

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 4, 2009

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, May 4, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, John Steiner, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, John Steiner Presiding

Board Members Present: John Steiner, Jeff Friedman, Crystal Kennedy, Pat Higgins, Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett and Tim Steele

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, Mike Price, Marie Laule, Chad Stiteler, Pam Chenier, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Friedman reported that there was an addendum to the Personnel Report. In addition, presentation of ASD Memorandum #320, Approval of Best Value Contractor for Chester Valley Elementary School Renewal Project, was postponed. The presentation on the Graduation Support Coordinators was also postponed.

The agenda was approved as amended by unanimous consent.

C. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Bayshore/Government Hill Elementary Schools combined choirs, under the direction of Debbie Wakefield and Linda Zimmermann, performed several numbers for the entertainment of the board and others prior to the start of the meeting.

ASD Memorandum # 310 - Recognition of Theresa Tanoury-Lombardo and Casey Family Programs

Ms. Kennedy read that nearly 1,000 children and youth reside in foster care in our Anchorage community. More than half of these children and youth are enrolled in the Anchorage School District.

Theresa Tanoury-Lombardo has been instrumental in improving the lives of children in foster care in our school district. As the Alaska representative for Casey Family Programs, Theresa has developed and facilitated several programs that have had positive impact on ASD students. In 2006, Theresa and Casey Family Programs organized the first of several summits on Education and Foster Care. These summits led to the formation of the Education and Foster Care Work Group with participants representing the Anchorage School District, Office of Children's Services, the Alaska Court System as well as alumni of the foster care system. The work group has shared their findings throughout the state with meetings in Kotzebue, Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau and Barrow.

In 2008, Theresa and Casey Family Programs trained ASD staff to implement "Endless Dreams," a video and curriculum to educate teachers about foster care. Since 2005, Theresa and Casey Family Programs have sponsored Facing Foster Care in Alaska, a group of current foster youth and alumni that has formed to make improvements to the foster care system in Alaska. Currently, Theresa is facilitating collaboration between ASD, OCS and UAA in developing a tutorial program to meet the unique needs of children and youth in foster care.

Theresa's 25 years of experience in child welfare and child mental health includes five years as director of the Department of Family and Youth Services, now known as OCS.

The Anchorage School Board officially recognized Theresa Tanoury-Lombardo for her leadership and outstanding contributions to children and youth in the Anchorage School District.

ASD Memorandum # 312 - Recognition of Alaska School Psychologist Association Lifetime Achievement Award Winners, Joan Bohmann, Chris Tower Zafren, and Larry Micheal

Ms. Mackie read that the Anchorage School District was pleased to announce that the Alaska School Psychologist Association has given a Lifetime Achievement award to Joan Bohmann, Ph.D., NCSP, Chris Tower Zafren, NCSP, and Larry Michael, NCSP.

All three have worked at a number of ASD schools over the years, and helped create an excellent model for the district and for all school psychologists who have come to the district since.

Michael is a former winner of the National Association of School Psychologists School Psychologist of the Year award, and Bohmann was a runner-up for the same prestigious honor. Zafren developed the protocol for Attention Deficit for the Anchorage School District that is still in use today.

The Anchorage School Board officially recognized Joan Bohmann, Chris Tower Zafren, and Larry Michael for their exemplary service to the children within the Anchorage School District, as well as to the state and national organizations of school psychologists.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Steele announced that high school graduations will be starting in the next week. He offered his congratulations to each of the graduating students.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal reported that a new Student Advisory Board representative will be elected at their meeting which is scheduled for May 5, 2009.

Ms. Comeau noted that Jose had done a terrific job during his tenure as SAB Representative, representing his fellow students very well. She indicated that she had been very impressed with the manner in which he ran the SAB meetings and followed up on student issues. Ms. Comeau presented a gold pan to Jose in appreciation of his service to the school board and to his fellow students.

Mr. Steele noted that he had been able to travel with Jose on legislative trips. He expressed that Jose had done a great job of interacting with legislators and representing the district and the interests of district students.

Mr. Friedman indicated that it had been a pleasure serving with Jose and hearing him advocate for students in such a responsible way.

Mr. Jose DelReal voiced his appreciation to each of the board members. He recognized that he had been given an amazing opportunity and that his experience on the SAB over the past few years had really helped him to form a plan for his future. Jose reported that he will be attending Harvard University, majoring in Political Science and fully expected to be back in Anchorage in the future.

2. Military Delegate

Col. David Shutt noted that AT&T will be providing live video feed of the graduation ceremonies again this year for the families and friends of district graduates who are not able to attend the ceremonies. Col. Shutt voiced his appreciation to both AT&T and to the district for their support in providing that service.

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

The MECAC representative was not able to attend the meeting.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Dale Miller, the business representative with Teamsters Local 959, referenced the presentation at the last meeting which covered issues affecting student nutrition, not only in Alaska, but around the country. He recalled the institution of the Healthy Choice policy in the district. The policy was put into place to help combat obesity in the schools, which is general a good thing. Mr. Miller noted that, in the last school year, the district has had to supplement the Student Nutrition budget with General Fund monies. He believed that action was necessary, in part, to the Healthy Choice policy and the enforcement of that policy. There are still school groups that sell the types of items that students would rather eat when given the opportunity which reduces some of the revenue previously realized by Student Nutrition. Mr. Miller requested that the policy be equally enforced within the schools.

Ms. Theresa Harwell, cafeteria manager at West High School, requested more support in the equal enforcement of the Healthy Choice policy with all groups. She reported that she routinely witnesses school groups, such as clubs and athletic teams, selling items throughout the day in the school which are in direct conflict with the policy standards. This is sending a mixed message to the students. Ms. Harwell noted that the policy has

really impacted the cafeteria revenue. She felt that the policy was a good policy but that there was a real need for support throughout the school in order for the policy to have a positive impact.

Ms. Mandy Bachand, the cafeteria manager at Bartlett High School, testified to the routine selling of food items by student groups at her location that are not in compliance with the policy. She noted her belief that the students would chose the healthy options available through the cafeteria if other items were not available, particularly during the lunch hour.

Ms. Comeau stated that the policy is very clear that food items that do not comply with the Healthy Choice policy are not to be sold during the school day or within thirty minutes after the end of the school day. She assured the speakers that the administration would follow up on this matter. She indicated that the intention was not to police items that the students bring to school for personal consumption but the policy does prohibit the sale of those types of items during the school day.

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 - April 27, 2009
2. ASD Memorandum #329 - Resolution in Support of Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2009

The administration recommends the Anchorage School Board adopt the attached resolution supporting Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2009.
3. ASD Memorandum #319 - Adoption of New Math Textbooks and Materials for Algebra I, Algebra A, Algebra B, and Geometry

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the following math textbooks and materials for Algebra 1, Algebra A, Algebra B, and Geometry. Algebra I. Ron Larson et al. McDougal Littell, Division of Houghton Mifflin Company. 2007, and Geometry. Ron Larson et al. McDougal Littell, Division of Houghton Mifflin Company. 2007.

4. ASD Memorandum #333 - Approval of Capital Project Recommendations in Lieu of Bond Failures

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the use of Capital Projects Funds Interest Earnings and redirection of bond funds in a total amount of \$10,670,000 for priority projects identified in this memorandum.

5. ASD Memorandum #308 - Acceptance of Grant Award: 21st Century Alaska Community Learning Centers

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$550,000 for the 21st Century Alaska Community Learning Centers. The funds will continue after-school programs in Muldoon, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, and Wonder Park elementary schools.

6. ASD Memorandum #330 - Acceptance of Grant Award: National Writing Project Satellite Site

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the National Writing Project in the amount of \$12,500 to provide high-quality, professional development programs for K -12 educators in the area of writing instruction.

7. ASD Memorandum #335 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Safe Routes to School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a reimbursable grant from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in the amount of \$65,295.

8. ASD Memorandum #309 - 2009-2010 Hazardous Transportation Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through H for the 2009-2010 school year.

9. ASD Memorandum #311 - Award of Contract and Reallocation of Funds: West High School Auditorium Stage Rigging Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, and authorize the Superintendent to award, a contract for the West High School Auditorium Stage Rigging Replacement Project to the lowest bidder, Secoa, Inc., for the Base Bid amount of \$268,000 and Additive Alternate Number One in the amount of \$32,905, for a total award of \$300,905. The administration further recommends that the school board approve a reallocation of \$120,000 from the capital projects fund balance in support of this project.

10. ASD Memorandum #313 - Award of Contract: Alpenglow Elementary School Fire Alarm & Intercom Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, and authorize the Superintendent to award, a contract for the Alpenglow Elementary School Fire Alarm and Intercom Upgrade, to the lowest responsive bidder, Northstar Electric Company, for the Base Bid amount of \$163,990.

11. ASD Memorandum #315 - Award of Contract: King Career Center & Benny Benson School - Energy Conservation Measures

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the King Career Center and Benny Benson School Energy Conservation Measures to the lowest responsive bidder, Northstar Electric Company for the Base Bid amount of \$325,420, Alternate #1 in the amount of \$8,800, Alternate #2 in the amount of \$2,530, Alternate #3 in the amount of \$22,200, Alternate #4 in the amount of \$53,600, Alternate #5 in the amount of \$5,860, and Alternate #6 in the amount of \$16,800 for a total contract award amount of \$435,210.

12. ASD Memorandum #316 - Award of Contract: Turnagain Elementary School Fire Protection Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Turnagain Elementary School Fire Protection Upgrade, to the lowest responsive bidder, Watson and Sons General Construction, Inc., for the Base Bid amount of \$634,884.

13. ASD Memorandum #317 - Award of Contract: Rabbit Creek Elementary School Fire Protection Upgrade

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

the Rabbit Creek Elementary School Fire Protection Upgrade, to the lowest responsive bidder, Goertz Construction, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$439,610.

14. ASD Memorandum #320 - Approval of Best Value General Contractor for Chester Valley Elementary School Renewal Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, and authorize the Superintendent to award, a contract for the Chester Valley Elementary School Renewal, to Watterson Construction Co. for the Base Bid amount of \$11,722,000, Alternate #1A for \$275,000, Alternate #2 for \$23,000, Alternate #3 for \$58,000, Alternate #4 for \$39,000 and Allowance Assignment for \$369,450, for a total award amount of \$12,486,450.

15. ASD Memorandum #334 - Award of Contract: Bayshore, Bear Valley and O'Malley Elementary Schools Energy Conservation Measures

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, and authorize the Superintendent to award, a contract for the Bayshore, Bear Valley and O'Malley Elementary Schools Energy Conservation Measures, to the lowest responsive bidder, Marshall's Electric, Inc., for the Base Bid amount of \$259,400 and additive alternates #1 through #9 in the amount of \$116,883 for a total contract award of \$376,283 as itemized in Attachment B.

16. ASD Memorandum #340 - Award of Contract: Radio Communication Enhancements at Chugiak, Eagle River, Service, East, West, and Dimond High Schools and Mirror Lake Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Chugiak, Eagle River, Service, East, West and Dimond High Schools, and Mirror Lake Middle School Radio Communication Enhancement project to Motorola Inc. in the amount of \$531,974.00.

17. ASD Memorandum #331 - School Board Policy Revision: Appendix B - Charter School Contract (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Policy Committee that the School Board Approve on first Reading revisions to the Charter School Contract (Attachment A), which is Appendix B of Board Policy.

18. ASD Memorandum # 307 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Higgins requested that ASD Memorandum #319, Adoption of New Math Textbooks and Materials for Algebra I, Algebra A, Algebra B, and Geometry; ASD Memorandum #333, Approval of Capital Project Recommendations in Lieu of Bond Failures; ASD Memorandum # 340, Award of Contract: Radio Communication Enhancements at Chugiak, Eagle River, Service, East, West, and Dimond High Schools and Mirror Lake Middle School; and ASD Memorandum #331 School Board Policy Revision: Appendix B - Charter School Contract (First Reading), be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memorandum #300, Federal Stimulus Funds Update and ASD Memorandum #339, Update on Career Technology Classes in Anchorage School District Middle Schools and High Schools, be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for presentations.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 27, 2009 and Memoranda #329, #308, #330, #335, #309, #311, #313, #315, #316, #317, #334, and #307 with addendum.

VOTE

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy,
Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele,
John Steiner

Nays: None

MOTION PASSES

The Resolution in Support of Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2009 was read into the record:

WHEREAS, nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the school day; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the district's school meals and nutrition department are committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to the district's children; and

WHEREAS, the 285 men and women who prepare and serve school meals help nurture our children through their daily interaction and support; and

WHEREAS, children depend upon school lunches for one-third to one-half of their daily nutritional intake; and

WHEREAS, school nutrition employees must balance many roles and follow numerous federal, state and local regulations to ensure safe and healthy meals are available in schools; and

WHEREAS, that the week of May 4-8, 2009 is National Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage School Board designates May 4-8, 2009, as Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week and urges all people of Anchorage to show their appreciation of these employees for their contribution to the health and well-being of the district's students.

ASD Memorandum #319 - Adoption of New Math Textbooks and Materials for Algebra I, Algebra A, Algebra B, and Geometry

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the following math textbooks and materials for Algebra 1, Algebra A, Algebra B, and Geometry: Algebra I. Ron Larson et al. McDougal Littell, Division of Houghton Mifflin Company. 2007. Geometry. Ron Larson et al. McDougal Littell, Division of Houghton Mifflin Company. 2007.

ACTION:

Moved by: Pat Higgins
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman

To adopt the following math textbooks and materials for Algebra 1, Algebra A, Algebra B, and Geometry. Algebra I. Ron Larson et al. McDougal Littell, Division of Houghton Mifflin Company. 2007. Geometry. Ron Larson et al. McDougal Littell,

Division of Houghton Mifflin
Company. 2007.

Mr. Higgins voiced his appreciation for the presentation of the materials. He particularly appreciated the inclusion of dissenting views that had come to light during the decision-making process. Having information regarding both the pros and cons to the action provides a more complete picture on which the board would be able to base their action. He felt that, from a discussion standpoint, the format used for this recommendation was very good.

Ms. Comeau noted that the staff does their best to provide all of the information requested by board members. All attempts are made to provide the information in a manner that helps board members to see the full picture and then allows for the discussion and debate. Ms. Comeau noted that this particular recommendation comes as the result of a huge effort by the curriculum staff. Ms. Comeau believed that one of the key elements in this selection is the professional development of the materials and how the district will be able to make sure teachers that teach English language learners and students with disabilities are appropriately trained in the best teaching strategies for this curriculum.

Dr. Silverstein reported that the Curriculum department has been collaborating with ELL and Indian Education departments. All of the staff of those departments, as well as Special Education staff, are included in the professional development training for this curriculum. This is an example of the way that the district integrates all professional development.

Mr. Steele noted that he really appreciated that way that the district goes about making selections like this. Dr. Silverstein explained that these selections are all viewed through the filter of the rubric whose design was a huge teacher collaborative effort within the Anchorage School District. Dr. Silverstein indicated that no one book or program will meet the needs of every student but this process helps determine what augmentation the curriculum will require.

Ms. Kennedy noted that she appreciated the collaboration between middle and high schools and the effort to align the curriculum across those grade levels. She was also very impressed by the materials themselves and the amount of resources available with the curriculum. She wondered how the district would be purchasing the materials based on the availability of

getting the entire text on CD. Ms. Schoff reported that the district will be purchasing a book for every student and the company will also be giving the district a CD for each student. She did not believe that the district was ready to say that each student would be working from the CD as not all students have access to computers. The time may come when the majority of students prefer the CD and, at that point, the district could go to a classroom set of textbooks with copies available for checkout. Ms. Gardner explained that this is a process that the district is moving through toward greater and greater use of technology.

Ms. Kennedy understood that the district would be purchasing the Algebra I materials but not the Geometry materials. Ms. Gardner explained that funds have not been allocated for the Geometry materials at this point. The reason that the board is being asked to adopt the Geometry materials regardless of funding for the purchase is because replacement books for the current text are no longer available. Once the materials have been adopted schools can choose to use their discretionary dollars for class set replacements.

