

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #63 (2009-2010)

September 14, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FY 2009-2010: APD SCHOOL
RESOURCE OFFICERS AND GIRDWOOD ACTIVITY BUS

ASD Goal: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, barrier-free schools. Ensure public accountability through effective consultation with community to ensure wise use of financial resources and responsible construction and maintenance facilities, and effective communication with students, staff, community and government at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the administration's recommendation that the School Board approve budget transfers in the amount of \$430,000 to provide for continuation of the Anchorage Police Department's School Resource Officer Program and an Activity Bus for South Anchorage High School students who reside in Girdwood.

PERTINENT FACTS:

School Resource Officer Program

The Anchorage School District has had a very successful partnership with the Anchorage Police Department for the past six years. The Municipality of Anchorage has assumed the full cost of 18 police officers as a dedicated School Resource Officer Unit within the Anchorage Police Department. Officers are stationed at all of the comprehensive high schools and Clark Middle School; they are supervised by a Sergeant and a Lieutenant whose offices are at the Anchorage School District Education Center.

This SRO Unit has been a tremendous asset to all of our schools, and to the district and community as a whole. The officers are highly successful in integrating into the high schools, and working with the middle and elementary schools when time and circumstances allow. We believe that the officers act as a

deterrent to serious crime and gang activity in our schools, and they are also able to provide preventative lessons to our students with such programs as DARE, Every 15 Minutes, lessons on good choices, Aggressors, Victims, and Bystanders, law enforcement careers, safe dating practices, and many other topics as requested. The SRO's work closely with our Safety and Security Staff and our administrative teams at all of the schools. They provide training to our staff when requested and/or needed.

As you know, the Municipality of Anchorage is facing serious budget deficits during this FY 09 calendar year and in subsequent years. The former Chief of Police and the current Acting Chief of Police and the Superintendent have discussed their budget issues with regard to the SRO Program. The ASD administration strongly believes that we cannot accept a loss in this valuable program in order to maintain safe and caring barrier free schools at the current time in our community. We believe that it is essential that we assist in the funding of this program for the remainder of the Municipality's calendar year and perhaps, into the future. The Chiefs of Police estimate that \$400,000 is needed in order to maintain the program through December at its current staffing levels. The administration has identified budget items within the current FY 2009-2010 ASD budget to reduce in order to provide the funding of a \$400,000 grant for this program. Each administrator has reviewed their line item accounts and will delay or defer line items in their budget in order to continue to have this important resource in our schools.

If this recommendation is approved by the School Board, the administration will transfer the funds to the MOA as a grant. In addition, the administration will request a greater appropriation in the ASD's FY 2010-2011 budget in January to maintain this SRO program.

Girdwood Activity Bus

There are many students attending South Anchorage High School who reside in Girdwood who are not able to participate in after school activities due to the lack of transportation home. In addition, parents and the community have grown increasingly concerned about the safety of teenagers driving the Seward Highway late in the day after the end of activities, especially in the winter. There has been an increase in fatal and serious accidents on the Seward Highway between Potter Marsh and Girdwood this summer and early fall.

The superintendent and staff met with representatives from the Girdwood community and the administrative staff at South Anchorage High School early in the August to try and ascertain if an activity bus from SAHS would be used by the students in enough numbers to make the bus financially feasible. A survey

was conducted by the administration at SAHS in late August and it is clear that an increasing number of students would use the bus and participate in after school activities if a late bus were provided during the school year. If approved, the bus schedule would begin as soon as possible. The administration knows that the number of students participating will vary by sport and days of the week, but we believe that this is a necessary addition to our budget in the interest of student safety.

Summary

Based on the approval of the above recommendation for the School Resource Officers, the following budget transfer will be made from the following accounts to support this important resource in our schools.

Funds will be added to:

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Non-Department- Transfer to Municipality	109901-6230	<u>\$ 400,000</u>
	Total	<u>\$ 400,000</u>

Funds will be subtracted from:

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Technology/MIS - Computer Refresh	103914-3010	\$ 20,000
Communications - Advertising	105001-3230	5,000
Maintenance - Fuel	106301-4100	50,000
Non-Departmental- Self Insured Supplies	109901-4888	10,000
Self Insured Equipment	109901-5888	25,000
Emergency Equipment	109901-5440	100,000
Utilities - District-wide	Various	50,000
Unallocated Elementary Resources School Improvement Funds	149901-3980	20,000
Unallocated Middle Level Resources School Improvement Funds	179901-3980	40,000
Unallocated High School Resources School Improvement Funds	189901-3980	<u>80,000</u>
	Total	<u>\$ 400,000</u>

Based on the approval of the above recommendation for the Girdwood activity bus, the following budget transfer will be made from the following account to support the activity transportation to Girdwood.

Funds will be added to:

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Girdwood- Activity Trips	122006-3130	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
	Total	<u>\$ 30,000</u>

Funds will be subtracted from:

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bus-Operations - Fuel	108101-4100	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
	Total	<u>\$ 30,000</u>

CC/ML

Prepared by: Marie Laule, Budget Director
Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent