

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23 2009

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, February 23, 2009, at 6:35 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

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

C. SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Ms. Jeannie Mackie was sworn into office by Judge Tim Burgess. Judge Burgess congratulated Ms. Mackie. Ms. Mackie thanked the School Board for their vote of confidence in selecting her to fill School Board Seat B. She indicated her intent to get up to speed as quickly as she can and promised to do her very best and hardest work for the benefit of the district and the public.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Orion Elementary School Choir, under the direction of Kevin Downie, performed several numbers for the entertainment of the board and others prior to the start of the meeting.

Ms. Comeau introduced the students and teachers involved in the ROSE Urban Rural Exchange program. The students from Quayana and Dearing have been in partnership with Begich Middle School.

ASD Memorandum # 188 - Recognition of 2008 Spirit of Youth Nominees

Mr. Steiner read that Spirit of Youth is dedicated to creating, promoting, and recognizing youth involvement in communities across Alaska. Unlikely commonly recognized events and efforts such as academics or athletics, Spirit of Youth recognition shows appreciation for acts that typically are not formally recognized; acts such as community service, media, science and environmental efforts, cultural activities, and overcoming challenges. This year's nominees included the following students and groups from the Anchorage School District:

SOY Nominees

Brian Arnold - KCC	Brittany Hurn - Dimond
Margot Adams - Frontier	Zaidy Jacobo - East
Caleb Hobbs - South	Alexis Cobb - Dimond
James Crimp - Steller	Katie Scott - Steller
Misty Thomas - Highland Tech	Lye-yeng Wong - South
Cayley Eller - Highland Tech	Brooke Diaz - Chugiak
Rachel Rose-Figura - West	Nara McCray - Dimond
Jon Derman-Harris - West	Jaqueline Yang - Chugiak
Courtney Gerkin - East	David Williams - APU Early Honors
Sophie Wiepking-Brown - West	Emma Wiggins - Family Partnership
Kira Nason - West	Victoria Bledsoe - Chugiak
Daniel Fink - East	Jordon Elliott - West
Solo Malua - Bartlett	Trenton Pride - Dimond
Andy Ivy - Dimond	Taylor Lorenson - East
Sean Farley - Dimond	

AYPF POWER Outreach Workers - Various Schools
Ground Zero Project - West High School
Begich Middle School Broadcast News Team
West High School Mentorship Program
Dimond High School American Cancer Society Club
Mirror Lake Middle School Media Group
Chugiak High School FCCLA
Bartlett High School Freshman Student Government
Service High School Polynesian Club
East High School Dance Contempo
West High School IB Program
East High School Manga/Anime Guild

Eagle River High School National Honor Society
Eagle River High School Key Club
Chugiak High School German Club

The Anchorage School Board commended the 2009 Spirit of Youth Award nominees for their creativity, compassion and dedication to community service.

Presentation of the Prevalence of Overweight Among Anchorage School District Students 1998-2007, Dr. Jay Butler

Ms. Comeau introduced Dr. Jay Butler who provided an overview of the research that the Alaska Division of Public Health has done on the prevalence of overweight and obesity of Anchorage School District students during a ten-year period from 1998 to 2007.

Dr. Butler explained the methodology of the study and reviewed the data. He noted that obesity has become a major health threat to both youth and adults. Excessive weight in children is linked with high blood pressure, high cholesterol and type 2 diabetes. Studies show that overweight kids are at risk of growing up to be overweight adults who face poor health and early deaths from serious, weight-related health problems.

Dr. Butler noted that during the most recent academic year more than a third of Anchorage School District students were above a normal weight defined as a body mass index above the 85th percentile. However, the increasing prevalence of obesity and overweight appears to have plateaued during the past five years. The actions taken by the district seem to be making at least some difference. In a review of what was being done it was noted that just before the plateau began was the first time the first time an obesity prevention and control program was begun in the Division of Public Health in Alaska. Soon after the beginning of that program the first presentation was given to the ASD School Board on the problem of overweight and obesity in the district. The Mayor's Task Force on Obesity was established in 2005. That was followed in 2006 with the prohibition of selling junk food and sodas on school grounds. There was also a move at about the same time to improve the wellness of teachers and school district employees. During the past two years there have been revisions to the elementary schedule allowing for increased health instruction as well as physical education.

In response to a question from Mr. Steele it was noted that about 34 percent of kindergarten and first grade level students begin school overweight or obese. With that information it was felt to be a fair

assessment to note that the leveling off of overweight and obese students in the district can at least in part be attributed to the efforts made by the district. Dr. Butler went on to note that the proportion of adults in Alaska who are obese has actually increased during this period by comparison.

