

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM # 246 (2008-2009)

March 23, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM RESTORATION COMMITTEE AND STATE OF ALASKA LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION VIA THE ANCHORAGE COMMUNITY FUND FOR THE ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM COUNTERWEIGHT RIGGING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

*ASD GOAL: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning. Ensure public accountability through effective consultation with community to ensure wise use of financial resources and responsible construction and maintenance of facilities and effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a donation from the Anchorage High School Auditorium Restoration Committee (AHSARC) through the Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) in the amount of \$105,000; and also to accept a State of Alaska legislative appropriation through ACF in the amount of \$100,000 for the replacement of the counterweight rigging system in the auditorium at West High School.

PERTINENT FACTS:

In February 2008 the Anchorage High School Auditorium was rededicated after partial completion of a renovation project that provided new seats, carpet, painting, stage floor, curtains, and reproduction and restoration of the original Sydney Laurence painting. The AHSARC raised \$1.1 million of the approximate \$1.4 million cost to fund the first phase of the auditorium restoration. Funds were not available to replace the rigging system at that time and it was determined that the AHSARC would continue to try to raise funds in support of this phase of the project.

In February 2009, a formal inspection by a professional rigging inspector was conducted. The official report has not yet been received; however preliminary findings indicate that the original rigging system which was installed in 1954 has far exceeded its life expectancy. The inspector determined that the entire rigging system should be replaced since there are no reusable components remaining. Currently 13 of the existing 40 line sets have been completely deadened so that they are no longer usable; and an additional 12 line sets are marginal. Therefore, a complete rigging system replacement is needed due to age, wear and safety concerns. To reduce the possibility of accidents, the inspector recommended that all lighting battens be chained down and no longer flown. This means that the flying of all scenery, acoustical ceilings and curtains should be kept to a minimum in order to alleviate stress on the system.

For the next phase of the auditorium restoration project, the AHSARC has continued to raise private, corporate and foundation funds to help fund a replacement rigging system. The AHSARC is now donating \$105,000 from the Anchorage High School Auditorium Restoration Fund, through the Alaska Community Foundation. The State of Alaska FY2008 General Capital Fund also includes a \$100,000 appropriation through ACF for this rigging replacement project. This \$205,000 will allow us to replace the Lock Rail and T-Bar wall; and also to restore only 12 of the required 36 line sets needed in this auditorium.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

Donation by AHSARC through ACF	\$105,000
State of Alaska FY2008 appropriation through ACF	<u>100,000</u>
Total:	<u>\$205,000</u>

CC/GV/LP/TS/BT

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