

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

MEMORANDUM #29 (2008-2009)

August 25, 2008

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END-OF-THE-YEAR REPORT FOR
FY 2007-2008 FAMILY PARTNERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL

ASD Goal: Ensure public accountability through effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

PERTINENT FACTS:

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an annual review of each charter school. To be specific, the policy states:

“The charter school will be subject to review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the Academic Policy Committee will submit a concise written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than September 15 of each school year. This report will include, but is not limited to, information of the attainment of student performance expectations, including copies of the Terra Nova and SBA reports; recommendations for remediation for poor student performance; school goal attainment; trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility; an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures; minutes of the meetings of the governing body of the charter school; descriptions of charter school activities; copies of any leases signed by the charter school; current bylaws of the Academic policy Committee; notification of establishment of 501 (c)(3) status; list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization; any changes in facility location; any major changes planned for the following school year; a list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school years, including officers, and staff members by position; a list of employees and job titles; and other information requested by the School Board.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the school board, through the superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Family Partnership Charter School will be available to present their annual report to the school board. Their report is presented to the as Attachment A. The administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time. Connie Bensler, the charter school supervisor for the Anchorage School District, has worked closely with the administration and Academic Policy Committee of this school. Ms. Bensler attends APC meetings and provides assistance to these groups on working within the confines of the Anchorage School District and Charter School Law, policies and regulations.

Family Partnership did not make AYP this year due to a 92.7% participation rate and math scores that did not meet the threshold for AMO. Even though there was a gargantuan effort on the school's part to get all home-schooled children to attend the testing at several locations, not all chose to participate. The effort for next year will be redoubled. It is a school goal to have the 95% participation rate be part of the routine of testing at their school. Math scores actually improved from the previous year, but since the bar was higher, they were inadequate for meeting the AYP requirement. Tutorials are planned for the 2008-2009 school year as well as teacher inservice trainings. Family Partnership understands the ramifications of not making AYP and will continue to work to meet this goal.

Through the leadership of the principal, Reed Whitmore, the school has been fiscally conservative and successful. A number of changes have been instigated for the end of the 2007-2008 school year and will continue into the following years. The on-line system is constantly being improved, and the sponsor teacher model has been revised so that parents have a clearer picture of what the role of the sponsor teacher is and what this resource provides for home schooling families. All in all, the school is functioning well and is very successful. The challenges of getting students who never meet together to come together at a campus once or twice a year for standardized testing remains one of their biggest challenges. It is also one that they intent to meet and overcome in the 2008-2009 school year.

CC/RG/CB

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Supervisor, Charter Schools

Approved by: Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction