. The IT and AV departments will also be helping as we figure this out for AASB.

Ms. Kennedy asked for some clarification regarding the software capacity on these computers. Ms. Wegner explained that these units work significantly differently than a traditional laptop. They use flash memory which does not take up as much space as on traditional computers. Testing has been going on in a number of locations around the district and we haven't run into any memory problems yet. Ms. Jones noted that about 80 percent of the things that are being done on the computers including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation tools are all included on the machine at no additional cost. It is a Linux Operating System with Open Office software.

Ms. Jane Berglund indicated that the main concern from the IT side is to make sure that we have the infrastructure in place to support this kind of initiative. These machines can be used in a wired fashion but they will be

wireless much of the time and the district doesn't have the best wireless system in place.

Ms. Kennedy wondered whether adding these computers will impact the district's bandwidth capacity. Ms. Jones noted that there are always bandwidth concerns and that bandwidth will continue to be a challenge. This challenge will continue to grow each year as the number of applications out on the web continues to increase. She noted that these computers will not always be used online. There are plenty of applications available on the machines right out of the box.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Excused: Higgins

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 287 - 2008-2009 Hazardous Transportation Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through G, presented by the Hazardous Transportation Committee, for the 2008-2009 school year.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy	To approve recommendations A
Seconded by: Macon Roberts	through G, presented by the
	Hazardous Transportation
	Committee, for the 2008-2009 school
	year.

Ms. Crystal Kennedy raised a concern with the decision that was made to not post a crossing guard on DeBarr Road at the Creekside Road intersection.

Ms. Comeau noted that there is no perfect solution to this issue. Students are crossing the road and the district has received a large number of legitimate complaints. She explained that, with this recommendation,

there will an adult there but it will be a school staff member who knows the students.

Mr. Kalmes explained that one of the concerns with posting a crossing guard is sending the message to the students that it is okay to cross at that location. Many of the students who are crossing there ultimately end up crossing Muldoon. So the concern is about creating another unsafe condition by getting them across DeBarr. The goal is to send the message to students that they need to take the bus. Traditionally middle level students don't want to be like young children so they wind up not crossing where the crossing guard is anyway. The plan is to have a person who is familiar with the students who can be stationed between the school and the intersection to direct students back to the buses and to contact parents to let them know what their students are doing. The goal is to change the culture to get compliance with students riding the bus and not walking.

Ms. Vandergaw voiced her appreciation to Mr. Kalmes for working with the instructional team to be creative and find a solution to this issue. Mr. Kalmes noted that they will keep an eye on this issue and will reassess the situation next fall..

Mr. Steele asked whether there is a school zone at the Begich location. Mr. Kalmes explained that there is not a school zone on DeBarr as it is a fully signalized intersection.

Ms. Kennedy noted that there will always be students who will test the limits and walk when they should be taking the bus. She appreciated knowing that the district is actively working to address the problem. Mr. Kalmes indicated that the goal is to let parents know when their students are testing the limits in this manner.

Mr. Friedman indicated his belief that this is the right approach. He reminded everyone that despite traffic engineering objections we learned at West/Romig that you can have a school zone at a fully signalized light and we learned at Hanshew that you can put one in an arterial road. If this approach does not work we need to look for other solutions that could work and not let the traffic drive our decisions. Ms. Comeau agreed that we have to do everything that we can to keep our students safe.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Excused: Higgins

MOTION PASSED

The Board went into recess at 7:45 p.m and was called back into session at 8:00 p.m.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #283 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of April 18, 2008 through April 29, 2008.

2. ASD Memorandum # 309 - Discussion of Budget Adjustments FY 2007-2008

During the first session of the Twenty-fifth Legislature, the legislature provided financial relief for FY 2007-2008 by making direct appropriations to the TRS/PERS plans and reducing the rates required to be paid by participating entities. In April 2008, the District received notification from the Department of Education and Early Development of the amount it will receive in TRS (Teachers' Retirement System) supplemental funding in FY 2007-2008 and guidance on the financial reporting requirements for both the TRS and PERS (Public Employees' Retirement System) supplemental funding. In addition, during the second session this year, the legislature has approved SB 221 (subject to approval by the Governor) which provides one-time funding for energy relief and legislative grants to the District with effective dates prior to June 30, 2008.