Mr. Steele asked whether there is any correlation between poverty and obesity that might be an indicator that participation fees for athletics could be contributing to the problem of overweight in students. Ms. Comeau noted that there has not been a study of that sort. She did indicate her belief that the waiver policy for students to participate in athletics regardless of their economic status is working. She also pointed out some of the cultural standards and demographics present in our student population and noted that as the district becomes more diverse the role that food plays in many cultural traditions has become apparent. In light of that, it is important to find a way to discuss the issues of overweight and obesity in order to not offend people from different cultures while getting out information about healthy habits and healthy food choices.

Ms. Comeau believed that the policy adopted by the board and the addition of the health teachers and the physical education teachers has had a significant positive impact on student in the district. There is still work to do but when the board approved the wellness policy it sent a strong message to set the district on the right track when it comes to the health of our students.

Mr. Steiner referenced a recently published study which indicated that a combination of exercise programs and nutritional education was found to have some effectiveness in schools. He asked whether the study provided information as to what types of things actually do work that could help guide the district in developing programs. Dr. Butler commented that physical activity really needs to be a lifetime commitment. It is more than just what happens during the school day. Nutrition is the other side of the equation and can present a rather daunting task to address. He referenced tobacco education and the secondary benefit derived as kids learn to be tobacco-free they often influence their parents in a positive way. As our children learn to eat in a healthy manner we may see a trickle-up effect.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several School Board candidates were in attendance and were offered the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Mr. Steele reminded the public that school bonds will be on the April 7 ballot. He also reminded board members that there are presentations at community councils and those types of speaking opportunities related to the bonds coming up in the next several weeks.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal was not able to attend the meeting.

2. Military Delegate

Col. David Shutt introduced Col. Thomas Bergeson, 3rd Wing Commander, Elmendorf AFB. Col. Shutt reported that the Army is about one-third of the way through the deployment of 4000 troopers from the 4th Brigade Airborne Combat Team out of Fort Richardson. That deployment should be completed by the end of the month. He appreciated the ongoing support that the military families receive from the district during these deployment cycles.

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

Dr. James introduced Ms. Donner Brooks, Anchorage NAACP Legal Redress, and Cpt. McClain who will soon be appointed Educational Chair for the Anchorage NAACP.

Dr. James indicated that the MECAC is waiting for feedback on the guidelines so that they can complete work on that effort.

Mr. Friedman reported that he had the pleasure of attending the last MECAC meeting. He noted that the MECAC is a dynamic group and that much could be expected of them in the coming year.

G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Maia Butler, a member of the Aquarian Charter School APC and the parent of a student there, noted that it was her understanding that the board would soon be addressing the issue of rental charges for Aquarian. She reviewed many of the quality aspects of the Aquarian program that will be affected by the rent assessment being considered by the

administration and the board. She invited board members to visit Aquarian to become familiar with the program there.

Ms. Heather Pierre wanted to make board members aware of an alleged assault on her daughter by a teacher. She indicated that her desire is to focus on a solution to the problem. Ms. Comeau explained that she had spoken with Ms. Pierre right after the incident occurred. She has also spoken with the principal involved, Labor Relations and the Director of High Schools. They are all aware of the situation and believe that the principal has handled it appropriately. Ms. Comeau acknowledged that Ms. Pierre is evidently not satisfied and indicated that she would be happy to talk with her again to clarify what Ms. Pierre is requesting. Ms. Pierre indicated that she had requested a meeting at the school which had never been set up. Ms. Comeau noted that she would contact Mr. Henry and the principal tomorrow to follow-up on this situation.

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. Regular Meeting - December 15, 2008
 - b. Regular Meeting - January 12, 2009
 - c. Special Meeting - January 26, 2009

2. ASD Memorandum #216 - Anchorage School District Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan: Analysis and Recommendations Review for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2019

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Anchorage School District Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2019.

3. ASD Memorandum #224 - Approval of New Courses: *Digital Composition and Technical Writing in the 21st Century*

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the superintendent to approve the adoption of the following English elective coursework: Digital Composition and Technical Writing in the 21st Century.

4. ASD Memorandum #225 - Job Order Contracting Trial Results and Recommendation for Job Order Contracting Method

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to develop and implement Job Order Contracting to deliver school district projects.

5. ASD Memorandum #219 - Recommendation for Chester Valley Elementary School Renewal Construction Delivery Method

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to utilize the Best Value Contracting project delivery method for the Chester Valley Elementary School Renewal contingent upon approval of the method by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

6. ASD Memorandum #220 - Recommendation for Service High School Renewal Construction Delivery Method

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to utilize the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) project delivery method for the Service High School Renewal Project, contingent upon approval of the method by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

7. ASD Memorandum #214 - Acceptance of Grant Award: McKinney Education for Homeless Children and Youth

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a McKinney grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for \$55,652 for FY 2008-2009.

8. ASD Memorandum #217 - Acceptance of Grant Award: NCLB Title I School Improvement Funds for FY 2008-2009

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept FY 2008-2009 No Child Left Behind Title I School Improvement 1003(a) and 1003(g) funds as awarded by the State Department of Education and Early Development. This grant award includes 1003(a) funds to 13 Title I schools in the amount of \$172,061 and 1003(g) funds to three Title I schools in the amount of \$150,000.

9. ASD Memorandum #218 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Anchorage Alternative Schools Mini-Grants

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, in the amount of \$67,000, for Anchorage School District alternative schools: SAVE, AVAIL, and the Continuation Program.

10. ASD Memorandum #223 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Title II-D Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$148,534 for the 2008-2009 school year.

11. ASD Memorandum #195 - Award of Contract: Symantec Vault Mailbox Archiving

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to furnish and install Symantec Enterprise vault mailbox archiving to Carahsoft Technology in the amount of \$119,350.

12. ASD Memorandum #199 - Award of Contract: West High School Security Door Hardware Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for West High School - Security Hardware Upgrades Project, to Gramkow Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$175,138.

13. ASD Memorandum #211 - Award of Contract: Award of Contract: Dimond High School Security Door Hardware Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Dimond High School - Security Door Hardware Upgrades Project, to the lowest responsive bidder, Gramkow Construction, Inc. for the Bid amount of \$159,995.

14. ASD Memorandum #215 - Award of Contract: Furnish Promethean System Hardware and Training/Professional Development

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to

Advanced Classroom Technologies, Inc. to furnish Promethean System Hardware and Training/Professional Development in the amount of \$337,936.

15. ASD Memorandum #221 - Award of Contract: Susitna Elementary School Re-Roof & Structural Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Susitna Elementary School Reroof & Structural Upgrades Project to Earhart Roofing Company, Inc. for the Base Bid award amount of \$598,000.

16. ASD Memorandum #222 - Award of Contract: Hanshew Middle School Locker Replacement Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Hanshew Middle School Locker Replacement Project, to the lowest responsive bidder, Watson & Sons General Construction, Inc. for the Bid amount of \$109,474.

17. ASD Memorandum #226 - Sale of Surplus Property

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the listed surplus property by sealed bid sale or public auction in accordance with Board Policy 732.1. Prior to the sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

18. 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 as reflected in Attachment B.

19. ASD Memorandum # 208 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steiner requested that ASD Memorandum #216, The Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan, ASD Memorandum #225, Job Ordering Contracting Trial Results and Recommendation for Job Order Contracting Method, ASD Memorandum #219, Recommendation for Chester Valley

Elementary School Renewal Construction Delivery Method, and ASD Memorandum #215, Award of Contract: Furnish Promethean System Hardware and Training/Professional Development, be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Steele requested that ASD Memorandum #224, Approval of New Courses: Digital Composition and Technical Writing in the 21st Century, be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memorandum #193, Update on 1:1 Projects, be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for a brief presentation.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15, 2008, the Regular Meeting of January 12, 2009 and the Special Meeting of January 26, 2009 and Memoranda #220, #214, #217, #218, #223, #195, #199, #211, #221, #222, #226, #179, and #208.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #216 - Anchorage School District Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan: Analysis and Recommendations Review for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2019

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Anchorage School District Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2019.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve the attached Anchorage School District Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2019 as attached to ASD Memorandum #216.

Mr. Ray Amsden and Ms. Ophelia Dargon-Steed provided a brief overview of the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Amsden reviewed the process used to develop the plan and the extensive public input that goes into the process. He also reviewed the steps taken during the process by the Capital Request Advisory Committee, the Planning and Zoning Committee, and ultimately the School Board before it will be submitted to the Assembly and the State Department of Education.

Ms. Dargon-Steed reviewed the information that drives the projections and the projects in the CIP. She also reviewed a history of student enrollment and briefly explained enrollment projections for the next six years. Mr. Amsden noted that the district has 7.5 million square feet of property. There are 93 schools of which 59 are between 20 and 50 years old and 13 that are over 50 years old. In addition, there are a number of support facilities. There are 34 facilities that are specifically identified in this Ten-Year CIP.

Mr. Steiner noted that he had asked about the facility assessment which Mr. Amsden had indicated had been in last year's CIP and was dropped. Mr. Steiner asked why it was dropped and how the district expects to deal with that. Mr. Amsden indicated that the facility assessment is a very important aspect of what the district does and provides a very comprehensive baseline of what the district has in its facilities and what their needs are. There was a facility assessment component in the CIP last year that was intended only to advance the oldest schools about which the least is known. It was not a complete districtwide facilities assessment. Mr. Amsden explained that available funds really need to be found from current revenues to further the effort to undertake a comprehensive facilities assessment in the next year.

Mr. Steiner explained that he does not perceive the CIP to be a list of bond items but, rather, a list of general capital projects. Where the money comes from for those projects is a completely separate factor. Mr. Steiner asked whether there are other items that would be in the capital project realm and are expected to be funded with other monies that are not

included in this CIP. Mr. Amsden explained that, as a past practice, the first year in the CIP does reflect what is on the bond.

Mr. Friedman related that there is some money in the General Fund every year that goes to capital projects that are not in the CIP. It was his understanding that the CIP reflects only projects that are anticipated to be put out to bond. Mr. Amsden explained that that was not necessarily true. The CIP is intended to be an all-encompassing capital plan. Ms. Comeau explained that the facility assessment was purposely removed because it was felt to be important enough that it needs to be done whether or not the bonds pass. The funds need to be found in the current year's budget. The administration intends to bring a recommendation to the board when the funding source has been identified.

Mr. Steele verified that the figures in the CIP reflect 2009 dollars with a five percent growth rate per year applied. He noted that the bonding philosophy had been to schedule projects with an eye to alternating bigger and smaller bond packages each year. It was his observation that the smaller year's projects seem to be creeping up in size. Mr. Amsden explained that some projects have been advanced and those adjustments have impacted the size of the off-year projects, however the strategy remains one of alternating the size of the projects every other year.

Mr. Steele asked if there was any anticipation that the facility assessment that was discussed earlier will reveal any surprise needs. Mr. Amsden believed that the assessment will, for the most part, validate what the district has. The more detailed information that is available to share, the better people will understand why the work is being done. He noted that between the efforts of the Maintenance Department, the Facilities Department, the administration and the schools there is a fairly good picture of the needs throughout the district.

Mr. Steele pointed out that the Sand Lake Middle School is missing from the CIP and asked if it has moved off of the list. Mr. Amsden verified that Mr. Steele was referring to the Southwest Area Elementary/Middle School and noted that the project could be found in Year Ten. Ms. Comeau noted that this is a good example of how the CIP is adjusted as the demographics change and shift from year to year.

Ms. Kennedy indicated her belief that the facilities assessment is extremely important and she looked forward to having that information available to help prioritize future projects. Ms. Kennedy noted that there was a reference in the memorandum to a Vocational Education Training

Center and asked where that project could be found in the CIP. Ms. Comeau explained that planning for the Vocational Education Training Center is noted in the document as a "Project Having No Assigned Priority" following each of the three different presentations of the project list.

Mr. Steiner noted that whether the district will have a new vocational technology facility or if improvements or changes should be made in the comprehensive high schools is a major topic that the board needs to discuss with the administration. Having not yet had that discussion it is probably most appropriate for that project to remain as it is noted. It is also important that it remain on the radar screen and that the public be aware that the district is looking at that issue.

Mr. Steiner noted that there is a line item in 2010-2011 for Planning, Design and Construction for the Information Technology Facility for which there is no target date for determining a site. Mr. Amsden noted that the intent is currently to focus on a site that the district currently manages. Mr. Steiner remained concerned that if there will be a cost and a process to evaluate different options that would fit the criteria the site will still need to be determined before the facility could be designed and constructed. He continued to be puzzled as to why the site selection is listed as a Project Having No Assigned Priority when it must be done prior to 2010-2011 when the Planning, Design and Construction is scheduled.

Mr. Friedman tried to clarify the issue by explaining that the underlying disagreement may be whether every single capital improvement project goes in the Year One list if it is being done in Year One or if only bonded projects should be on the Year One list.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To add to the 2009-2010 year in the CIP the Information Technology Facility Relocation Site Selection and request an estimated dollar amount to be provided by the administration.

Mr. Friedman wondered whether a dollar amount is necessary given that the project is being done by existing staff. He was not sure that there was anything that states that there has to be a dollar amount for every capital project.

Mr. Steiner noted that all of the projects do have dollar amounts. While the CIP may be informally used to identify projects that will be on the bonds he believed that is an incorrect assumption that should be changed. He also noted that even if existing staff are being used for the project funds will still need to be identified and the estimated dollar amount should be included on the CIP.

Ms. Kennedy indicated that part of the confusion is determining what the CIP actually includes. Is it just a list of the capital improvements that the district wants to pursue or is it strictly those items that the district needs to bond for? It appeared to her that the items in the first year on the CIP are the items that the district intends to bond for but items in outlying years are a priority list of capital needs. The district is directed by Municipal Code to develop the list and Ms. Kennedy asked what the actual intent of the CIP is from that directive. Mr. Vakalis explained that the Municipality lists all of the projects by year and then, at some point, the funding source is determined. Typically the funding source will appear the year that they are dealing with the subject. He noted that there could be a column for this year that lists all of the projects with notation of which are to be bonded for, which have grant funds requested and which will be funded internally.

Mr. Higgins noted that his view of the CIP is that it is a working document that he hoped would remain flexible so as to reflect the highest priorities as time goes on.

Mr. Steiner noted that in every other year except the first year of the plan every project is listed regardless of funding source. It seemed to him that the first year should be consistent and that projects that are expected to be done in the first year should be on the CIP. It would be very useful for the public to be able to see the capital projects that are funded through other means besides bonding.

Mr. Steiner and Mr. Higgins both reflected that it was problematic that several board members reviewed the entire document and did not find the information regarding the Vocational Education Training Center. It concerned them that the district would forward this to the Assembly without highlighting that information. Even if the information is notated correctly the district may want to highlight the fact that the issue is being evaluated which may result in significant changes going forward by highlighting that information somewhere in the text of the document.

Mr. Friedman noted that the district is spending a significant amount of money out of the General Fund in the 2009-2010 budget on capital improvement projects. He believed that those projects should be listed in the CIP.

On the issue of Vocational Education, Mr. Friedman felt that there were several places in the CIP document where a statement could be added that would indicate recognition that Vocational Education is going to become a larger part of the district's efforts and will need capital improvements to support those efforts.

Ms. Comeau noted that major maintenance projects listed in the budget in the General Fund have never been listed on the CIP. That does not mean that those projects can not be added but they have never been included on the CIP before. This information is in the budget and noted in all the budget documents.

Mr. Steiner felt that it would be appropriate to add a line to the CIP indicating an amount for districtwide maintenance projects. If any individual projects rise to the level listed individually in the CIP they, too, should be spelled out. He noted that there is merit to rolling the smaller projects up in one statement and putting them in the CIP document. Ms. Comeau did not disagree with that logic but felt that further discussion was needed to determine the exact direction the board would like the administration to take in the future. She noted that a statement could certainly be added to the text of the document indicating that Vocational and Career & Technical Education are very important topics that the district intends to discuss and any ramifications of those discussions will be put into the CIP when it is appropriate.

Mr. Steele agreed that it might be useful to put a line item in the CIP each year estimating the amount of money from the General Fund that will be expended on major maintenance. He also felt that it was appropriate to have a notation about Vocational Education somewhere in the document.

Mr. Friedman noted that the amendment on the table was to insert the Information Technology Facility Relocation Site Selection process into Year One of the CIP.

VOTE on the AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Kennedy, Friedman,
Steiner, Mackie

Nays: Higgins, Roberts,

Steele

MOTION PASSED

On the issue of Vocational Technology, Mr. Higgins felt that included information regarding the efforts being made in that area and the amount of General Fund dollars being spent in support of that area would be sufficient. Ms. Comeau noted that that information along with information regarding the amount in the General Fund for major maintenance and ongoing preventative maintenance could be included in a transmittal document to accompany the CIP as it is forwarded to the Assembly for approval.

Mr. Kennedy asked for clarification as to what constitutes capital improvement versus maintenance. Mr. Amsden explained that there are actually probably three categories. The categories are maintenance activities, major maintenance activities and major capital projects. He noted that maintenance activities usually fall into the realm of what can be easily and readily done with maintenance personnel. Major maintenance tends to be those items that are done with contracted services. The large capital projects are pretty self-explanatory. The district refers to major maintenance as building system renewals because that is what they really represent. They are projects such as replacement of boilers, heating systems, and electrical systems. Identifying how the work is accomplished is a better way of looking at the distinctions between categories than relying on dollar amounts. For purposes of greater transparency and public accountability, Ms. Kennedy indicated that she would like to see more of the major maintenance projects, as well as the capital projects, in the CIP document. She also felt that designating the funding sources for all of the projects on the document would be beneficial. She looked forward to having a discussion on that issue for purposes of next year's CIP. Mr. Friedman noted that that information is in the budget.

Ms. Comeau indicated that the administration would value having that discussion with board members and that their points are well taken regarding the public discussion. She noted that she is often asked why the district is bonding for all of the projects. The public is not generally aware of how much maintenance is paid for through the General Fund.

Mr. Amsden suggested that the CIP could be reformatted to more clearly designate the Projects Having No Assigned Priority. Mr. Friedman did not believe that there would be any objection to making that section more obvious. Mr. Steele did not want the public to think that the only

expenditures that are being made on Vocational Education are capital projects. The public needs to know that the district is already making major investments in Vocational Education through programmatic items.

Mr. Steiner offered a suggested addition to page 11 of the CIP document under Capital Improvement Recommendations: 2009-10 to 2018-19. The suggested statement would read "The Board and Administration are evaluating needs for 21st Century Education at the High School level and vocational technical education generally. The Board highlights the identification of a possible Vocational Education Training Center as a study item having no assigned priority. Decisions on direction for vocational technical education may alter other priorities in coming years." He felt that that kind of introductory comment would be appropriate to highlight the evaluation that is being done. Mr. Friedman asked whether it would be more appropriate at this stage to put that statement in a cover letter that will accompany the CIP document. Mr. Steiner felt that it was important that the statement not just be a commentary from the administration but rather be statement made by the board. He would like to see it incorporated into what is adopted by the board. Ms. Comeau indicated that the suggested wording does summarize much of the discussion and could be added to the document.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner

Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

That the following language be added to page 11 of the CIP document: The Board and Administration are evaluating needs for 21st Century Education at the High School level and vocational technical education generally. The Board highlights the identification of a possible Vocational Education Training Center as a study item having no assigned priority. Decisions on direction for vocational technical education may alter other priorities in coming years.

Mr. Higgins noted that the amendment was focused on a training center while the district is looking beyond that. He felt that the wording should make reference to the expansion of vocational technology capacity in

order to be more reflective of the actual direction of the district is looking to take.

Mr. Steiner agreed with Mr. Higgins fundamentally but noted that the referenced study item as currently listed in the CIP is for a training center. He explained that the reasoning for the final sentence in the amendment is because the actual direction ultimately recommended may not be a training center. He had no problem with renaming the study item and then referencing whatever name is given to that item.

AMENDMENT to the AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Pat Higgins

To change the term “Vocational Education Training Center” to “Vocational Education Training Facilities” and to make that same change on the study item list in the body of the CIP where it is referenced in several places.

VOTE on the Amendment to the Amendment:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Friedman explained the Motion on the table as the Amendment as it was Amended.

VOTE on the Amendment as Amended:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Friedman clarified that the Main Motion had been amended twice and reviewed the two amendments.

VOTE on Main Motion as Amended:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The board went into recess at 8:57 p.m. and was called back into session at 9:15 p.m.

ASD Memorandum #224 - Approval of New Courses: *Digital Composition and Technical Writing in the 21st Century*

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the superintendent to approve the adoption of the following English elective coursework: *Digital Composition and Technical Writing in the 21st Century*.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele
Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To authorize the superintendent to approve the adoption of the following English elective coursework: *Digital Composition and Technical Writing in the 21st Century*.

Mr. Steele explained that he wanted to highlight the fact that the district is adopting two new courses. These courses can be used very effectively to help develop skills for both work force development and college readiness. He applauded the administration for bringing these courses forward.

Mr. Steiner asked about the development process for these courses and whether there was student input in the process. Ms. Mardell Kiesel explained how the courses were developed. Students did have input as the courses were developed by teachers who were using the components in their classrooms.

Mr. Steiner asked about professional development that would be available for teachers and what assurances were in place that the scope of the curriculum would be covered in the classes. Ms. Kiesel explained the training that will be offered for teachers interested in teaching the courses. The goal is to provide teachers with the background to teach the course with rigor and with the expectations and standards inherent in the course curriculum. The authors of the courses will be providing the training. Mr. Steiner suggested that the training be mandatory. Ms. Kiesel was confident that the administration in each high school will assign course instructors with the needed expertise in mind.

Mr. Steiner asked about the availability of technology for students in these courses. Ms. Kiesel noted that availability of technology had not been an issue as these courses were developed. The courses are not intended to be taught totally in computer labs but will require the resources be available.

Ms. Mackie verified that the courses could be taught at grade levels 11 and 12 at all schools districtwide dependent upon teacher resources, technology resources and student interest.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #225 - Job Order Contracting Trial Results and Recommendation for Job Order Contracting Method

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to develop and implement Job Order Contracting to deliver school district projects.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner

Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To authorize the Superintendent to develop and implement Job Order Contracting to deliver school district projects.

Mr. Steiner noted that he had earlier voiced a concern about whether these projects would have any scope or limitation in dollar amount. He explained that Mr. Amsden had pointed out that Board Policy 725.213 that allows for Job Order Contracting puts a limit of \$250,000 so this would be for projects \$250,000 or less.

Mr. Steiner also asked whether there would be a single Job Order Contractor or multiple Job Order Contractors. It appeared that it could be one or more contractors and he questioned how that decision would be made and, should there be multiple contractors, how jobs would be allocated among them. Mr. Amsden explained that the process that the district expected to go through in determining total numbers will be significantly defined by the input of the Job Order Contracting consultant.

