

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2008

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, June 9, 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, and John Steiner. Pat Higgins and Chris Tuck joined the meeting by phone.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Rhonda Gardner, Leslie Vandergaw, Patricia McRae, Enid Silverstein, Jerry Sjolander, Eric Tollefsen, Michele Egan, George Vakalis, Jose DelReal, Brian Griggs, 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

ASD Memorandum # 332 - Recognition of National Merit Scholars

Ms. Crystal Kennedy read that for more than 1.4 million high school juniors, this year's National Merit Scholarship competition began back in October 2006. Students with the highest PSAT scores were named merit semifinalists. The field was narrowed to 15,000 finalists who were evaluated on their academic records, test scores, leadership in school and community activities, essays, and letters of recommendation.

Only about half of the finalists continued on to be named scholars, one of the nation's highest academic honors. The Anchorage School District is proud to recognize seven students who earned 2008 National Merit Scholarships: Chloe Cotton and Kelsey MacMillan of West High School, Maia Dickinson of East High School, Ariel Hippe of Dimond High School, Chi-Hyun Kim and Kaitlin Mansfield of Service High School, and Brian Kirchner of South Anchorage High School.

Chloe, Maia, Ariel and Kelsey will receive \$2,500 merit scholarships. Brian's scholarship is sponsored by BP Foundation, Chi-Hyun's by the University of Chicago, and Kaitlin's by Western Washington University.

The Anchorage School Board congratulated these graduates for their accomplishments and acknowledged their success.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Comeau announced that this is Military Appreciation Week. She noted that several board members were able to go to the Military Appreciation luncheon today. There will be opportunities on Friday at both Ft. Richardson and Elmendorf to support the Chamber's Military Picnics. A number of district representatives will be in attendance at those functions to help serve.

Ms. Comeau announced that this is Ms. Patricia McRae's final board meeting. She recalled the outstanding job Ms. McRae has done throughout her tenure with the district. Mr. Friedman added his appreciation for Ms. McRae's service.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal indicated that the Student Advisory Board has not met since the end of the school year.

2. Military Delegate

Mr. Brian Griggs reported that the military is grateful for the school district's support. He also thanked the district for their support of Military Appreciation Week and board members for participating in those events.

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

Ms. Dawnyale Bolds reported that MECAC met on Saturday and had a very productive meeting.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Dick Mize spoke on the Kincaid Project Snowmaking Proposal. The goal of that project is to alleviate the problems encountered by the cross-country skiing program when there is a lack of snow. He reminded the board that the school district is one of the primary users of the cross-country trails, as well as the ski trails. For that reason the district is being asked to become a partner with the Kincaid Project Group by helping fund the \$1.8 million Snowmaking Project with \$500,000 in funding. The district has done an excellent job in solving weather related problems with all of the other activities. He noted that the Kincaid Project Group would really appreciate the district's financial help in constructing the snowmaking facility and ask that the board seriously consider the proposal.

Mr. Steele asked whether there was money in the budget for this project. Ms. Comeau indicated that this project was discussed as one of the enhancements in January but no action has been taken to put it in the budget. The budget revision recommendations will be presented at the June 23 meeting.

Mr. Steiner asked how much of the problem of having adequate snow is due to snowfall as opposed to temperature. He recalled a previous discussion that indicated that Anchorage has relatively predictable cold but that snowfall is inconsistent. Mr. Mize indicated that they are confident that snow can be made and available on November 1 when the ski season starts every year. He noted that the snow that is made is very durable and does not melt as quickly as natural snow.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the district sponsors transportation to get students to where the snow is located. He wondered if that was an additional budget question that would have to be grappled with if snow were made available in only one location. Mr. Arndt reported that the district transports students to central locations for competition and practice for a number of sports. They had looked at transporting students for skiing to different location and found that the logistics for doing that were a little overwhelming.

Ms. Comeau noted that all of the enhancements are being looked at and, of course, the needs and the wants are far more than can be supported financially. That is not to say that this is not a viable opportunity. Mr. Steiner asked about the consequence of the district providing some amount less than the requested \$500,000. Mr. Mize indicated that any

amount would be appreciated. He also noted that the \$500,000 requested does not have to come in one year. Mr. Steele asked whether there are any matching fund programs in place. Mr. Mize noted that there were two funds that have been started that were matching programs. He noted that they had asked for \$2 million for the project of which the state ultimately approved \$1 million.

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 - May 29, 2008
2. ASD Memorandum # 341 - Approval of ASD Recycling Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve an initiative for the Anchorage School District to participate in a Districtwide mixed paper recycling program. It is further recommended that the School Board accept the Municipal funding of start-up and annual costs for this program, subject to Assembly approval.
3. ASD Memorandum # 337 - School Board Policy Revision: Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Behavior/Prohibited Conduct Section: Drugs and Alcohol (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the policy subcommittee that the school board adopt revisions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document, Student Behavior/Prohibited Acts section on Drug/Alcohol.
4. ASD Memorandum # 343 - School Board Policy Revision: Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Behavior/Prohibited Conduct Section: Cell Phones/Electronic Communication Devices (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the policy subcommittee that the school board adopt revisions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document, Student Behavior/Prohibited Acts section on Cell Phones/Electronic Devices.

5. ASD Memorandum # 338 - Prior Approval of Grant Award: McLaughlin Youth Center

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the Department of Education contract for the instructional support component of the McLaughlin Youth Center in the amount of \$388,558.

6. ASD Memorandum # 342 - Acceptance of Donation: Equipment Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a donation from Data Domain in the amount of \$106,000 for enhancement to the Information Technology Data Backup infrastructure.

7. ASD Memorandum # 344 - Acceptance of Grant Award: National Writing Project Satellite Site

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to approve a contract from the National Writing Project in the amount of \$12,500 to provide high-quality, professional development programs for K -12 educators in the area of writing instruction.

8. ASD Memorandum # 330 - Award of Contract: Bartlett High School Fire Alarm Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Bartlett High School Fire Alarm Replacement Project, to the lowest bidder, Electric, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$287,690.

9. ASD Memorandum # 333 - Award of contract: Dimond High School Standby Power Revisions & Dual Fuel Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Dimond High School Standby Power Revisions & Dual Fuel Upgrades to Goertz Construction, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$508,300, and Assignment A for \$19,704 for a total award price of \$528,004.

10. ASD Memorandum # 336 - Amendment to Professional Services Agreement for Mears Middle School Site Improvements

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to approve an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with R & M Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$291,792 for the Mears Middle School Site Improvements project's design.

11. ASD Memorandum # 305 - Award of Contract: Food Staples

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Country Foods and Food Services of America to furnish Food Staples in the estimated amounts of \$276,796 and \$515,067 respectively.

12. ASD Memorandum # 306 - Frozen Food Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America, Mike's Quality Meats and Teddy's Tasty Meats to furnish Frozen Food Products in the estimated amounts of \$481,475, \$569,943 and \$628,579 respectively.

13. ASD Memorandum # 298 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steele requested that Memorandum #341, Approval of ASD Recycling Program, be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Steiner requested that Memorandum #337, School Board Policy Revision: Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Behavior/Prohibited Conduct Section: Drugs and Alcohol (First Reading), Memorandum #343, School Board Policy Revision: Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Behavior/Prohibited Conduct Section: Cell Phones/Electronic Communication Devices (First Reading), and Memorandum #336, Amendment to Professional Services Agreement for Mears Middle School Site Improvements, be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memorandum #318, Six Year Instructional Plan Revisions, be pulled for a brief presentation.

ACTION:

Moved by: Macon Robert  
Seconded by: John Steiner

To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 29, 2008, and Memoranda #338, #342, #344, #330, #333 and #316.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 341 - Approval of ASD Recycling Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve an initiative for the Anchorage School District to participate in a Districtwide mixed paper recycling program. It is further recommended that the School Board accept the Municipal funding of start-up and annual costs for this program, subject to Assembly approval.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele  
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve an initiative for the Anchorage School District to participate in a Districtwide mixed paper recycling program. It is further recommended that the School Board accept the Municipal funding of start-up and annual costs for this program, subject to Assembly approval.

Ms. Comeau explained that the district has been working with the municipality on this issue for a number of months but had not gotten to the point of having information to present to the board prior to the topic being brought up unexpectedly at a recent Assembly meeting. She noted that the administration is very enthusiastic about this idea if Municipal funding comes along to help begin and support the project. The recommendation is contingent upon that funding approval.

Mr. Vakalis noted that the district has been exploring recycling on a districtwide basis for several months. In that effort the district has been working with ALPAR, Greenstar, Alaska Waste Management, Solid Waste

Services, as well as the Municipality of Anchorage. He noted that it has been determined that approximately 40 percent of the district's waste stream is paper products. In light of that the district is certainly very interested in some kind of a recycling program as long as certain principles can be met. One of those is that the program could sustain itself. In addition, this would need to be a program that through cost avoidance would at least be cost neutral to the district. And finally, the program would have to be relatively easy to implement across the district. Mr. Vakalis reviewed the figures and noted that the savings from reduced garbage tonnage should be equal to the service fees for container rental and the hauling of mixed paper products for recycling. Mr. Vakalis also noted that this program would necessitate the hiring of a program coordinator. That position, along with vehicle operation costs, would be the sustaining cost of this program. The initial cost for the program would include the bins, the carts, and a vehicle for the program coordinator position. Those costs are substantially less than what the city has proposed.

Ms. Comeau shared that she had spoken to Mr. Clamen and Mr. Abbott who both indicated that they wanted to wait until the board had had a full public discussion and some kind of a vote on this. The plan is to share the thoughts and direction of the board with them at their meeting tomorrow evening.

Mr. DelReal believed that this was the right direction to take and that it would send a message to the students that recycling is something that they should be doing in their daily life. He acknowledged West High School student Mara Hill and East High School student Kristina Knapp. Both of these students are very active in the recycling programs at their respective schools. Mr. DelReal indicated that student support for the development of a districtwide recycling program is overwhelming.

Mr. DelReal noted that many high schools currently have student-run recycling programs and wondered whether this new plan would shift these programs to the custodial staff or if student volunteers would still be relied upon. Mr. Vakalis explained that each school administrator will be able to make that decision. There are some schools that really would like to have student involvement. Other schools may decide to rely entirely on their custodial staff or some combination of custodial staff and students.

Mr. Steele voiced his appreciation to the Assembly for supporting the recycling effort to the extent that they have. He noted that these efforts have been going on for some time at various schools around the district,

but it is time for the program to be elevated across the district. He felt that in order to work well the program must be implemented well and noted that he was supportive of a coordinator position to head the program for the district.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the district would be asking the municipality to fund the \$84,583 in continuing costs or if that cost will be covered by the savings realized through a reduction in tippage fees. Mr. Vikalis explained that the district is asking for start-up costs as he had outlined in the memorandum and for sustainment costs which include the individual and vehicle operation. The cost avoidance is the cost of the transporting of the recycled goods. That cost is avoided by recycling rather than the weight being transported to the dump. So the approximately \$84,000 is a net increase in the budget that the district is asking that to be covered through this grant. Ms. Comeau noted that the district has been very clear during discussions with the municipality about what the district will need to start this program. She also noted that the program will involve all of the support facilities around the district, not just the schools. In response to a question from Mr. Tuck it was explained that the coordinator will be responsible for the outreach and teaching about the program to the leadership at all the schools and district facilities. The coordinator will also interface with the various agencies that the district will deal with when it comes to recycling to make sure that all of the contracts and the contractual arrangements are being followed. In addition to that the coordinator will be monitoring the entire program and providing an assessment of the program's effectiveness. The assessment piece is of vital importance in order to make a determination if and when it is time to add other commodities into the recycling efforts.

Mr. Vakalis indicated that he would not be surprised if the Assembly puts a sunset clause for this program such that it would be reevaluated at a predetermined date to assess the program's effectiveness. Ms. Comeau agreed that having a sunset on this program funding is perfectly acceptable. The district will need to monitor the program and evaluate it annually to determine its effectiveness.

Mr. Steele noted that there is a huge turnover in personnel in the district and he believed that, in order for this program to be effective, it must become the culture of the organization in order for it to generate its own momentum. He believed that the coordinator position is key to making this a successful program. He also expressed his hope that the vehicle purchased for this position would be an alternative energy vehicle and

that it be well marked in order to serve as an advertisement for environmental sensitivity.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 337 - School Board Policy Revision: Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Behavior/Prohibited Conduct Section: Drugs and Alcohol (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the policy subcommittee that the school board adopt revisions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document, Student Behavior/Prohibited Acts section on Drug/Alcohol.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To adopt revisions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document, Student Behavior/Prohibited Acts section on Drug/Alcohol.

Mr. Steiner indicated that he had pulled this for the purpose of adding over-the-counter to the existing list of prescription and illegal drugs as being prohibited to be sold, traded or distributed in district schools. Although he did not disagree that prohibiting the distribution of even over-the-counter drugs is a good idea, he believed that sharing an aspirin or a throat lozenge is not the same kind of an inherently dangerous or risky thing as is an illegal or prescription drug. He did not believe that the selling, trading or distribution of an over-the-counter medication should automatically result in an expulsion.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Chris Tuck

Move to insert the word "illegal" before the word "drugs" in paragraph a(5) such that the sentence would read "The district may also refer any use, possession, or sale of illegal sale of drugs or alcohol, or any attempt, to the police."

Also move to delete the words “over-the-counter and” from paragraph a(3) so that it would refer to “prohibited substances including prescription drugs.” In addition, change the existing paragraph a(3) such it be labeled a(3)(a) and add paragraph a(3)(b) to read “Sell, attempted sale or distribution of over-the-counter drugs for purposes of abuse or under circumstances that create a substantial risk of injury or damage to health may also result in a recommendation to the school board for expulsion.”

Mr. Friedman clarified that the intent of this multi-part amendment was to make the sharing of over-the-counter medications not result in a nearly automatic expulsion offense. Mr. Steiner agreed but indicated that his intent is to go even further so that sharing of over-the-counter medication would not even be a presumed expulsion. A policy would be set that, unless it is a circumstance where it is being distributed for abuse or in a manner that is a health risk, over-the-counter drugs would not automatically result in expulsion.

Ms. Comeau noted that the administration is opposed to this amendment because any student could have a terrible reaction to a legal over-the-counter drug. The district has taken a very strong stand that the misuse of legal drugs and the use of illegal drugs are comparable. It is not right to require schools to have to deal with the nuances between the two. Although it sounds extreme the misuse of legal drugs in this country is actually getting worse than the use of illegal drugs. There is a great risk of liability to the district with a policy such as is being suggested.

Ms. Kennedy agreed with Ms. Comeau. She noted that the policy already includes wording to explain that it is the misuse of over-the-counter drugs that is being targeted. She hoped that this policy gives the flexibility to the administrators to be able to make a determination based on circumstance. Students need to know that they should not even be passing an aspirin to a friend.

Mr. Steele interpreted the first paragraph in section (a) to indicate that students would not be allowed to take over-the-counter medications while off campus and subsequently return to campus without risk of disciplinary action. He indicated his hope that the policy, as written, provides some rational administrative flexibility that will not prosecute students for reasonable behavior. Mr. Steiner disagreed with Mr. Steele's interpretation of the first paragraph in section(a). He felt that the language limits the over-the-counter prohibition to sale, trade, distribution or misuse and does not extend to personal use. He noted that he is not proposing any changes to that statement. He is not proposing that the district allow students to give one another pills of any sort. He is concerned with the severity of the punishment for certain events. He believed that common sense needs to allow for some exercise of judgment. He noted that the language that he offered in his amendment may not have been the most appropriate and reiterated that he would be willing to send this back to the Policy subcommittee to translate the concept into more appropriate language. He indicated that he would vote against a provision that would make sharing a cough drop an automatic expulsion event.

Ms. Gardner indicated that she agreed with the superintendent. She also noted that she had some alternate language prepared with the help of the district's attorney to speak to Mr. Steiner's concern. She further noted that the administration would very much like to get this issue worked out in a timely manner so that it can be included in the student handbooks for next year.

Mr. Steiner requested a brief recess in order to review the alternate language. The board went into recess at 7:50 p.m. The board was called by into session at 8:08 p.m. There was some delay in reconnecting with Mr. Higgins and Mr. Tuck.

In order to put language on the floor that is consistent with what the administration is requesting, Mr. Steiner offered an amendment to his original amendment.

MOTION to AMEND the AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

Move to delete the phrase "for purposes of abuse or under circumstances that create a substantial risk or injury or damage to health" from paragraph 3(b) of the original amendment.

Mr. Steiner explained that the advantage that this change has is that it would eliminate the specific language setting a specific standard which would make it easier to enforce. He continued to believe that the only time this behavior should rise to the level of expulsion is when it was done for purposes of abuse or creating substantial risks to health. He did, however, understand that a stronger threat of expulsion as a possibility and eliminating a standard that makes enforcement more difficult has some merit.

Mr. Higgins and Mr. Tuck rejoined the meeting and the amendment to the original amendment was read again for their benefit.

Ms. Kennedy indicated that she could support this amendment as it allows for the fact that there still may be a need to expel a student for distributing something that might seem as innocuous as an over-the-counter medication. She also appreciated that it does not say that harmful intent has to be proven. The message that she hoped that students would hear is that they should not be giving any kind of medication to anybody. This change sends the message that it is not acceptable for anyone to share, sell or distribute any kind of over-the-counter medication and it gives the administration the ability to choose expulsion if that level of discipline is determined to be appropriate.

Mr. Steele voiced his full confidence that this administration would be reasonable in how this is implemented.

Mr. Higgins noted his understanding that the district had a legal opinion that indicated it would be subject to legal liability and risk if the expulsion language was not included. Ms. Comeau clarified that there have been instances in the past when students have given another student something as innocuous as aspirin and the district has been threatened with lawsuits because the student was allergic to aspirin. The administration has worked very hard with nurses and principals to reinforce the fact that it is not acceptable for one student to give any other student any type of medication. She noted that she did not have a legal opinion regarding that although there have been numerous discussions regarding this issue with our attorneys over time.

Ms. Comeau indicated that she is very comfortable with the language that is being offered as a result of this amendment. The district's attorneys feel that this would protect the district if something happened. At the same time, she did not expect that every administration would automatically

recommend an expulsion. This amendment adequately addressed her concerns.

VOTE on the AMENDMENT to the ORIGINAL AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Discussion returned to the original amendment as amended. Ms. Kennedy moved to divide that amended amendment into two questions. The board first addressed the issue of inserting the word "illegal" before the work "drugs" in paragraph a(5). The amended paragraph would read "The district may also refer any use, possession, or sale of illegal drugs or alcohol, or any attempt, to the police."

Ms. Kennedy indicated that there are many prescription medications that are not illegal whose use, possession or sale should be referred to the police. Mr. Steiner explained that the only matters that should be referred to the police are legal matters. Mr. Friedman noted that the use of the word "may" allows for situational judgment. For instance, the school administration should be able to bring the police in when a student possesses oxycodone even though oxycodone is not an illegal drug. Mr. Friedman does not see the need to insert the word "illegal" because it is not a mandatory referral and inserting the word would cause some trouble. Mr. Steiner indicated that, to the extent that adding "illegal" would modify the ability to refer situations that involved substances that are controlled but not flatly illegal, he did not have a concern with voting down the amendment.