VOTE

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy,
Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele,
John Steiner

Nays: None

MOTION PASSES

ASD Memorandum #333 – Approval of Capital Project Recommendations
in Lieu of Bond Failures

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the use of Capital Projects Funds Interest Earnings and redirection of bond funds in a total amount of \$10,670,000 for priority projects identified in this memorandum.

ACTION:

Moved by: Pat Higgins
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To approve and authorize the use of Capital Projects Funds Interest Earnings and redirection of bond funds in a total amount of \$10,670,000 for priority projects identified in this memorandum.

Ms. Comeau noted that after the bonds failed the administration's commitment was to go through the projects with the intention of looking at critical code issues, life and operational safety issues, any failing building system projects and school programmatic deficiencies. The key point now is that the administration has identified these priority projects need to be completed no later than December 2010 to prevent negative impacts on the programs and to use the interest earnings on the completed projects balances in a timely manner. The administration has worked extensively with bond counsel and with the municipality to develop the recommendations before the board at this time.

Ms. Comeau explained that the fire sprinkler system at Aquarian Charter School is on the list for the purpose of informing the board where the funds could be found for that project. However, the administration is very aware of the board's discussion at the last meeting regarding the Aquarian facility and a final decision has not been made as to whether that renovation will actually continue. A recommendation regarding that facility will be coming forward at the end of the month but it was felt that the funds should be identified at this time as the project is a critical one and there are funds available if the board ultimately agrees that the district needs to accomplish the fire sprinkler system project.

Mr. Higgins referenced the Intercom/Bell/Clock Upgrades at both Ravenwood and Turnagain elementary schools. Both projects specify a replacement system by brand name. He wondered why the district is identifying a specific system rather than simply specifying that the system will be replaced. Mr. Amsden believed that the reason that description was provided was simply for the basis on design. There are competitive products available which would be viable provided they were equal or better. Mr. Higgins clarified that this authorization was not approval for the specific product. Mr. Amsden indicated that what is provided is the basis from which to proceed with the design. The end product could well be a different product.

Mr. Higgins thought that the wording might need to be changed and wondered what authorization the board is giving through this action and how that interpretation would be applied. Ms. Comeau explained that the administration is asking the board to approve the projects listed on pages two and three of the memorandum, along with the supporting documents. The administration is asking for the authorization to design the project.

Mr. Friedman clarified his understanding from Mr. Amsden's response to the inquiry was that, not only might the product change, but that it will change based on an RFP that will go out and lots of different products could be responsive to that RFP. With that understanding, Mr. Friedman indicated that he was happy with the detail on the memorandum.

Mr. Steiner felt that it was clear that the memorandum was referencing a new system comparable to the Dukane Star system and that Dukane Star was only listed for point of reference as to design.

Mr. Higgins voiced his concern with the Service High School project. He wondered whether the project should move forward at this time before there was an opportunity to talk about priorities for the project.

Mr. Steiner noted that there is also a grant proposal out to put in a simulator facility, perhaps at that same school, and he wondered how that related to the design. Ms. Comeau noted that that grant had been applied for but there was no indication at this time as to whether the district will actually receive the funds.

Mr. Vakalis explained that the district had applied for three different possibilities under the grant. It is doubtful that the district will get all three. The simulator was one of the items that was submitted based on conversations that the board has had regarding trying to enhance the career technical facilities and/or programs. There is an alternative design that is being considered for Service High School that does show the possibility of a second gymnasium in a different location. So if the grant came across it would give the district the ability to go into the little gym to address career technical options. It appeared that this project could accomplish two things. It could correct the deficiency in the size of the gymnasium so that it is more feasible to use for the school program and also provide a great location for a career technology facility.

Mr. Steiner wondered if this was approved this evening and the funds were allocated to proceed with the schematic design before a decision is made regarding the career tech facility whether the district have to back-track or if the design could be developed separate and apart while the career tech part was still under consideration. Mr. Vakalis explained that the district has to address the roof problem right away otherwise the facility will continue to deteriorate.

Ms. Comeau clarified that the roof repair on the auxiliary gym and the auxiliary gym renewal are the highest priority for Service High School.

The schematic design of the addition and renovation at Service is the last priority on the list. She indicated that that piece could be removed from the list if the board was not comfortable advancing it at this time but that the roof repair and gym renewal were absolutely critical.

In relation to the schematic design question Mr. Steele wondered whether proceeding would cause work to move forward on a design that it is already known will change. He wanted some reassurance that there was value in moving forward on a schematic design for a project that likely would not see fruition for at least a few years.

Mr. Amsden noted that the district's position is the same as the last time the subject came before the board in recommending the board approve funding to further the design. The only reservation Mr. Amsden expressed is that if the board is no longer committed to the Service High School project as a top priority then more money should probably not be invested in it. Given that Service High School continued to be the top priority it was felt that this expenditure would put the district in a better position and provide a better understanding of the scope of the project. He felt that now was the time to move forward. Mr. Steele wondered whether this would reflect the new thinking on the design. Mr. Amsden indicated that it absolutely would.

Mr. Higgins indicated that he was absolutely committed to seeing something done at Service High School. His concern was the timing of this action as opposed to other options. He was not sure that this needs to be at the highest priority until other proposals related to the design have been considered. For that reason he preferred to see the project delayed.

Mr. Steiner referenced the Service High School Auxiliary Gym Renewal project and wondered whether that would involve renewing the facility as a gym such that if the grant was received and the use of the facility subsequently redirected the funds would not be useful. Mr. Amsden explained that the money for this project was posted to do two things. First and foremost the roof is a critical issue that needs to be resolved. There is also a project on the list that would restore the facility to its prior configuration and form. Ms. Comeau added that receiving the grant would not negate what needs to be done to this facility.

Mr. Friedman returned to the discussion of the schematic design project at Service and wondered whether there were other options in terms of construction projects that this money could be used for to enhance vocational and career training in other schools. Ms. Stokesbary explained

that the funds could legally be used on another project even though the original monies were part of a bond to the Service project.

Ms. Comeau noted that the decision has to be made whether Service High School is still the district's number one priority. She believed that it would be hard to explain to the public, after having a bond on the ballot to address the issues at Service and with major work to design and complete remaining there, that this money will be redirected. She did not want to lose sight of the fact that the funds indicated were originally part of the Service High School bond.

Mr. Friedman noted that this is money with some time constraints in that it needs to be spent by December. He believed that both the roof and the auxiliary gym renewal really needed to move forward. He also believed that the district should move forward on the schematic design as well. There may be a logical argument for waiting a couple of months before putting the project out to bid until the board has the opportunity to provide further direction but the design is absolutely necessary before any construction can begin. Mr. Higgins noted that the board has not yet made a decision in regards to altering or expanding career technology options at that facility which should be the first step.

Mr. Steiner reviewed that the district has a concept design for Service and would, with the project being discussed, be moving on to a schematic design. There was now some reconsideration regarding making an adjustment to the concept design which raised the question about the appropriateness of moving forward with a schematic. He felt that there were some things on the concept design that would not change and that perhaps the schematic design could begin with those items, leaving the areas that might change to later in the process. That would get the project underway without making any foregone conclusions.

Ms. Plunkett referenced the Aquarian Charter School project and asked for an explanation on the difference between a Level 2 and a Level 3 renovation. Mr. Price explained that the project referred to Level 2 and Level 3 alterations in the International Building Code. The code limits the types of improvements, major repairs and alterations that can be done to a facility without have a fully functional fire suppression system.

Ms. Kennedy wondered whether every dollar represented on this recommendation had to be used by December 2010. Ms. Stokesbary explained that funds from bonds sold prior to the end of 2006, along with the interest earnings related to those bonds, have to be expended by

December 2010. All of the monies in this recommendation are in that category.

Ms. Kennedy asked about the Eagle River High School Water and Sewer Utility Extension project. It was her understanding that AWWU had reduced the estimated cost of that project. Mr. Amsden noted that the estimate cost of that project had been reduced by a little over \$1 million. The amount on the recommendation is the refined estimate.

Ms. Kennedy believed that it was wonderful that the district had been able to come up with approximately \$10 million in interest earnings and bond balance amounts to address these priority projects. She noted that several projects on the recommendation had been on the ballot. She commented that, to a certain extent, she found it somewhat disingenuous to ask the taxpayers to approve bonded indebtedness for projects that the district can find the funding for if necessary. While she was glad that the funding was able to be identified, she believed that this is one of the reasons that the public has a difficult time approving bonds.

Ms. Stokesbary explained that the ability to use the interest earnings as outlined has to do with changes in definition and instruction parameters that the district has gotten from bond counsel. The municipality has changed bond counsel. Prior instruction was that the district would have to finish the projects that were on the original bond proposition before any of the associated interest earnings could be used for any other purpose. It was not until mid-March that the district was informed that the IRS arbitrage rules indicate that bond proceeds include the proceeds from the sale of the bond as well as any premiums received and any interest earnings. Arbitrage rules indicate that all bond proceeds must be used within three years. Mr. Steiner clarified that the information that the district was free to and actually needed to expend these funds was not known until after the decision to bond for some of these projects had been made.

Ms. Kennedy appreciated the explanation but reiterated that it was still easy to understand how the situation looks to the public. When the district attempts to pass bonds in the future it will certainly take a concerted effort to explain all this to the public. Ms. Comeau agreed that everyone would need to work hard to explain the truth about how this came about.

Ms. Kennedy referenced the monies designated for the fire sprinkler system for Aquarian Charter School. She noted, up front, that none of this

conversation has anything to do with their programs. The issue is about their facility. She noted that if the board approves the funds for this project at this time and then a decision is made not to put any more money into the facility then another project would have to be identified and another recommendation approved to expend those funds. She wondered if it would be better to remove the project from the recommendation at this time and address it separately after a decision is made regarding the future of the Aquarian facility.

Ms. Comeau noted that the district is in the process of studying the facility. The administration intended to have a recommendation regarding the facility by the next meeting of the board. Ms. Comeau was comfortable with having the Aquarian project pulled from the recommendation and addressed separately contingent upon the discussion at the next meeting. At some point the board will need to wrestle with the whole idea of how much to invest in the building. Mr. Price reported that the Building Department had concurred that the district can proceed with the work on the restrooms at Aquarian without having the sprinkler system in place. They had agreed that it is a student safety and sanitation issue and were willing to designate the work as a Level 1 alteration and allow the district to proceed.

In light of that information, Ms. Comeau recommended separating the Aquarian project out and addressing the issue at the next meeting as part of the larger discussion regarding what should be done with the Aquarian facility. She further explained that the rent issue has to be resolved by the end of this month. The bigger discussion will involve determine whether to keep the facility and continue to maintain it or to surplus the building at some time to be determined. She noted that she did not know what the administration's recommendation will be until the study is complete.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
Seconded by: Kathleen Plunkett

To add to the last sentence of the original motion the words "except for project priority #6, Aquarian Charter School Sprinkler System. The administration will propose a use for the remaining \$1,165,000 at a future meeting."

Mr. Friedman noted that it was not his intent to preclude the administration from coming forward with a recommendation for the

sprinkler system if that is appropriate after the facility assessment results are known.

VOTE on AMENDMENT

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy,
Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele,
John Steiner

Nays: None

MOTION PASSES

VOTE on MOTION as AMENDED

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy,
Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele,
John Steiner

Nays: None

MOTION PASSES

The meeting went into recess at 8:17 p.m. and was called back to order at 8:24 p.m.

ASD Memorandum # 340 – Award of Contract: Radio Communication Enhancements at Chugiak, Eagle River, Service, East, West and Dimond High Schools and Mirror Lake Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Chugiak, Eagle River, Service, East, West and Dimond High Schools, and Mirror Lake Middle School Radio Communication Enhancement project to Motorola Inc. in the amount of \$531,974.

ACTION:

Moved by:

Seconded by:

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Chugiak, Eagle River, Service, East, West and Dimond High Schools, and Mirror Lake Middle School Radio Communication Enhancement project to Motorola Inc. in the

amount of \$531,974.

Mr. Higgins voiced his concern that Motorola had been identified by name and not through an open, competitive bid process. He indicated the explanation he had received in response to his questions was that Board Policy authorizes an exemption from formal competitive procurement procedures when the goods or services are available from local vendors on municipal, state or federal GSA contracts. He noted that he had originally had difficulty understanding some of the GSA contract issues but that there had since been an explanation in Audit Committee that defined it in a relatively straight forward manner. Mr. Higgins did not believe that this was the manner that this particular provision was intended to be used. The issue is going to Motorola just because it is on the GSA account. He was trying to understand how the contract is applying this particular provision.

Ms. Chenier explained that there is a provision in board policy to use state, municipal and federal contracts. Policy 725.131.e allows for using the Municipality of Anchorage contract for this action as the terms and conditions are all the same. The district used this very same exemption when the administration originally came to the board in January 2008 requesting the initial pilot of this. In addition, Board Policy 725.131.b also provides an exemption for proprietary sole source items for which no competition exists.

Mr. Steiner asked whether the municipal contract had been competitively bid contract. Ms. Chenier explained that it was originally competitively bid by the Department of Defense and the State of Alaska. That was for the Alaska Land Mobile Radio System. She further explained the process taken by the municipality to procure their equipment. Essentially the terms and conditions have come down from the Department of Defense, the state, the municipality and now the district is using their contract. Ms. Chenier added that the district had issued an RFP for these same services before getting to Motorola. The design was never completed on that project.

Mr. Higgins asked how the amount of this particular contract was derived. Mr. Amsden explained that the contractor has done testing in the facilities and subsequently used their findings to develop a design solution which then became the basis of the cost. That cost includes the

testing already undertaken, the design, anticipated equipment, and installation.

Mr. Higgins indicated that his issue was not whether Motorola was the right company to award this contract. His intention was also not to argue whether the recommendation could be justified as a sole source contract. His concern was with the interpretation of 725.131.e and its application. He felt that applying that exemption in this case the policy could be extrapolated to allow bypassing the competitive process for any contractor on the municipal, state, or federal contractor lists. Ms. Chenier noted that, just because a company is on those contractor lists does not allow the district carte blanche to contract with them. This contract involves a direct comparison. Motorola has installed an AWARD system for the municipality and an ALMAR system for the federal government. This is the same service that they would be providing to the district. The policy does not give the latitude to just reach out to any contractor that is on any list. This is the specific contract that they were awarded by the municipality and the specific contract that they were awarded by the federal system as well as the state. Mr. Amsden explained that the anticipation of these concerns was the reason that the administration had originally brought the issue forward well over a year ago. He was surprised that there would be an issue or concern today since the process was thoroughly explained from the very beginning.

Mr. Friedman noted that the policy, as written, is very broad and could probably be abused. The board's role is to ask these questions and review how the policy is being applied. He believed that the policy is being used appropriately in this case because the contract is very closely tied to the municipality contract.

Mr. Steiner explained his belief that policy 725.131.e allows the district to use federal, state, and municipal vendors or contractors only in circumstances when the exact product or service is being sought by the district. If the municipality has a scope of service that is already priced and the district is getting the same product under that same scope of service and at a comparable price then he believed that was an appropriate use of that clause in the policy. His concern was with the generic wording in the memorandum. He noted that, based on the discussion this evening, he believed that the application of 725.131.e was appropriate in this case but that there was not enough information spelled out in the memorandum itself to draw that conclusion.

Ms. Kennedy pointed out that the memorandum referenced seven schools but that there were only six schools listed under the funding source. Mr. Amsden indicated that Chugiak High School is part of the 1064 account which is within the Maintenance Fund Source.

VOTE

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy,
Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele,
John Steiner

Nays: None

MOTION PASSES

ASD Memorandum # 331- School Board Policy Revision: Appendix B - Charter School Contract (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, on First Reading, revisions to the Charter School Contract (Attachment A), which is Appendix B of Board Policy.

ACTION:

Moved by: Pat Higgins
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To approve, on First Reading, revisions to the Charter School Contract (Attachment A), which is Appendix B of Board Policy.

Mr. Higgins noted that he had pulled this item because he believed that he may have a conflict of interest. He felt that there could be some conflict as his employer had been looking at this issue in regards to the education of students in hospital residential treatment centers. They had approached Mr. Higgins with some questions that created an appearance that, from his standpoint, could be a conflict of interest.

MOTION:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

That Mr. Higgins has a conflict of interest.

Mr. Friedman explained his belief that a conflict of interest was more than just personal financial issues. It was also situations where an individual can be in an awkward position between making a legitimate vote on the school board and making decisions with regard to their employer. There are times when it is essential that school board members vote and there

are times when it is less essential. Mr. Friedman believed that it was the wiser course in this situation to rule that there is a conflict and excuse Mr. Higgins from participation.

With no objection, Mr. Higgins was excused from participation on this item by unanimous consent.

Mr. Friedman indicated that Mr. Steiner had provided a number of suggested changes to the contract. Most of the suggestions are efforts to improve the language. He noted that he could either make the motions to amend at this time but the suggestions could be taken back to Policy committee to review between First and Second Reading. As chairman of the Policy Committee Mr. Friedman noted that he would prefer to pass this recommendation on First Reading and allow the committee to address the suggested changes before Second Reading.

As the author of the proposed amendments, Mr. Steiner indicated that he was comfortable with allowing the Policy Committee to work through the suggested changes and bring them back as a recommendation, if the committee so agreed.

VOTE

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Crystal Kennedy, Jeannie Mackie,
Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele, John Steiner

Nays: None

Abstain: Pat Higgins

MOTION PASSES

H. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Friedman reported that the Policy Committee had met. They are currently looking at Student Records policies in response to recent changes in the Federal Education Records Protection Act; updating and clarifying what is kept in the annual and permanent records, who has access to those records, and what is included in directory information that can usually be released to the public. The committee is also looking at the policy language on media releases for requests to photograph and interview students. The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 7.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #300 – Federal Stimulus Funds Update

Ms. Comeau indicated that the administration had received the news last week that the governor acknowledged that she would accept the education stimulus funding. Ms. Comeau reviewed the timeframe in which funding is anticipated. Based on this year's allocation it was estimated that the district is eligible for roughly \$60 million over a two-year period of time including funds designated to Title I, Title 2D, Special Education and the Preschool Disabled program, as well as the State Stabilization funds. Ms. Comeau reported that the district was also eligible to receive some impact aid for construction but the amount was not known.

Ms. Comeau emphasized that it was of utmost importance to remember that this is two-year money only. The administration will be signing an affidavit stating that they will not be going back to the legislature asking for these funds to be replaced after that time frame. This is truly an opportunity to invest in substantial school improvement efforts to increase student achievement, to do quality professional development, to purchase items that would enhance the instructional program, and to address technology and infrastructure needs. The goal will be to determine how this funding can be used that can make a major difference in the district's instructional program.

Ms. Comeau noted that she supports adding pre-school to some of the district's Title 1 schools. She acknowledged that that would result in ongoing costs but firmly believed that two years of quality pre-school would provide significant data on the impact that program has on students which would, in turn, allow for informed decisions on how to make the best use of Title 1 funds in the future.

Ms. Comeau hoped to hear from board members about their thoughts on all of this to assist the administration in developing recommendations for board approval. Once next year's allocations are known the district will have to go back to the assembly to raise the upper limit of the budget. These funds would be under the Local/State/Federal Grant Fund. These funds will not impact taxes but they will affect the upper limit.

Mr. Steiner recalled that he had provided some suggestion at the last meeting as to how to look at this information in order to determine the best application of this funding. He reviewed several questions that he had suggested should be kept in mind during this discussion and

encouraged the board to think conceptually rather than get bogged down in details about specific programs.

Mr. Steele noted that the governor had put forth a proposal to pilot a number of pre-kindergarten education classes. He wondered whether the state's share of support would continue if the district determines to use stimulus money for this purpose. Ms. Comeau reported that the governor had put enough into her budget for pilot programs around the state for 500 students. The legislature modified her proposal somewhat. She noted that ASD was in the process of applying to be one of the pilot sites. She suspected that the district has a good chance of being selected to be one of the sites. Ms. Comeau noted that the district's initiative would be using Title 1 and stimulus money which is separate from the governor's plan which uses state funding subject to annual appropriation by the legislature.

Ms. Mackie asked how the list of possible uses for the stimulus funding was developed. Ms. Gardner explained that there were a variety of sources including the Draft K-12 Graduation Plan that had been developed at the board's direction, the program enhancement list that had been prepared as part of the budget process and the Six-Year Instructional Plan. She noted that the initiatives on this list are not prioritized. In response to an additional question from Ms. Mackie Ms. Gardner explained how the cost for the initiatives would be developed.

Ms. Kennedy noted that the initiative list is very professional development intensive. She indicated that she is very supportive of moving in that direction. She referenced the Council of Great City School's list of initial ideas for the best use for these funds. She was surprised with the suggestion of using funds to incentivize teaching assignments at low performing schools in light of the two-year limitation on this funding. Ms. Comeau explained that that particular idea was based on the success that Secretary Duncan had had doing something similar in Chicago. The idea was to try it for a while and then, based on the success during the trial period, negotiate with the teacher's union.

Ms. Comeau noted that part of this effort is to generate new ideas and try new things with the anticipation that the outcome of the efforts will have to be evaluated after the two year period and a determination made as to the best way to proceed. The results of the evaluations will

have an impact on budgetary decisions regarding what programs and methodologies will be supported going forward from there.

Mr. Steiner voiced his support for revisiting the use of cultural liaisons to conduct home visits. Ms. Comeau noted that that program is not specifically listed but is certainly well within the use of the two-year stimulus money. She explained that it would also have to be negotiated with the teachers and the principals. Those are the kinds of things that schools could take on as part of an initiative. That type of program would need to be tied to a school improvement or school outreach plan rather than being mandated by the board or administration. Mr. Graff added that professional development is an extremely important aspect of any home visit program. Mr. Steiner noted that there seemed to be significant community interest in this type of program and he would, therefore, like it to be added into the mix as a consideration as various possibilities are being weighed.

Ms. Kennedy voiced her support for expanding ASD Tube so that trainings could be expanded and recorded.

Mr. Steele noted that there were some items on the list that were relatively small investments that could make a big difference. He believed that there were a number of hardware and IT items that are appropriate expenditures. Mr. Steele hoped that the district would use these funds to invest in things that will provide an opportunity for savings over time and will set itself up to move forward on efforts toward 21st century education. However the funds are designated it is important that there are measurable objectives and that there is reliable data to provided the necessary assessment.

Mr. Friedman identified this as a great opportunity for long-term capacity building. He anticipated that the results of what was done with this money of the next two years will become evident in the next five to ten years. In light of that he believed that professional development should be a big part of that effort. Mr. Friedman felt less inclined to use the funds for equipment purchases as equipment would need to be replaced over time. He did, however, feel that some of the funds would need to be used for infrastructure.

Mr. Friedman addressed using the funding for new programs by noting he would support using the stimulus funds to cover the startup costs for programs that were felt to be sustainable. He understood the idea of doing pre-schools for two years to determine if that works as

the time has come to move in that direction. He did not, however, want the district to start up a lot of new programs just to see what they are like knowing that most of them will have to be discontinued even if they are successful. He felt that it was very important for there to be some level of confidence that any programs would be sustainable if they prove to be successful. And finally, Mr. Friedman noted that classroom teachers across the district have had their supply fees cut several times over the last few years. He believed that a one time infusion of funds that really made it to the classroom would be a great idea for the use of some of these funds.

Ms. Kennedy noted that there had been a real interest in the community over the past few years on Career and Technical types of programs. Both the Dimond Engineering Academy and the Health Career Academy are mentioned in the memorandum and Ms. Kennedy believed that both of those programs will really need financial support to be sure that they get a good, solid start. She noted that there will likely be other career pathways that the community will show interest in that the board should be willing to support in some form or fashion.

Ms. Mackie indicated that she was looking at these stimulus funds as an opportunity for investment. Just as individuals would balance their own investment portfolio, she believed that the district would do well to balance the investment between piloting new and innovative programming with things that have real staying power.

Mr. Steiner noted that one of the items that the administration may want to consider is a student data warehouse. His recollection was that, although Zangle was providing the raw record keeping, it does not provide the means to do statistical analysis of the data. He thought that these funds might provide an opportunity to acquire that piece of infrastructure. He also suggested that the funds might provide a one-time infusion that would help start up some of the career technology items that have been discussed such as the simulators at Service High School or establishing a health career classroom at each of the high schools.

Mr. Friedman made the point that it would be impossible to do everything at once and that trying to do so would risk negating the momentum that the district already has going into this process. On the other hand many of the items that have been highlighted really build on one another. He recalled from previous 21st century discussion the

need to infuse technology for relevant and rigorous coursework. That is what professional development is all about. The longer term benefit of professional development will be inspiring teachers and getting them excited about new ways of teaching. Mr. Friedman also noted that he did not want to preclude using stimulus funds in support of staff and programs in other support areas if that is felt to be appropriate.

Mr. Steele agreed that he did not want to see one segment of the system to get too far ahead of the rest of the program. He felt that it was important to bring the entire system along together. It is a balancing act and Mr. Steele believed that the board will need to rely on experts within the district to come back with a detailed plan.

2. ASD Memorandum #339 - Update on Career Technology classes in Anchorage School District Middle Schools and High Schools

Ms. Comeau indicated that she had asked for staff to put this information together because she felt that it was important for the board and for the community to know how much is really happening in district schools in the whole area of career and technology education as well as work force development. This update shows school by school and division by division what kinds of opportunities are there for district students. She was aware that the vast majority of people are not aware of the number and variety of options available. Many of the options are available in the different high schools and middle schools, not just at King Career Center. She indicated that many people believe that the only thing that the district is doing in terms of career and technical education is at KCC, which clearly is not true.

Mr. Higgins voiced his appreciation for all that the school district is doing. He realized that he was pushing pretty hard in this direction because he believed that the public would like this expanded further than what is currently available and that they would be supportive of a very aggressive program to do that.

Mr. Higgins asked whether there was any surveying being done to identify what type of opportunities the students themselves would like to see. Mr. Henry explained that all of the courses in this report are elective courses and if students do not sign up for them then they would not be offered. He noted that new courses in this area are tried all of the time, some with more success than others.

Mr. Steele contended that students that are interested in these types of classes are not necessarily the kids that do not have other options. Many high achievers take these courses. He believed that these offerings give students a breadth of exposure that makes them a well-rounded individuals whatever their achievement or competency level. He liked the idea of simulators where they are appropriate. He believed that the last two years of a student's education are times that the district has the opportunity to make some changes that will really inspire students and get them set for the rest of their lives.

3. ASD Memorandum #305 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of April 15, 2009 through April 23, 2009.

4. ASD Memorandum #306 – Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Third Quarter 2008-2009 School Year

The purpose of this report is to inform the School Board on a quarterly basis of new grants that have been submitted for funding.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS
LITIGATION

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 4, 2009 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:31 p.m.

John Steiner, President

Jeannie Mackie, Clerk

Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approve