It is expected that they will come to the table with an understanding of what district projects consist of and the magnitude of those projects and ultimately make a recommendation as to how many contractors should be selected. Mr. Price explained the preferred approach of utilizing multiple contractors is to split the work between them knowing that individual contractors may have expertise in certain types of projects or may be better able to respond quickly to a particular need.

Mr. Steiner noted that the smaller jobs often relate to specialty trades. He wondered whether this would eliminate specialty contractors from being able to bid on projects because the projects would have been given to the general contractors. Mr. Amsden briefly explained the process and the role the general contractor plays in the process and the costs associated with the process. The cost multiplier for the general contractor is based on the JOC book not on the subcontractor's actual bid.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the district has had any feedback from the contracting community regarding this contracting method. Mr. Price noted that he has not had any negative conversation.

Mr. Higgins asked what the advantage will be for the district to establish its own JOC list with a limited number of contractors as opposed to continuing to use the Post Office's list which was used during the trial period. Mr. Price added that the Post Office has a total of five contractors, three of which were primarily for bush work and two of which were to support the Anchorage and Fairbanks roadwork area. They went through a very formal competitive proposal process to identify the five firms that they ultimately selected to support their needs in the various areas in the state. Mr. Amsden explained that the district was using the Post Office's process and their contractors at their courtesy. It was never expected that there would be a continued long-term relationship. It was an excellent test and the district is grateful for being able to learn through this exercise. If the district is going to continue it is imperative to identify its own JOCs. In response to another question from Mr. Higgins, Mr. Amsden briefly explained the process of contracting using the JOC method. Mr. Price explained how the coefficient is applied in the proposal process. The coefficient is a competitive cost factor in the RFP process. Mr. Amsden pointed out that if there are multiple contractors on the JOC they will not necessarily all offer the same coefficient.

Mr. Roberts asked whether using this method will promote greater diversity on district job sites. Mr. Amsden believed that this procurement methodology would not hinder equal play, however, an incentive has not

been proposed in this proposal. Mr. Roberts believed that there needs to be a mechanism to get a more diverse workforce when the contracts are let.

Ms. Mackie asked whether the JOC consultant be a new hire. Mr. Amsden explained that there are really two procurements. One is to identify the consultant and the follow-on would be the actual contractors. The consultant procurement would be a competitive announcement based on qualifications.

Ms. Kennedy noted that she was impressed by the time that was saved utilizing this contracting method. She asked whether the study had provided enough information for an estimate of annual savings and, if so, is that amount more than it will cost to hire the consultant. Mr. Amsden indicated that the study clearly shows that there is opportunity for savings both in terms of time and money. The annual amount of savings will be determined somewhat by how much it is used. He noted that it is anticipated that the district will go through a selection process for the JOC consultant and bring a recommendation forward for board approval.

Mr. Steiner clarified with Mr. Amsden that the JOC contractors will not be obligated to go through formal procurement process to hire subcontractors. In addition, there is no reason to think that the JOC contractors selected by the district will be any more open to minority or disadvantaged contractors than actually would be if the district itself were bidding them on a small, individual basis.

Mr. Steiner asked how long a Job Order Contractor would remain on the JOC list before it is opened up again. Mr. Amsden indicated that the maximum would typically be four years when considering extensions.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to utilize the Best Value Contracting project delivery method for the Chester Valley Elementary School Renewal contingent upon approval of the method by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner

Seconded by: Tim Steele

To authorize the Superintendent to utilize the Best Value Contracting project delivery method for the Chester Valley Elementary School Renewal contingent upon approval of the method by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Mr. Steiner had asked earlier was whether there something special about this project that led to it being particularly identified as appropriate for best value contracting. It was noted that this would be the first time the use of this method is being proposed and the process will be evaluated. If it is, in fact, advantageous it may be used quite frequently depending on the size of the project. Mr. Steiner voiced a concern that when this method was approved on policy there was discussion on what the criteria would be for evaluating just what constitutes the best value for the district. In fact there were some heated discussions about certain things that may or may not be considered best value. Part of the discussion at that time was that the board may want to see or review the best value considerations before approval was given. He asked for an explanation of what the criteria will be to determine best value.

Mr. Amsden noted that the criteria would essentially be the same kind of criteria that has been used for the GC/CM process. The criteria looks for contractors who are experienced in this type of work, that have done it successful, that finish work on time, have high quality and the management capability to run a project of this nature. This procurement method will still rely heavily on price. It is a refinement in the bid process to couple price with high quality and high value.