Mr. Friedman called for the vote and explained that a yes vote would insert "illegal" into paragraph a(5).

VOTE on Part One of Divided Question:

Ayes: None

Nays: Friedman, Higgins,  
Kennedy, Roberts,  
Steele, Steiner, Tuck

MOTION FAILED

The board moved discussion to the second part of the divided question as amended. Mr. Friedman explained that a yes vote would delete the words

“over-the-counter and” from paragraph a(3), change the section name of paragraph “3” to paragraph “3(a)” and add paragraph “3(b)” to read: “Sale, attempted sale or distribution of over-the-counter drugs may also result in a recommendation to the school board for expulsion.”

Ms. Kennedy voiced her appreciation for the effort made to rework the language in this section such that it is clear that over-the-counter drugs are addressed while not making it a mandatory expulsion.

VOTE on Part Two of Divided Question:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

There was no further discussion on the Main Motion as Amended.

VOTE on MAIN MOTION as AMENDED:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Steiner indicated that one of the goals of taking action at this time rather than sending the revisions back to the Policy Subcommittee was to enable the language to be included in the policy handbook for next year. In order to achieve that goal the board would also have to suspend the rules in order to allow a single reading of this policy revision.

Mr. Friedman indicated that his preference was to go ahead with a second reading at the next meeting just in case someone would like to testify or other changes are identified. He acknowledged that proceeding in that manner may require an addendum to the handbook but would allow this concept to be included without having to postpone printing the handbook. Mr. Steiner clarified his understanding that Mr. Friedman’s suggestion is that the board should authorize the administration to use the language as approved this evening in next year’s handbooks even though it is not official until after second reading.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy  
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

For purpose of discussion it was moved to suspend the rules requiring a second reading on these policy revisions.

Ms. Kennedy agreed that there needed to be a second public opportunity for conversation. She noted that there is nothing in place that would allow the administration to move forward on changes made this evening, such as including them in the new handbooks, unless the board takes some action to provide that permission. She questioned whether that is appropriate and, if so, how that can be accomplished.

Mr. Steele asked for a review of the timeline for having the handbooks printed and how a delay in printing until after the second reading of these policy revisions would impact that process. He suggested that the new wording could be included in a draft version of the handbooks which would not be finalized and sent to print until after the second reading of the recommended revisions. Ms. Egan reported that this is one of the publications that is printed through a third party printer and the deadlines for that process are already in place. She noted that the document will be finalized and sent to the printer prior to the next meeting of the board. Any changes at that point would incur some costs. Mr. Steele indicated his belief that, with a unanimous vote on the amendments, the board could suspend the rules and waive the second reading. Mr. Friedman indicated that the administration had planned to print the current version without these changes. He had encouraged them to present these changes at this time in order to have a better document to hand out to students in the fall.

Ms. Kennedy indicated that the reason that this particular policy was being reviewed was because phrase "over-the-counter" had been inadvertently left out of previous policy. The board should not really be reworking a whole new concept. She hoped that the fine-tuning was done on this policy tonight. At this point she supported suspending the rules knowing that this was a relatively straightforward policy change that was really just a language clarification rather than changing content of the policy.

Mr. Steiner believed that there is relatively little risk that further revision will be needed on second reading but that it is probably not wise to cut off the opportunity for a second reading. His preference is to authorize the

superintendent to order the publication to include the changes approved on first reading rather than approving a suspension of the rules.

Ms. Comeau indicated that she would like for the board to suspend the rules as she felt that having the revisions accurately printed in the handbook was critical. This Student Handbook with the Student Rights and Responsibilities is the most critical document as it guides student discipline. It needs to be fair and consistent. If the board is not comfortable suspending the rules regarding second reading then Ms. Comeau would prefer that the board follow the process and the administration will print the policy as it currently exists and deal with the change after the board takes final action on the revisions. If the policy is approved on second reading, the district will make every effort to communicate the change through a variety of methods but the handbook will not reflect the change this coming year.

Mr. Friedman stated his belief that it was foolish to print something that is known to be wrong. Ms. Comeau encouraged the board to follow the rules if they are not completely comfortable in this case. It is very important that this policy be very clear and accurate. Mr. Steele felt that it was important for the board to go through their process of review and approval of policy revision and allow the administration determine the best way to handle the printing of the handbooks.

Ms. Kennedy noted that this action will have even greater impact on the next item on the agenda which is another policy revision. In her opinion, these two items may warrant a delay in the printing of the handbook until the board completes their process of approval.

Mr. Friedman called for a vote on the motion on the floor which was to waive the second reading of the policy revisions which were passed as amended on first reading. If the board votes yes on waiving the rules then the policy revisions would be considered approved and the administration could proceed with the new language in the handbook. Ms. Kennedy wondered whether this is the only procedure available or if there is another way to do this that would enable the district to act on the fact that these revisions were passed on first reading. Ms. Comeau believed that the only option available in that case would be to use the new language in the handbook with notation that it is pending school board approval on June 23, 2008.

