

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2008

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 27, 2008, at 6:32 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, John Steiner, Tim Steele, and Chris Tuck.

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, Ray Amsden, Marie Laule, Chad Stiteler, Jim Lepley, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

C. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Mirror Lake Jazz Band, under the direction of Travis Harrington, performed several numbers for the entertainment of the board and others prior to the start of the meeting.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Friedman reported that most of the board attended the Council of Great City Schools Annual Convention in Houston last week. He indicated that the highlight of the convention was a forum on the presidential election where Ms. Kennedy was part of the panel. Mr. Roberts noted that several ASD staff members also made presentations to a national audience at that convention. He reported that he had received very good feedback about the quality of those presentations.

Ms. Comeau noted that today marks the beginning of Red Ribbon Week. She presented a ribbon to each board member to wear in honor of this week.

Ms. Comeau noted that *Youth Vote 2008* will be happening at 12:00 noon tomorrow, October 28, at West High School. There will be a congressional debate put on by the Youth Vote group and the League of Women Voters featuring former Representative Ethan Berkowitz and current Representative Don Young. The debate will be televised by Channel 2.

Ms. Comeau reported that the count period ended last Friday, October 24. She explained the process and noted that the official count will determine the funding that the district will receive. The district is still considerably above projected enrollment. The administration will be analyzing this over the next few weeks to determine whether additional staffing adjustments are necessary.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal reported that the Student Advisory Board was able to have their first official meeting with representatives from all of the schools in attendance. Matt Cook from Chugiak High School was elected president. Due to time issues the remaining officers will be elected at their next meeting.

2. Military Delegate

The Military Delegate was unable to attend the meeting.

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

Mr. James LaBelle reported that the MECAC has had a few meetings over the last couple of months. They have paid particular attention to their guidelines and are currently going through the process of redefining some of those guidelines in terms of their mission. They have had many discussions regarding being proactive in their outreach into the community. Mr. LaBelle noted that the committee is currently recruiting for four new members.

Ms. Gardner noted that MECAC recently held elections for their leadership position. Dr. Elsworth James was elected MECAC Chair and Mr. LaBelle was elected MECAC Vice-Chair.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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 - June 23, 2008
 - b. Regular Meeting - August 25, 2008
 - c. Special Meeting - October 13, 2008

2. ASD Memorandum # 95 - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) 2007-2008

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 and authorize the Superintendent to forward this report to the Commissioner of Education, State of Alaska, and the Anchorage Assembly.

3. ASD Memorandum # 97 - Resolution in support of Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board adopt the attached resolution in support of November 2008 being Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month.

4. ASD Memorandum # 111 - Appointment of Controversial Issues Review Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint the following persons to the Controversial Issues Review Committee: Matthew Cook, Student Advisory Board; Beate Zinck, PTA Representative; and Scott Hickox, Secondary Teacher. It is further recommended to reappoint the following persons to the committee: Tanya Carney, Citizen-at-Large; David Dunsmore, Citizen-at-Large; Davina Stallworth, Citizen-at-Large; Jim Curran, Citizen-at-Large; Grace Sy, Citizen-at-Large; Ann Morgester, Coordinator, Library; Damito Owen, Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee; Ghodsie Sabri, Minority Community (ASD staff member); Gina Pastos, Secondary Principal; Brooke Hull, Elementary Principal; Clara Amidon, Elementary Teacher; Mary Jo Iagulli, Middle School Librarian; Sheri Zachary, Elementary Librarian; and Christina Knapp, Student Advisory Board.

5. ASD Memorandum # 103 - Award of Contract: Chugiak High School - Security Hardware Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Chugiak High School - Security Hardware Upgrades Project, to Gramkow Construction, Inc. for the Bid amount of \$166,064.

6. ASD Memorandum # 104 - Award of Contract: East High School - Security Hardware Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for East High School - Security Hardware Upgrades Project, to the low and only bidder, Gramkow Construction, Inc. for the Bid amount of \$161,701.

7. ASD Memorandum # 107 - Award of Contract: East High School - Security Hardware Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to World Wide Technology, Inc. to purchase Miscellaneous Cisco Systems Hardware and Software in the amount of \$170,873.90.

8. ASD Memorandum # 90 Personnel Report

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

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner

Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of June 23, 2008 and August 25, 2008 and the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 13, 2008 and Memoranda #111, #103, #104, and #90.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner, Friedman,
Kennedy, Tuck,
Steele, Marks, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Steele noted that three new members of the Controversial Issues Review Committee were approved on the Consent Agenda. He welcomed Mr. Matt Cook, Ms. Beate Zinck, and Mr. Scott Hickox to the committee and thanked them for their willingness to serve.

ASD Memorandum #95 - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)
Fiscal Year 2007-2008

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 and authorize the Superintendent to forward this report to the Commissioner of Education, State of Alaska, and the Anchorage Assembly.

ACTION:

Moved by: Macon Roberts
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 and authorize the Superintendent to forward this report to the Commissioner of Education, State of Alaska, and the Anchorage Assembly.

Mr. Roberts noted that the Audit Subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Tuck, had discussed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in detail. The Auditors presented a thorough report to that subcommittee.

Mr. Steele noted that the auditors had indicated that the CAFR met all of the criteria for the report and had acknowledged the efforts of the staff. He added his appreciation for the excellent work that the staff put into preparing the CAFR.

Mr. Steiner reported that the Council of Great City Schools presents an award to the school district that has the best financial accountability program and reports nationally. Anchorage was one of the three schools considered for that award this year. There were at most only three schools in the entire country that met all of the indicating criteria proposed by the CGCS for optimal or best practices in financial accountability. He was pleased that the Anchorage School District was one of those districts. He noted that the district has Ms. Stokesbary, Ms. Laule, Mr. Stiteler and their staff to thank for doing a very fine job creating the transparency in our financial reporting that the public desires and deserves.

Ms. Comeau reported that Ms. Stokesbary, Ms. Laule, and Mr. Stiteler will be going to the CGCS's Chief Financial Officer's conference in November. They will be on a panel discussing some of the processes that we use in our budget and financial reporting.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner, Friedman,
Kennedy, Tuck,
Steele, Marks, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #97 - Resolution in Support of Alaska Native/
American Indian Heritage Month

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board adopt the attached resolution in support of November 2008 being Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month.

ACTION:

Moved by: Macon Roberts
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To adopt the attached resolution in support of November 2008 being Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month.

The resolution was read into the record by members of the board:

WHEREAS, celebrating the Alaska Native and American Indian cultures and "Sharing the Spirit" of their traditions and contributions benefits Anchorage School District students, their families and employees; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Alaska Native and American Indian Month is to educate and inform others of the diverse Alaska Native and American Indian groups, their ways of life and historical importance to our society; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Anchorage School District to support cultural awareness, education and on-going initiatives to increase cultural understanding in our community; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, volunteers have planned annual activities to commemorate the month of November as Alaska Native and American Indian Month;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage School Board hereby proclaims November 2008 as Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month in the Anchorage School District, and urges all students, employees and families to join in the festivities.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner, Friedman,
Kennedy, Tuck,
Steele, Marks, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #107 - Award of Contract: Furnishing Miscellaneous Cisco Systems Hardware & Software

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to World Wide Technology, Inc. to purchase Miscellaneous Cisco Systems Hardware and Software in the amount of \$170,873.90.

ACTION:

Moved by: Pat Higgins
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to World Wide Technology, Inc. to purchase Miscellaneous Cisco Systems Hardware and Software in the amount of \$170,873.90.

Mr. Higgins indicated that he had pulled this memorandum as it appeared that there was an invitation for separate bids and then was consolidated for the award. He asked for clarification on that process. Ms. Chenier explained that there was one invitation to bid which consisted of three projects.

Mr. Steiner noted his understanding that this was for a specific product specification which was based on the fact that the district had already made a determination and focused on that product as a district standard.

Ms. Chenier explained that Cisco Routing Systems is the district standard. Mr. Steiner wondered if that had been determined through a formal process. Ms. Chenier noted that many years ago when the district started with Cisco it was the only option available so over the course of time they have become the district standard. Mr. Wes Bell added that this is an ongoing expansion of current infrastructure. Mr. Steiner believed that technically there should probably be something in the process that indicates the reason that a specific product is specified and that under district policy that is an appropriate part of the process. Ms. Chenier noted that that could be added in the future.

Mr. Friedman requested a brief review of the three projects included in this award. He noted his understanding of the monitoring system for intrusion prevention but asked for additional information on the other two projects. Mr. Bell explained that the wireless management solution is software that manages and maintains the access points for the districtwide wireless network. Regarding the third item Mr. Bell explained that there is currently a concentrator at the IT Center that has been a single point of failure for the IT network and the district infrastructure for quite some time. This item allows for a failover unit which will protect the district from what could be lengthy down time should anything happen to that concentrator.

Mr. Steele clarified that the wireless management system allows for expansion but does not provide for expansion. Mr. Bell indicated that this does allow for future growth and, once those access points are purchased, the management and incorporation of those into the network. This system will accommodate a thousand access points.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner, Friedman,
Kennedy, Tuck,
Steele, Marks, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The board went into a brief recess at 7:07 p.m. and was called back in session at 7:15 p.m.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #91 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of September 26, 2008 through October 15, 2008.

2. ASD Memorandum # 96 – Profile of Performance

The *Profile of Performance* is the Anchorage School District (ASD) report to the school board and the community on the academic achievement of Anchorage students and schools. The report is divided into two parts. Each part is described briefly below:

Part I provides an overview of the district and the success of the district in meeting the school board goals for the 2007-2008 school year. It also provides a summary of performance across the entire district on a variety of indicators used in the identification and analysis of achievement gaps among the student groups designated by the federal No Child Left Behind Act and related Alaska state regulations.

Part II of the report provides summary profiles for each of the ASD schools. Part II includes information on the attainment of school goals, staff and student demographics, and student academic achievement at the school level.

The Assessment Team, led by Ms. Laurel Vorachek, presented a detailed overview of the Profile of Performance. Ms. Vorachek reviewed the data reporting points including the Fall OASIS, the Participation File, the NCLB Summer Data Collection, the Report Card Data Submission and the SMS Year-End report. Ms. Vorachek noted that there were a few issues this year that require caution when interpreting the comparisons from last year to this year. She highlighted the re-identification of race/ethnicity which occurred at the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year. These are the student groups that are used for comparison. Many of the changes in the data can be attributed at least partially to this re-identification. Ms. Vorachek also cautioned against comparing the performance of the Limited English Proficient students to the previous' years results. The exit criteria changed drastically in the Spring of 2007. She explained the changes and how they have impacted the data.

The Assessment Team reviewed the ASD Mission and Goals for 2007-2008 and summarized the indicator data for each of the goals. Ms.

Vorachek reviewed how the board goals were set up and emphasized the importance of looking at the indicators within the context of the board goals.

Following the overview of the Profile of Performance, the board went into a brief recess at 8:49 p.m. The meeting was called back into session at 9:00 p.m.

During discussion several members of the board requested additional information on a number of specific areas of the Profile.

Ms. Kennedy asked whether the trends that were reported take into account the increasing Annual Measurable Objectives. It was explained that the increasing AMO does not impact the trends which show only the percent proficient. The cut score for proficient stays the same. The AMO for the percent that needs to reach that cut score is what continues to increase.

Mr. Higgins referenced the statistics reported on dropout rates and wondered how much of the improvement is due to better tracking mechanisms. Ms. Vorachek explained that most districts had no mechanisms in place to track and monitor all of the various items that were required when the accountability requirements were first established. Every year the systems get better. As the district gets better at coding the reasons students drop out some of the improvement in the actual rate can be contributed to the more accurate coding. Some of the improvement is the result of the work that is happening in our schools. It would be virtually impossible to sort out exactly how much of the improvement should be attribute to the various contributing factors. She did note that there is certainly a greater level of confidence in the reported data as better reporting systems have been put in place.

Mr. Friedman asked about the category of students who are reported as dropped out because they didn't attend school. He wondered about the reason behind the lack of attendance and whether the students are dropping out as a result of not having attended or if the district is removing them from the roles because they have not attended without knowing the reason why. Ms. Gardner noted that this is an issue that has been discussed at some length. There is a strong desire to do an extensive dropout study in order to find those students and determine the real reasons behind their dropping out. Ms. Comeau indicated that one of the responsibilities of the graduation coaches is to ascertain how

to connect with those students to determine the reasons for dropping out.

Mr. Henry explained that many dropouts don't fit themselves into an easily defined category. He reviewed many of the comments made by students who have chosen to dropout. He noted that he is very interested in undertaking an extensive study to determine the real reasons behind the decision students make to drop out.

Mr. Steiner suggested that the data reporting chart be modified to show which results were statistically significant. Ms. Vorachek noted that running a statistical significance test on every one of these results would take a great deal of time and work. Mr. Steiner noted that even a notation clarifying that the gains and losses reported on the chart are not necessarily statistically significant would be helpful.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the district tracks the percentage of students who are new to the district. Ms. Vorachek noted that the transient rate is reported both at the district level and at each individual school. Mr. Steiner felt that the rate of students who are brand new to the district might explain some of the results. Ms. Vorachek felt that collecting and analyzing that data would be a challenge with the current student management system but could be discussed within the context of the new Zangle system. She pointed out the difficulty and challenges with coding student enrollment.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the change in the ethnicity categories changes the ability to use Safe Harbor for AYP performance. Ms. Vorachek explained that the numbers in the different categories for the previous year are still being used. While the validity of the numbers may be skewed, the numbers are still being used to determine Safe Harbor.

Mr. Steiner pointed out the results for individual students may well be reflected in the results in a number of categories. For instance, one student would be associated with one particular ethnic category, be economically disadvantaged, have a disability and have limited English proficiency. That student's data would be reflected in all of those categories. He wondered whether the data could be analyzed in such a way as to tease out which identifying characteristics are the most impactful. Ms. Vorachek noted that a regression analysis could be run on the data but emphasized that the time and energy it would take to do so would be excessive. Ms. Comeau noted that the best

analysis of the variety of factors that can and do impact student achievement is done at each school with principals and teachers looking at individual students.

Ms. Comeau encouraged board members to really review the information in this report regarding individual schools before they go to visit the schools. She believed that it would really help promote a productive conversation with the principal and staff. She also noted that district staff is more than willing to field any additional questions that may come up on further review of the Profile of Performance.

3. ASD Memorandum #98 – Student Membership Projections for September 30, 2009

The attached document presents the fall forecast for the September 30, 2009 Anchorage School District student membership. Table I compares the projections, by program, with the actual totals for September 30, 2008.

4. ASD Memorandum #88 – Conflict of Interest Report – First Quarter FY 2008-2009

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

5. ASD Memorandum #89 – Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of September 2008

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

6. ASD Memorandum #110 – One Percent for Art – Selection of Artwork for Dimond High School and Clark Middle School Renewal

This memorandum is to inform the Anchorage School Board that an additional piece of artwork has been selected for Dimond High School, and new artwork selections have been made for Clark Middle School for commission and acquisition in accordance with AMC 7.40, Funds for Works of Art in Public Facilities.

7. ASD Memorandum #94 - Out-of-District Travel - first Quarter Report FY 2008-2009

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the first quarter of FY 2008-2009 for both in-state and out-of-state travel.

8. ASD Memorandum #93 - Operating Budget Transfers July-September Monthly Report 2008-2009

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of July, August and September 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 months of July, August and September 2008 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

9. ASD Memorandum #92 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: September 30, 2008

The attached report consists of three parts: the Graphic Overview, the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Graphic Overview is presented on a quarterly basis and the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis. The report as a whole includes year-to-date information as of September 30, 2008.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Friedman reminded board members of the joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission which is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, 2008 in the ASD Board Room.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of October 27, 2008, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:05 p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approve