Mr. Steiner noted his concern that the best value considerations not include any sort of litmus test items that only certain kinds of contractors would qualify for. Mr. Steiner was looking for assurance that no policy type determinations were being included in this method; that the best

value is dollar value for good quality construction only. Mr. Amsden assured him that was the case. Mr. Freidman pointed out that the memorandum does list the criteria.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #215 - Award of Contract: Furnish Promethean System Hardware and Training/Professional Development

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Advanced Classroom Technologies, Inc. to furnish Promethean System Hardware and Training/Professional Development in the amount of \$337,936.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Advanced Classroom Technologies, Inc. to furnish Promethean System Hardware and Training/Professional Development in the amount of \$337,936.

Mr. Steiner explained that this is an item in which a specific product has been identified in the contracting process and then different companies that sell that product were solicited. Typically a product specification of only one product is only appropriate if there is only one product that can satisfy the need. This memo indicates that Promethean is one of two interactive whiteboards system approved and in use in the district. When two solutions are available the determination of which will be purchased is typically through a competitive solicitation. The decision regarding which product to purchase is typically not decided in advance in a non-competitively manner and then bids solicited for only that product. He voiced his concern that this process has not complied with the board procurement policy.

Ms. Comeau noted her belief that there are valid, instructional reasons for the choice that was made. Ms. Pam Chenier explained that there are two interactive whiteboards that are district standards. Each of the products function differently in both hardware and software. The schools select which interactive whiteboard works with their instructional needs depending on the curriculum at the school and how it is integrated within the school. The invitation to bid was let because the Promethean product is sold by more than one source. The other interactive whiteboard product, SMART Board, has a different technology and is used in a slightly different manner in the classroom. Promethean was specifically designed for educators so there are thousands more lessons available with that system.

Mr. Steiner was not so much concerned with why the school chose the Promethean product but why the selection was not done through a competitive process and what in policy would allow that. Ms. Chenier explained that the products function differently and board policy allows for exemptions for text books and classroom materials. The Promethean product is basically an instruction curriculum in the way it is used within the classroom. SMART Board can not do what Promethean does. They are used completely differently. Therefore the product falls within a category under Board Policy 725.131 that is given an exemption from competitive choice.

Ms. Gardner added that the Board had expanded the standard to include the Promethean whiteboards in April, 2008. The basic differences between the two interactive whiteboards were outlined in the memorandum at that time. Ms. Gardner also explained that the ability to support the technology and provide training for the technology must also be taken into consideration when approving technology purchases.

Mr. Steiner reviewed the exact wording of Board Policy 725.131 which indicates that the competitive procedures need not be followed in conjunction with the acquisition of a number of personal property and service items including books, films, periodicals and other educational materials. He believed that those were content materials not technology so he remained concerned about the application of that policy to this item. Ms. Gardner explained that Promethean is both technological instructional in that it includes a great deal of content in a huge lesson bank. Mr. Steiner indicated that there is another exemption for proprietary items for which no competition exists. Use of that exemption may be appropriate with the proper finding. It would be good for the memorandum to explain that that finding was made.

Ms. Comeau believed that this is a good example of how important it is to make sure the policy keeps up as technology and instructional materials, equipment and processes are evolving.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #209 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of December 19, 2008 through February 5, 2009.

2. ASD Memorandum #212 - Monthly Update Student Information System - Zangle

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

3. ASD Memorandum #193 - Update on 1:1 Projects

The Anchorage School District is now in its third year of participation in the Consortium for Digital Learning (CDL) project. There are now two distinct ASD projects: the 1:1 initiative at Wendler Middle School, and the *Digital Citizen* project which has now rolled out in several schools throughout the district. The purpose of this memo is to update the board on the status of each project.

The presentation on the Update on 1:1 Projects was postponed to the March 23, 2009 Regular Board Meeting.

4. ASD Memorandum #204 - Second Quarter Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report 2008-2009

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, high schools and charter schools each quarter. The information is

shown in the narrative information below and in Attachments A-F. Suspension/Expulsion information also is reported from the charter schools.

5. ASD Memorandum #184 - Semi-Annual Report of Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$10,000

In accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.132, the semi-annual report for Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$10,000 for the period July 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 is attached.

6. ASD Memorandum #206 - Second Quarter End-of-Month Membership Summary, January 31, 2009

The end-of-month membership report for January 30, 2009 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of January was 48,855. This enrollment represents an increase of 415 students when compared to the September 30, 2008 total of 48,440.

7. ASD Memorandum #210 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of January 2009

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of January 2009 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

8. ASD Memorandum #207 - Operating Budget Transfers January Monthly Report FY 2008-2009

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of January 2009 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 January 2009 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

9. ASD Memorandum #205 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: January 31, 2009

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 January 31, 2009.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Kennedy indicated that there is a Board Work Session scheduled for 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2009.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS LITIGATION

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of February 23, 2009 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:26 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approve