Mr. Steiner noted that, in his view, suspension of the rules is appropriate when the purpose for the rules doesn't really apply. If this were so small

a thing that it could be considered administrative or a technicality then a suspension of the rule would be fine. In this case, however, he is concerned that the board is weighing the urgency of getting this wording into a publication against the public's right to comment. This is particularly important with the next policy revision to be considered this evening. He is not comfortable with suspending this particular rule for this particular purpose.

VOTE:

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

MOTION FAILED

ASD Memorandum # 343 – School Board Policy Revision: Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Behavior/Prohibited Conduct Section: Cell Phones/Electronic Communication Devices (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the policy subcommittee that the school board adopt revisions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document, Student Behavior/Prohibited Acts section on Cell Phones/Electronic Devices.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele	To adopt revisions to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document, Student Behavior/Prohibited Acts section on Cell Phones/Electronic Devices.
Seconded by: Chris Tuck	

Ms. Kennedy indicated that this policy revision came forward from elementary and middle school level principals. The policy would differentiate between the policy as it pertains to high school students and as it pertains to middle and elementary school students.

Mr. Steele noted that the option to get approval for using the cellular phones during the day should it be necessary remains in the policy. He believed that the proposed changes are reasonable given the experience the district has had with the current policy.

Mr. Steiner offered an amendment to the motion which failed due to lack of a second.

Ms. Comeau noted that this came about at the request of principals and executive directors who have had to deal with this issue this year. Should this pass this evening it was her intention to put the language into the handbook with notation that it is pending final board approval as was discussed during the previous policy discussion.

Ms. Kennedy pointed out that this change is in response to the problems being experienced in the middle and elementary schools with cell phone use during the school day. The only thing that this policy was intended to do was to change the fact that middle and elementary school students would not have access to cell phones during lunch.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy  
Seconded by: Tim Steele

Move to re-insert the words "school and" in the fifth paragraph.

Ms. Kennedy felt that the phrase had been inadvertently deleted. Ms. Gardner explained that the intention of deleting that wording was that students were not supposed to be using the cell phones during school at all and eliminating that wording would remove any doubt that they could be used. She did not, however, have any concerns with adding the words back into the policy.

VOTE on AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Discussion returned to the main motion as amended.

Mr. Steiner observed that the change in the last sentence of the first paragraph which indicates that students possessing cell phones and ECDs assume all risk of loss, damage or theft may not be effective. He did not believe that the district can change any liability that it has simply by stating that it has no liability. Making assumption of liability a condition of use does shift liability but just to declare it so doesn't make it so. Mr.

Friedman noted that most students are not old enough to legally make that contractual agreement. While the district may or may not be able to avoid liability, this wording puts the students on notice that there is a risk of loss or damage if they bring the device to school. Ms. Comeau added that this information has been consistently shared through newsletters and signage. That language helps send the message that it is the student's responsibility to take care of their belongings.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

Move to re-insert the original language into the last sentence of the first paragraph such that the sentence would read "As a condition of this permission, the student assumes all risk of loss, damage or theft of the cellular phone or other ECD."

VOTE on the AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Discussion returned to the Original Motion as Amended.

Mr. Steele noted that the board had worked very hard on this policy last year and put in very specific language. He drew attention to the last sentence in the second paragraph which has been recommended for deletion and recalled the conversation regarding how late start and early release students and their use of cell phones in the school during times when others are in class should be addressed. The bottom line was that students should not be allowed to disrupt other student's instructional time. This is just one area that had a lengthy discussion where the resulting decision is being set aside. Ms. Comeau indicated that the intent of this rule was to control usage during the regular school day from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Steele did not believe that the policy as revised is as good as it was originally with the exception of the section addressing the issue with the middle and elementary school students. He indicated that he would prefer the policy be referred back to committee. Ms. Comeau noted that the ramifications of referring it back to committee will be that this will not

be passed until August. She explained that some procedures could and would be put in place administratively but changes will not be included in the new handbooks.

Ms. Comeau asked the board to consider moving forward on approval of the portion of the recommendations which addresses middle and elementary school students. Ms. Gardner clarified that the original language of policy could be retained with the exception of, under conditions of use, the changes regarding hours of use at the different instructional levels be retained.

Following discussion, Mr. Friedman indicated that he would entertain a motion to add to the current policy, with no other changes, the language "Middle School and Elementary (grades K-8): Students are only permitted to use cell phones and other ECDs before and after school." No other changes would be made and the policy would be referred back to the Policy Subcommittee. The concern is that several issues have been raised and that some board members are uncomfortable making all of these changes without further thought.

Ms. Kennedy noted that most of the revisions brought forward were made to eliminate redundancy. The goal was to make the policy as straightforward and simple as possible without putting in exceptions or clarifications that might provide too much room for interpretation.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: Chris Tuck  
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

Move to amend the original motion so that the only change is the addition of the third paragraph reading "Middle School and Elementary (grades K-8): Students are only permitted to use cellular phones and other ECDs before and after school."

Ms. Gardner noted that it would be necessary to also add the identifying language "High School (grades 9-12)" at the beginning of the second paragraph in order to make it clear that the existing language applies to high school and the additional language applies to middle and elementary school. Mr. Steiner raised concern in that the second half of the second paragraph applies to all students. If the phrase "High School" is added it necessitates adding the fourth paragraph. If the phrase is not added then

the paragraph continues to apply to all students and the elementary and middle school language becomes an exception to that general rule.

VOTE on the AMENDMENT to the MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The discussion returned to the Main Motion as Amended which is a revision to the cell phone policy that applies only to middle and elementary school students. All other changes originally recommended will be referred back to the Policy Subcommittee for further review.

Ms. Gardner suggested that, rather than separate out the paragraph addressing middle and elementary school students, that sentence could be inserted into the second paragraph. In light of concerns raised by the instruction team's executive directors she indicated that she would like to see the second paragraph clearly delineate permissions for the high school students and those for the lower grade levels.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: Chris Tuck

Seconded by: Tim Steele

Move to add the phrase "High School (grades 9-12)" to the beginning of the second paragraph and move the language reading "Middle School and Elementary students (grades K-8) are only permitted to use cellular phones and other ECDs before and after school" into that paragraph such that the resulting paragraph will read: "High School students (grades 9-12) are permitted to use cellular phones and other ECDs before and after school and during the student's lunch period. Middle School and Elementary students are only permitted to use cellular phones and other ECDs before and after school. Cellular telephones and other ECDs must remain off and put away at all other times during the school day.

However, a student may not use a cellular telephone or other ECD if disruptive of other students' instructional time."

VOTE on the AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

VOTE on the MAIN MOTION as AMENDED:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 336 - Amendment to Professional Services Agreement for Mears Middle School Site Improvements

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to approve an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with R & M Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$291,792 for the Mears Middle School Site Improvements project's design.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To approve an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with R & M Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$291,792 for the Mears Middle School Site Improvements project's design.

Mr. Steiner had asked earlier today what the relative value of the existing R&M contract was compared to this amendment. He had learned that the existing contract is under \$50,000 and that the district would be adding almost six times that much with this amendment. He felt that action was unusual to do by amendment. He asked about that decision and whether

the procurement process to select R&M for the existing contract used criteria that were equally relevant to this such that that procurement is appropriate for this size of addition. Mr. Amsden indicated that it absolutely was. While it is true that this is a significant amendment to the original contract, it is not at all unique to past practice. The district has often approached projects incrementally. The district works smart and saves money when projects are moved forward based on good information. The much smaller original contract was to do preliminary work in order to discern what the project should look like and how big it would be. Knowing that information, the district is now able to negotiate a fee for complete design.

Mr. Steiner asked Mr. Amsden to address the selection process and its relevance to this effort. Mr. Amsden noted that the district has always anticipated this would be a major project. The criteria and process that was followed was a formal procurement. It is the intent to identify the most qualified design professional to support this kind of project which is heavy in civil and heavy in traffic.

Mr. Steiner indicated that he was satisfied in that this is a professional services contract and not a low bid item. A low bid item it would be an unusual circumstance to have a bid on a very small piece of the project and then add a very large piece. This is not that kind of a situation. He noted that he just wanted to follow through with some of the questions that he had raised earlier and indicated that he was satisfied with the answers.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The board went into recess at 9:50 p.m. and was called back into session at 10:00 p.m.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #315 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of May 12, 2008 through May 22, 2008.

2. ASD Memorandum # 317 - 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.

3. ASD Memorandum #318 - Six Year Instructional Plan Revisions

The primary recommendation from the Phi Delta Kappa curriculum audit conducted in 2002 was for the development of a six-year instructional plan. As a result, all instructionally-related areas completed and interwove respective chapters which focus on the School Board's three major goals and the goals articulated in the No Child Left Behind Act. Presented to the Board in May 2004, the initial Six-Year Instructional Plan strengthened the district's unity and alignment of initiatives. In May of 2005 four additional chapters were added, and in May 2007 the Integrated Assessment chapter was attached. Annual evaluations of the plan occur in the fall. Annual revisions to the chapters occur in the spring. In 2005, it was recommended to extend the plan to 2011-2012 and begin the second edition of the six-year plan in 2006-2007, thereby dropping the first three years. This three-year pattern will be followed in the future as well. This new edition coupled extensions of each plan to any original objectives and initiatives to maintain continuity.

Ms. Comeau asked Dr. Silverstein to provide an overview of the Six-Year Instructional Plan revisions.

Dr. Silverstein provided a brief overview to update the board on what has been going on with the Six-Year Instructional Plan document. She reminded everyone that this document is the fusion of a vision and a compass. She believed that the district has really maintained integrity to that concept for this document. She noted that the evaluations, the revisions and extensions are all tools to manage the interplay between keeping the document current and manage the change that must interface with continuity. These three things that are done with this document are ways to keep the plan stable and yet not stagnant. Another thing that has grown through each iteration of this plan is the

collaboration between all of the people involved and the dedication to maintain themes that run throughout.

Dr. Silverstein indicated that this is a very important document in terms of communication within the district and that, in addition, she has witnessed its growing importance with stakeholders outside the district as well. The document serves as real check and balance between plans, initiatives and goals and the resources that can be accessed to support those things. Through that the district has been able to accomplish some of the goals that were identified through the Council of Greater City School's audit that took place about five years ago.

Dr. Silverstein noted that the Six-Year Instructional Plan has allowed the realization of some really great progressive initiatives such as the standards-based report card and the SEL movement which she is unsure would ever have happened without the structure of the plan. Every step of the way the ideas and processes for these initiatives have been written down, thought through, adapted, evaluated, revised and iterated out through the next three years for this document. The plan is very dynamic and is a statement of what the district is all about. She believed that the plan gets better each time the district goes through one of the review processes and noted that it has really become part of the very fiber of the district.

Mr. Steiner noted that the plan is reviewed and modified for the upcoming year as we go forward but there is no review of the prior year to determine what has been accomplished and what has not. He acknowledged that the board does receive some reports on that information but the report itself does not indicate whether certain things are done. Dr. Silverstein noted that there is a commitment to retain anything in the document that is not completed. If any initiative has not come to fruition it is still in the document. Mr. Steiner indicated that it might be valuable to be able to see within the document an historical record of those things that have been accomplished as well as those things which were determined, for whatever reason, not be worth pursuing and therefore are no longer in the plan. Dr. Silverstein indicated that some type of system could be developed to track that information going forward.

Ms. Kennedy referenced the 1:1 computer pilot at Wendler Middle School and noted that the Middle School Plan indicates that the project is continuing to expand but the Educational Technology Plan seems to

imply that the district is breaking away from the 1:1 Laptop project. She wondered whether the district has decided to break away from the CDL grants and move more independently toward high access devices. Ms. Wegner noted that the district is working very closely with AASB on both the Wendler expansion as well as implementation of the high access devices. Ms. Vandergaw noted that Middle School remained very interested in the grants and what they can continue to do with those resources. Ms. Wegner explained that the district put two proposals in to the CDL project this year. The AASB has indicated their interest in both of the projects and so we are now looking at how that can best be implemented in light of the governor's reduction in funding. Ms. Wegner explained that the two plans are complementary however the Ed Tech plan looks beyond just the middle schools. Ms. Comeau noted that the administration will pull together an update on the Wendler 1:1 project for the board in the fall.

Ms. Kennedy referenced the plans for online coursework and wondered why the plans are being pushed back an additional year. Dr. Silverstein noted that there is a real concern that the online coursework be a quality product and the teachers be trained to deliver this type of instruction. Dr. Jones is working with a cohort of professionals to develop some matrices to determine how effective an online course is. Ms. Wegner noted that the district is supporting that cohort of fourteen people to go through a new UAA eLearning Teacher Certificate Endorsement program to support the district's efforts to provide quality online courses. Dr. Silverstein noted her belief that one of the strengths of this district is that it does not go head-long into a movement. Appropriate time and attention are given to getting things right to the benefit of district students. There should always be a commitment to endorse meets only those program and initiatives that meet the criteria for quality that district students need and deserve.

Ms. Ann Morgester, library curriculum coordinator, noted that one of the main things that she has been focused on since joining the curriculum team is improving communication among the librarians. She also noted that she has initiated a number of different online trainings with the California School Library Association's help as well as that of the Alaska School Library Association. She reported that she has had the opportunity to collaborate with most of the other curriculum coordinators and has found it to be a very supportive and encouraging environment as she brings the library programs into sync with other disciplines.

Ms. Kennedy noted that professional development in social studies and science to middle school teachers is noted as part of the Integrated Assessment Plan for FY 2011-2012 but it was not mentioned as part of the Training and Professional Development Plan. In light of that, she wondered how coordinated these goals are between the various plans. Dr. Silverstein explained that this is a process that is constantly evolving. There are huge amounts of collaboration that have been done since the inception of this document. There is a real effort to constantly communicate in terms of avoiding duplication of effort and resources. She noted that there was a sharing session last year for all of those involved in the Six-Year Instructional Plan and she anticipates having another one next year. A review of the document noted that the coordinated efforts for the section that Ms. Kennedy pointed out can be found in the Science and Social Studies Plans, not necessarily in the Professional Development Plan.

Mr. Friedman voiced his appreciation for all those involved in the Six-Year Instructional Plan for their work on this valuable document. Ms. Comeau noted that this document helps to explain what the district is doing, what the plans are and why resources are needed.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Roberts extended heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Patricia McRae and wished her well in her future endeavors.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS  
LITIGATION

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of June 9, 2008, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:00 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