

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #39 (2009-2010)

October 12, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: NAMING OF THE SOUTH ANCHORAGE BASEBALL FIELD IN
HONOR OF TAYLAR YOUNG

ASD Goal: Ensure public accountability through effective consultation with the community to ensure wise use of financial resources and responsible construction and maintenance of facilities, and effective communication with students, staff, parents, community and government at all levels.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the School Board approve the request from the Anchorage School District administration, the South Anchorage High School staff, and the South Anchorage High School Baseball Booster Club to name the new baseball field at South Anchorage High School, “The Taylar Young Memorial Ballpark”.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Taylar Young, a student at South Anchorage High School, and an enthusiastic member of the South Anchorage High School Baseball team, passed away shortly after his last high school baseball game on May 23, 2009, as a result of a tragic accident. Taylar was an organ donor who helped three men with families in Washington State, a three year old girl from Massachusetts, and a man from Canada.

Taylar was an inspiration to, and vocal leader of, his JV team; the Varsity coach nicknamed him “Lil’ Bambino” for his determined spirit and enthusiasm for baseball. Dave Avery, his coach, stated, “Taylar was the catalyst or spark plug for the team. He started the game and every inning with a cheer for South. His love of the game, enthusiasm for encouraging others to do their best as well as himself, his can do attitude, and desire to learn and improve were extremely contagious. He not only loved the game of baseball, but added life and humor to everything he came in contact with. His attitude has touched many, and will be encouragement for future athletes who have the opportunity to play at South’s field. He will be missed, but forever in our memories and lessons we teach.” His father has said that his love for baseball can best be summed up by the quote of Shoeless

Joe Jackson, “God knows I gave my best in baseball at all times, and no man on earth can truthfully judge me otherwise.”

The request to name the new ball field after Taylar came soon after his tragic death. The SAHS Booster Club was already working with the ASD Maintenance and Facilities departments and the staff at South Anchorage High School to build a new baseball field on available land at the school. This is the first baseball field to be developed at a high school in Alaska in recent memory. Upon learning of Taylar’s death, the Booster Club asked that the new ball field be named in his honor as an inspiration to future baseball players. The letters in support of this effort are attachments A and B to this memorandum.

The Booster Club has been engaged in significant fund-raising to build this project; memorial donations were directed to this ball field, and volunteers have donated many hours of labor and equipment to this effort. In recognition of their efforts and of Taylar’s enthusiasm and spirit, Dennis Young, Taylar’s father, received the “Inspire the Future Award” by the Seattle Mariners last month at Safeco Field.

Future plans include installing infield clay/sand mix, dugouts, grandstand seating, and a scoreboard. They are hoping to be able to use the new ball field next summer.

Continued fundraising efforts will be ongoing throughout the winter and posted on the website of the SAHS Baseball Booster Club: <http://www.eteamz.com/sabb/>

Attachments

CC

Prepared/Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent



WOLVERINE BASEBALL
SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL / AMERICAN LEGION POST # 4

May 29, 2009

RE: Taylor Young Memorial

Attention: Chuck Fannin, Principal SAHS

In commemoration of Taylor Young, and his involvement and contribution to the South Anchorage Baseball program, we would like dedicate the baseball field at SAHS in his honor.

The South Anchorage Baseball Booster Club is in the process of taking on the renovation of the baseball field at SAHS. As a program we would like to dedicate the field as a memorial to Taylor Young to memorialize his life and experiences. As a student at SAHS Taylor was a member of the football, wrestling, and baseball programs, but baseball was his passion.

The family has requested that memorial donations be made to the South Anchorage Baseball Booster Club. As an organization we are planning on designating memorial funds to the renovation of the field.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and hope that we can honor Taylor's memory by attaching his name to the field renovation.

Sincerely,

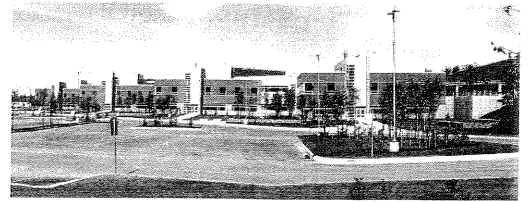
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Allred", written in a cursive style.

Cynthia Allred
SAHS Baseball Booster Club President
907-351-1980

South Anchorage High School

Home of the Wolverines

13400 Elmore Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99516 (907) 742-6200 Fax (907) 742-6207



Attachment B

June 1, 2009

Dear Superintendent Comeau:

This is a letter of support for the South Anchorage High School Baseball Booster Club's request to renovate the SAHS baseball field and to establish a memorial at that site for Taylor Young.

The SAHS Booster Club and the SAHS baseball coaches have requested that the baseball field be renovated to a viable baseball diamond. Prior to the tragic death of Taylor Young, this request had already been presented to and discussed with Chris Borst. He tentatively had received the approval from the ASD Maintenance and Grounds Departments to move forward with the project. The funds for the project were to come from the booster club and additional donations, specific for that project.

With the unfortunate death of Taylor Young, additional impetus has been provided to move forward with the baseball field renovations, as well as for a memorial at the renovated field in remembrance of Taylor.

As the principal of South Anchorage High School, I strongly support both of these requests and will do whatever I can to assist those who will work toward this field renovation and memorial.

I respectfully ask that you consider these two requests. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns relative to either request.

Sincerely,

Chuck Fannin
Principal