

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2009

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 26, 2009, at 6:31 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, Pat Higgins, Macon Roberts, Tim Steele and John Steiner.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Rhonda Gardner, Ed Graff, Leslie Vandergaw, Mike Henry, Enid Silverstein, Jerry Sjolander, Jane Berglund, Eric Tollefsen, Heather Sawyer, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Jose DelReal, Col. Shutt, Ray Amsden, Marie Laule, Chad Stiteler, Pam Chenier, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Comeau suggested that ASD Memorandum #178, School Board Policy Revision and Additions: Section 100 (Second Reading) and ASD Memorandum #179, School Board Policy Addition: Section 450.3 Age of Majority (Second Reading) be removed from the agenda and referred back to the Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Friedman noted that, with no objections, both of those items would be removed from the agenda.

Mr. Friedman explained that there were two people who were signed up to speak on ASD Memorandum #142, 21st Century Community Learning Center 2007-2008 Year End Report, from the Superintendent's Report. He asked for consent to have those individuals heard during the Persons to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items portion of the agenda. The change was made without objection.

Mr. Friedman reported that ASD Memorandum #190, Award of Contract: e-Rate Communications Services, had also been removed from the agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended by unanimous consent.

C. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum # 194 - Recognition of Charitable Giving Campaign Coordinator Darlene Smith

Ms. Kennedy read that this year's Charitable Giving Campaign reached a new high of \$388,000 in contributions. That's more than double the first goal of \$168,000 Campaign Coordinator Darlene Smith set in 1996. The success of the campaign is largely due to Smith, and the funds raised go a long way to assist service agencies sponsored by United Way of Anchorage and Alaska Community Share.

Darlene began her career with ASD in 1981 as an administrative assistant at Rabbit Creek Elementary School. Since becoming campaign coordinator, Darlene has recruited and worked with hundreds of employees over the years, including the 110 volunteer worksite coordinators she supervises during each campaign.

Darlene said, "I continue to be amazed at their enthusiasm and the fact that they volunteer year after year and enjoy it. They plan luncheons, special events, silent auctions; they kiss pigs and alpacas and do just about anything to raise funds. I am so happy to be their 'cheerleader' and help them build a better future for our community."

The Anchorage School Board officially recognized Darlene Smith for her professionalism and dedication to the spirit of generosity demonstrated by ASD employees during the annual Charitable Giving Campaign.

ASD Memorandum # 202 - Recognition of the Chugiak/Eagle River Parks, Recreation and Community Development Board of Supervisors

Mr. Higgins read that the Alaska Legislature at the 25th Legislative Session appropriated, through SB221, \$1,000,000 for the design and construction of a new artificial turf athletic sport field to be located at Chugiak High School. The Chugiak/Eagle River Parks, Recreation and Community Development Board of Supervisors approved supplementary funding in the amount of \$400,000 to augment the state funding towards completion of this new community asset.

The Anchorage School District and the Municipality of Anchorage through its Chugiak/Eagle River Parks, Recreation and Community Development Board of Supervisors are committed to cooperatively

providing and expanding opportunities for appropriate outdoor sports programs and services for district students, community members and visitors in the Eagle River, Chugiak and Birchwood areas.

The Anchorage School Board recognized the Chugiak/Eagle River Parks, Recreation and Community Development Board of Supervisors and thanked them for their planning, cooperation and support in the development and operation of the artificial turf athletic sport field at Chugiak High School.

Mr. Steiner offered particular appreciation to Mr. John Rodda. He noted that this project probably would not have happened without Mr. Rodda's support and persistence.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Comeau reminded board members and the public that the First Reading of the budget will be at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 29 in the ASD Board Room. She also noted that ASD Memorandum #190, Award of Contract: e-Rate Communication Services had been added to the agenda for that meeting.

Mr. Friedman announced that Anchorage School Board Seat B is now vacant with the resignation of Mr. Chris Tuck. The applicant procedure for filling that seat has started. People have until Friday, February 6 at 5:00 p.m. to submit an application. Application materials are on the district website and available through the superintendent's office. Anyone applying to fill the vacant seat may also choose to run for the seat in the April 7 election. People who wish to run for any of the school board seats being contested in April will need to file with the municipal clerks office during the filing period which runs from January 30 through February 13. Mr. Steiner clarified that the application process is just to fill the seat until the election is certified. The person who is elected to fill Seat B will just serve one year as it is the last year of an existing term after which he or she would have to run for the seat again. Ms. Comeau noted that all applications must be turned in to her office so that they can be forwarded to the municipal clerk's office for verification of eligibility.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal reported that the Student Advisory Board had not met since the last school board meeting.

2. Military Delegate

Col. David Shutt indicated that he had nothing to report at this time.

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

Dr. James noted that it was relatively quiet throughout the holidays but that MECAC has hit the ground running this year. They have already had their first meeting of the year. The MECAC has seated the last two vacant seats so they are now an eleven member committee that is truly representative of the Anchorage School District community.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Anita Evans introduced herself as a parent volunteer at Russian Jack Elementary school whose children attend the 21st Century Community Learning Center at Russian Jack. In addition, she noted that she is the Vice-President of the Advisory Board of the 21st Century Community Learning Center. Ms. Evans shared the many ways in which students benefit from the 21st Century program. Her greatest wish was that the program was available to more families across the district.

Mr. David Alexander introduced himself as the president of the Advisory Commission for the 21st Century Community Learning Center. He noted that there are currently six parents, five community members and two staff members on that board. He noted that there are currently 13 schools involved in the program. Mr. Alexander reviewed the efforts being made to get information about the program out to the community. He also reviewed efforts in the area of fundraising and grant application.

Mr. Steele commented that the 21st Century Community Learning Center is an awesome program. He was pleased to hear of the efforts being made to improve the program's visibility and increase funding opportunities.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Special Meeting - January 12, 2009
2. ASD Memorandum #182 - Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing Thursday, February 16, 2009, as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

3. ASD Memorandum #190 - Award of Contract: e-Rate Communications Services

Discussion and action on this item has been postponed to the ASD Board Work Session scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2009.

4. ASD Memorandum #201 - Professional Services Selection for Girdwood Elementary School Renewal - Planning & Design Services

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of Kumin Associates, Inc. for Planning and Design Services on Girdwood Elementary School renewal project, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with Kumin Associates, Inc. for planning and design services, in an amount not to exceed \$175,000.

5. ASD Memorandum #178 - School Board Policy Revision and Additions: Section 100 (Second Reading)

It is the Policy Subcommittee's recommendation that the school board approve on Second Reading the proposed revisions and additions to School Board Policy Section 100: Board of Education.

6. ASD Memorandum #179 - School Board Policy Addition: Section 450.3 Age of Majority (Second Reading)

It is the Policy Subcommittee's recommendation that the school board approve on Second Reading the proposed addition to Anchorage School Board Policy of Section 450.3, Age of Majority.

7. ASD Memorandum #180 - School Board Policy Revisions: Sections 725.4 - 725.46 Conflict of Interest (Second Reading)

It is the Policy Subcommittee's recommendation that the school board approve on First Reading the proposed revisions to Anchorage School Board Policy sections 725.4-725.46, Conflict of Interest.

8. ASD Memorandum # 187 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steiner requested that ASD Memorandum #180, School Board Policy Revisions: Sections 725.4-725.46 Conflict of Interest (Second Reading), be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memorandum #142, 21st Century Community Learning Center 2007-2008 Year End Report, and ASD Memorandum #172, Monthly Update Student Information System - Zangle, be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for discussion.

Ms Kennedy requested that ASD #182, Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau reported that a typographical error on ASD Memorandum #201, Professional Services Selection for Girdwood Elementary School Renewal, has been corrected and posted to the website. The memorandum had originally stated that the capacity at Girdwood was 220 students when it is actually 169 students. The memo correctly states that the enrollment is at 97 percent of capacity.

ACTION:

Moved by: Macon Roberts
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 12, 2009 and Memoranda #201 and #187.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #182 - Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing Thursday, February 16, 2009, as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve a resolution recognizing Thursday, February 16, 2009, as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day was read into the record by members of the board:

WHEREAS, in 1945, the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska passed House Resolution 14 "to provide for full and equal accommodations, facilities and privileges to all citizens in places of public accommodation within the jurisdiction of the Territory of Alaska;" and

WHEREAS, this was the first anti-discrimination bill introduced and passed in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native Sisterhood (ANS) Grand President Elizabeth Wannamaker Peratrovich faithfully and passionately worked to overcome prejudice and discrimination toward Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, her vision, humanitarian work, and powerful testimony before the Legislature was instrumental in the passage of the anti-discrimination law; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the Alaska State Legislature passed a bill designating February 16 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day in honor of the late ANS Grand President's pursuit to end discrimination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage School Board recognizes February 16, 2009, as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day and encourages residents to recognize the great contributions Elizabeth Peratrovich made to our state and its people.

Ms. Comeau noted the importance of making sure that everyone in this state understands the contributions that Elizabeth Peratrovich made to

Civil Rights. She explained that the Native Education program sends out materials to the schools to assist in educating our students about her. In addition, Channel 14 has a variety of programming during the month of February to honor Ms. Peratrovich.

ASD Memorandum #180 – School Board Policy Revisions: Sections 725.4 – 725.46 Conflict of Interest (Second Reading)

It is the Policy Subcommittee’s recommendation that the school board approve on Second Reading the proposed revisions to Anchorage School Board Policy sections 725.4-725.46, Conflict of Interest.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve on Second Reading the proposed revisions to Anchorage School Board Policy sections 725.4-725.46, Conflict of Interest as attached to Memorandum #180.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To substitute a new 725.41 for the one that has been recommended for deletion as follows: 725.41 Inapplicability to Collective Bargaining Agreements which would read “As used in the Policy 725.4, the word “contract” does not include a collective bargaining agreement.”

Mr. Steiner explained that this was to resolve an issue found in the Conflict of Interest section where it is indicated that a conflict of interest exists when someone bidding on an ASD contract or a member of their family has an interest in another contract with the district. In this case, collective bargaining agreements are contracts but they are not contracts that create conflicts of interest within this clause.

Mr. Steele asked whether any of this been run by the Policy Subcommittee or by the district’s legal counsel. Ms. Comeau noted that it has been reviewed both by the subcommittee and by counsel and that both entities are okay with the proposed language.

VOTE on AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

VOTE on MOTION as AMENDED :

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #186 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of December 4, 2008 through December 19, 2008.

2. ASD Memorandum #142 - 21st Century Community Learning Center 2007-2008 Year End Report

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) 2007-2008 Year-End Report is the report to the School Board and the community on the achievement of the afterschool program. The 21st CCLC programs were held in the following elementary schools: Fairview, Mountain View, Muldoon, North Star, Northwood, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, Taku, Williwaw, Willow Crest, and Wonder Park. The program was not held at Clark Middle School because of construction.

Ms. Comeau introduced Ms. Susan Williams, manager of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. She noted that this is a wonderful program that we wish we could have in every school across the district because we know that young people who have access to programs and academic support in a safe environment outside of the regular school day show improved academic achievement.

Ms. Williams explained that the 21st Century Community Learning Center is very excited about getting their Advisory Board up and running again. The Advisory Board is approaching their responsibilities with a great deal of passion. She noted that they have put in the third application for the renewal of their grants. They will find out in March about those grants. She clarified that there are currently eleven sites. Clark Middle School, which will hopefully reopen next year, will be the twelfth site.

Mr. Steele indicated his belief that our students really need these programs. He encouraged continued optimism and higher goals to see if the program could not grow to meet the additional needs in the community.

Mr. Friedman commented that there is a definite improvement in how the information is being presented that allows clear identification of the benefits of the program.

Mr. Steiner reviewed the current category breakdown in the report and questioned how students who did not need to improve were reported in cases where they did improve or showed a decline. Ms. Williams noted that these results were based on teacher surveys and that she would have to review how that data is compiled. Mr. Steiner suggested that it would be better to report the categories of improved, no change, and no need to change separately. Ms. Williams indicated that she would be happy to provide the information in any way the board would like to see it. She noted that they are working with a different evaluator this year and that she is working with them to try to identify requested data and present it in the most meaningful manner.

Mr. Steele referenced Attachment B of the report and pointed out that the good or excellent rating of 97.3% for the overall operation of the program is higher than the national rating of 91% which is very telling.

Mr. Roberts reported that he has visited several of the program sites and noted how impressed he always is with the commitment of the volunteers, staff and students. He has nothing but admiration for the people who work so diligently to continue to make this program even better for our students.

Mr. Steiner noted that upward progress was not seen at every 21st Century site. He wondered if there was any analysis being done to

determine why some places are seemingly doing better than others. Ms. Williams reflected that there had been a dip in the SBA results across the district this year. The data shows that many of the 21st Century sites showed less of a decline than their school's results. Ms. Williams also noted that the 21st Century program attempts to reach the neediest of the needy students at these schools which presents an even greater challenge. Ms. Comeau noted that the proficiency bar was raised in the last year as well. Ms. Williams indicated that they are also working to figure out a way to evaluate how the K-3 students who are not covered in the SBA comparisons.

3. ASD Memorandum #172 - Monthly Update Student Information System - Zangle

The project timeline indicates that all major benchmarks are on schedule.

Ms. Comeau introduced Ms. Mary McKean and Ms. Jane Berglund. Ms. McKean presented an overview of what can be expected as the district moves into the nitty gritty of the Zangle implementation. She briefly reviewed the process that the district has gone through to get to this point beginning in 2000 when the initial discussion about the need for a new student information system began all the way through to the pending implementation. She also reviewed some of the obstacles that have been worked through during the process.

Ms. McKean recognized the excellent job that has been done by the district to prepare for making this change. She reviewed the building blocks that have been put in place to help insure the success of this implementation. She explained that organization change often includes a period of decline in various aspects of user satisfaction before improvement is seen. She shared several issues that could put downward pressure on the implementation process as well as the things being done to address those anticipated issues as the district works its way through the learning curve. A critical piece to the success of this project is making sure that there is valid data coming out of SMS and going into Zangle. Ms. McKean explained the efforts being made to assure the validity of that data. She noted that efforts have also been made to insulate the schools from as much of the transition process as possible.

Ms. McKean reported that they will be starting from scratch in collecting the contact data and the parent/guardian emergency contact information. This is being done for a multitude of reasons. She anticipated that there will be some negative feedback from the

community as this particular effort goes forward but firmly believed that this strategy is the right strategy to take rather than trying to import the contact data from SMS.

Ms. Comeau noted that the district will be putting forth a lot of effort to communicate with parents through this process, letting them know what we are doing and why. It is extremely important to make sure that the data is clean. There will be grumbling but, in the end, it will be so much better.

Mr. Roberts thanked Ms. McKean for her ongoing reports to keep the board updated on this process. He felt that the system becomes more understandable each time she brings additional information to the board.

Mr. Steiner asked whether there was any way that parents could enter their contact information on-line themselves. Ms. McKean reported that they are not prepared to take the on-line route for parents at this point. That is ultimately something that can happen. Eventually parents will be able to pre-enroll their children. The registrars at the schools will then be able to pull up the information. However, at this point, with the magnitude of this process and the time constraints it is not a viable option.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the parents can use the paperwork necessary to provide contact information to set up their account access. Ms. Berglund explained that all parents will be given access to the system and be given passwords. They will have to show up in person to get that information. This is required in order to verify who they are and to assure that access is given to the right person.

4. ASD Memorandum #185 - Conflict of Interest - Second Quarter Report FY 2008-2009

The attached listing of employee Conflict of Interest Waiver actions is forwarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.44. This information is provided as the second quarter report for the FY 2008-2009 school year.

5. ASD Memorandum #189 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of December 2008

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of December 2008 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

6. ASD Memorandum #200 - Operating Budget Transfers December Monthly Report FY 2008-2009

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of December 2008 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

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

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of December 2008 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

7. ASD Memorandum #181 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: December 31, 2008

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Treasurer's Report and Financial Recap are presented monthly. Both sections include year-to-date information as of December 31, 2008.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Steele reported that the AASB Fly-In is coming up February 7-10 in Juneau. Several board members will be participating in that event and spending time talking to legislators about education issues.

Mr. Friedman reported that there is a joint meeting with the Assembly scheduled for Friday, January 30 on the topic of bonds.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of January 26, 2009 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:50 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approve