Ms. Comeau reported that there will be a number of revisions to this year's budget and that we will need to address next year's budget at a later date because of the way the legislation passed and the dates that were inserted in that legislation. The first thing that must be done is to make budget adjustments in this current year's budget. The administration will develop recommendations for the board based on the discussion this evening. The district will then have to go back to the Assembly to request an increase in the upper limit of this year's budget in order to spend the funds received. Next year's budget will

also need to be adjusted but that may or may not require Assembly action based on the funding amount.

Ms. Stokesbary reviewed the changes to the calculation of estimated required upper limit spending authorization. The changes include supplemental funding for TRS and PERS, energy relief funding, and legislative grants as detailed in SB 221. These changes result in an estimated \$29,787,570 required spending limit increase for this year's budget. Ms. Stokesbary reviewed the proposed calendar for taking action on these budget adjustments.

Mr. Steiner explained that it is his understanding that the additional PERS/TRS funding is a pass-through that will come to the district from the legislature but will be sent immediately through to the PERS/TRS trustees but that the upper limited has to be expanded because it is still considered an expenditure out of the operating budget. Ms. Stokesbary explained that the money never even comes to the district. The state just passes it through on the district's behalf. It is within accounting principals that the district needs to record both the revenue and expenditure side of the "on behalf of" payment.

Ms. Stokesbary reviewed the district's Fund Balance. We are anticipating revenues to exceed expenditures by \$24 million. That will leave an ending Fund Balance projection of \$119 million. The administration is proposing to use a portion of that money to supplement the Food Service Fund which will assist in covering the anticipated shortfall in that fund. The second recommendation is to supplement the Equipment Replacement Fund. Those actions will bring the Fund Balance to \$117 million. She noted that there are obligations and encumbrances on that Fund Balance.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the recommended transfer of \$650,000 to the Food Service Fund will restore the Food Service Fund Balance. Ms. Stokesbary indicated that it would leave some balance in the Food Service Fund. Without transferring the funds the Food Service Fund would have a negative balance.

Ms. Stokesbary reviewed the current obligations on the Fund Balance and explained the regulations placed on the various Reserved and Unreserved accounts. She noted that the Unreserved Fund Balance can not exceed 10 percent per state statute. The current projection shows an estimated Unreserved Fund Balance of 12.1 percent. Part of this growth in the Fund Balance is receiving notification of revenues

late in the year such that there has been no opportunity to spend or encumber the money. Ms. Stokesbary explained the potential options for reducing the Unreserved Fund Balance. She reviewed the suggestions that would result in shifting funds from the Unreserved Fund Balance to the Reserved Fund Balance including prepaying energy costs, increasing the amount reserved for property loss and stocking inventory for emergency preparedness. In addition Ms. Stokesbary reviewed a number of expenditure options that would result in an increase in the Reserved for Encumbrances account.

Ms. Comeau indicated that the administration would like the board's thoughts on this approach as well as their thoughts and ideas regarding particular items on the enhancement list.

Ms. Kennedy indicated that she was interested in identifying items that would save the district money in the long run. She wondered what kind of savings would be experienced by prepaying for fuel. Ms. Stokesbary indicated that the district has not approached any company at this point and therefore do not know what the savings would be. Ms. Kennedy was interested in the proposal to move the textbook adoption from FY 08-09 to FY 07-08. She had a question regarding the suggestion to increase the Property Loss Fund an addition \$1 million. She wondered whether that money is held in an interest bearing account. Ms. Stokesbary explained that it was held in an interest bearing account and that the interest revenue goes into the General Fund. The interest does not help this particular self-insurance fund. Ms. Kennedy did not feel prepared to highlight any particular item from the enhancement list but noted that there are certainly some things that could be valuable and warrant consideration.

Mr. Steiner believed that the increased reserve for property loss was a good idea. He clarified his understanding that moving expenditures from next year's budget to this year would actually free up funds in next year's budget that could then be used for additional enhancements next year. Ms. Stokesbary indicated that to be true but cautioned that projections for the following two years anticipate a fiscal gap of \$15 million and \$22 million respectively. It would behoove us to not spend all the extra money in next year's budget because we may need to have some fund balance to support one-time expenditures in the following year.

Mr. Steiner noted that he would like to see the items that would give the district the most bang for the buck in terms of cost savings for the

future. If the items in question do not deliver a cost savings he would like emphasis to be given to the items that will have significant impact on student achievement and the dropout rate.

Mr. Steele voiced his support for taking action that will translate into future savings in energy costs. He also supported anything that can be done in support of the new Student Information System. Other areas that garner his support are those that impact the graduation rate and improve student achievement. He also indicated that the issue of wireless internet should be closely reviewed. Mr. Steele noted that the district will be facing a deficit and highlighted the need to save appropriately and plan responsibly for future needs.

Mr. Tuck indicated that he liked the recommendations that have been reviewed this evening. He looked forward to having a prioritized list of enhancements to review and discuss.

Mr. Friedman believed that the approach that is being recommended is fiscally sound and conservative. In terms of decreasing the Fund Balance he believed that the administration should look at items that were planned for the coming year's budget. That action will free up revenue in next year's budget. He would rather stay away from the enhancement list as much as possible and look more toward the items that we were already planning to purchase. Mr. Friedman supported the idea of considering allocating a portion of the energy relief funding to the charter schools. He reiterated the point made by other board members that all expenditures should either save the district money or improve student achievement.

Mr. Steiner agreed that the supplemental energy funds should be allocated based on enrollment and that the charter school should be included in that allocation.

3. ASD Memorandum #288 - Monthly Update Student Information System - Zangle

The Instructional Technology department will provide a monthly update on the activities related to the implementation of the new Student Information System.

4. ASD Memorandum #304 – Technology Plan Update

On April 1, 2008, the Anchorage School District submitted to DEED an updated educational technology plan for the years 2008-2011. The plan was developed over the course of several months and included input from a wide variety of stakeholders, including Educational Technology (EdTech) and Instructional Technology (IT) staff, community members, curriculum specialists, administrators, teachers, and students.

Ms. Mary Wegner reported that the state has approved the district's Technology Plan. She explained that the plan was developed over the course of several months and included input from a wide variety of stakeholders, including Education Technology and Instructional Technology staff, community members, curriculum specialists, administrators, teachers, and students. Dr. Silverstein voiced her appreciation for the willingness of Education Technology to always partner with Curriculum. That is the key to infusing technology and increasing the purposefulness of all of these tools. Ms. Gardner noted that Education Technology aligns everything they do with Curriculum. She also praised the process.

Mr. Steiner asked whether there were any teachers involved in the development of the Technology Plan who are not necessarily part of the technology community. He felt this would help to see how this will integrate from an ordinary teacher's perspective. Ms. Jones noted that as the plan got closer to completion it was shared with a wider variety of stakeholders including principals and teachers who then all had an opportunity to comment regardless of whether they were on the original committee. She also noted that there was a representative from AEA on the core committee.

Mr. Stiener noted that one of the goals listed in the plan is to expand the 1:1 Laptop program to include all students at Wendler Middle School in 2008-2009. To his recollection that is not currently expected to occur. Ms. Jones explained that that was the original goal but, through discussion with the folks at Wendler, it was determined that expanding to one additional team at a time is more supportable. Ms. Wegner noted that this highlights the value of the process that was followed. It was not expected that the entire plan will be culled through and updated on a regular basis but it is expected that the four Technology Infused Learning Plans will be updated in accordance with the Six-Year Plan. Mr. Steiner indicated that it would be helpful to have the information in this Plan in the same format as the Six-Year

Plan. One of the values of that format is that it clearly and visually shows how goals are distributed across a set time frame.

Mr. Steiner asked a question regarding bandwidth. Ms. Berglund explained that internet bandwidth costs \$10,000 per megabyte whether it is through a wireless connection or a wired connection. We currently have 60 megabytes of bandwidth. She noted that it increases as we need it and we use as much as we have. She stated that there are ongoing efforts to educate people to use bandwidth in the best possible way. We do not have enough bandwidth and it is very expensive to get bandwidth. It is not a physical equipment or wire issue at all. It is buying the right to use a certain amount of electronic resource. Ms. Comeau noted that the issue of bandwidth is one that the administration will be discussing before recommendations are brought back to the board.

5. ASD Memorandum #289 – Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Third Quarter 2007-2008 School Year

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

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS  
LITIGATION

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 5, 2008, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:40 p.m.

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Jeff Friedman, President

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Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

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Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved