

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #130 (2009-2010)

October 19, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS IN SEPTEMBER BY ASD  
GOOD SAMARITANS

*ASD Goal: ASD staff is well-trained, highly effective, well-informed and committed to the success of all students and staff.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

On Monday, September 21, Service High School Nurse Panna Jarussi, was a first responder to a serious car accident involving a student a short distance from the school. She kept the student's airway open and shielded him from news cameras while directing others to assist until police and paramedics arrived. A crisis team was made available to Service High School students on Tuesday to deal with the emotional impact of the wreck.

On Saturday, September 26, Huffman Elementary School Nurse Lisa Sutherlin and Huffman Elementary School parent Mr. Roy Welch came to the aid of another parent suffering from a heart attack while participating in the school's Family Fun Run.

The parent had returned to the sound tent after running the race when he became light headed, stopped breathing and collapsed. School Nurse Lisa Sutherlin was summoned and responded with the school's AED (defibrillator). With the help of Mr. Welch, Nurse Lisa began CPR and administered the life-saving shock. An ambulance from the Dimond area responded and transported the victim to hospital. This is the first time that an individual's life has been saved using the district's AED equipment.

On Wednesday, September 30, Carole Johansen, Family Consumer Science teacher at Mears Middle School, successfully provided emergency assistance for a seventh-grade boy who was eating lunch in her classroom. The young man was choking and could not breathe after a large piece of food was lodged in his throat.

It should be noted that Ray Patterson, EMT, CPR trainer in the district's Health Services Department, has been working with staff to train them in CPR and in the use of the AED so that more district staff are able to use them. Last year, nearly 1,000 district employees were trained in 120 full classes of CPR, first aid and the AED.

Though they will insist they were "just doing their jobs," the actions of these staff show their sincere concern for the well-being of others and ability to act effectively and responsibly during a crisis. It is requested the School Board recognize Service High School Nurse Panna Jarussi, Huffman Elementary School Nurse Lisa Sutherlin, and Huffman Elementary parent Mr. Roy Welch; and Mears Middle School Teacher Carole Johansen, for their prompt and caring responses to these recent life-threatening events. It is also requested that the School Board recognize the Nursing and Health Services Department and CPR Trainer Ray Patterson, for an excellent training program to equip non-medical personnel to respond to emergencies.

CC/HS/RD

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