

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #360 (2008-2009)

June 22, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FY 2009-2010 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR ALASKA NATIVE  
CULTURAL CHARTER SCHOOL

*ASD Goal: Ensure public accountability through effective consultation with the 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 Alaska Native Cultural Charter School be allowed to continue operations for the 2009-2010 school year if at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year the school reimburses the District for the final amount the school is in arrears in its operating budget for 2008-2009 school year.

PERTINENT FACTS:

At the March lottery for ANCCS, the names of 185 students were drawn. However, when their building was not ready for occupancy in August, many of the students went elsewhere. During the October count period, the school maintained a minimum of 155 students. Their budget for the year had been established using 180 students. When the Oasis report was released, it was necessary to deduct over \$269,000 from their budget. Alaska Native Cultural Charter School finished their first year of operation with a deficit of \$43,000 for the school year 2008-2009.

The school staff and parent founders made deep cuts across the board to balance the budget. Several originally budgeted positions were not filled. The school used surplus furniture and equipment from the ASD Warehouse in lieu of buying new furniture and equipment. The parents formed a PTSA to provide a non-profit organization to raise money for the school. The PTSA provided a long list of activities, but most did not generate additional funds. Consequently, there was very little left to give to the school financially.

The school has requested the opportunity to remain open for the following school year with the commitment that they will use funding for the 2009-2010 school year to eliminate this deficit, as well as operate in the black during the coming school year. In order to accomplish this, the Academic Policy Committee has committed to recruiting additional students and cutting all non-essential expenses. The PTSA has also pledged its support and fund-raising efforts to make this happen. Business plans and letters have been delivered to a number of organizations around Anchorage asking for financial support of the school. The school is very optimistic that some of these organizations will donate funds or offer grants to the school during the upcoming school year.

At the present time, there are 145 students confirmed to attend ANCCS for the 2009-2010 school year. If ANCCS enrolls additional students and keeps them through the count period, they will have an adequate operating budget to eliminate this year's deficit and function as a school for next year. They have pledged to submit a budget that outlines the cuts necessary to accomplish this. These conditions will be adhered to and monitored by the budget director, the assistant superintendent for instruction, and the charter school supervisor. If there are concerns that the school is not going to meet the requirements of this recommendation, these concerns will be addressed and may result in the closure of the school.

Precedent has been set regarding charter schools having deficits carry over to the next school year. Winterberry Charter School began the school year 2006-2007 with a deficit of \$180,000. It was taken from their operating budget in July. They survived the year and have since thrived as a charter school. The Alaska Native Cultural Charter School would like the same opportunity.

CC/RG/CB

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Charter School Supervisor

Approved by Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction