

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 19, 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, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy, Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett and Tim Steele

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Ed Graff, Linda Carlson, Jerry Koetje, Mike Henry, Enid Silverstein, Jerry Sjolander, Jane Berglund, Eric Tollefsen, Heather Sawyer, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Abbott, Brandon Boyer, Col. Struck, James Ellsworth, Brian Griggs, Laurel Vorachek, Chad Stiteler, Jim Lepley, Robin Olson, the press and other interested parties.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

C. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Bartlett High School Choir, Liesl Davenport-Wheeler, Director
2. ASD Memorandum # 130 - Recognition of Life-Saving Actions in September by ASD Good Samaritans.

Kathleen Plunkett read the memo describing the recognition. John Steiner handed out certificates to 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, and the Nursing and Health Services Department and CPR Trainer Ray Patterson.

Tim Steele noted although recognition was given to just a few of the staff, the ASD health professionals were doing many fine things in the district.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Comeau went to Mirror Lake with the commissioner and head of

state board of education to give Bobby Jo Erb the Milken award. Ms. Erb was surprised and students and staff were thrilled for her. She was recipient of \$25,000 and would be going to Los Angeles later with the other awardees. Ms. Comeau added it was Red Ribbon week and she had gone to Abbott Loop for the official kickoff. Police officers and their dogs were there and talking about good health practices and being drug and alcohol free. Most schools had plans to do some activities for Red Ribbon week.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Brandon Boyer reported SAB had not met since the first meeting but they would meet in Early November. He had attended the Fall AASG conferences and it did a good job of representing the diversity of the state. About 150-200 ASD students attended. Bethel would hold the next conference.

2. Military Delegate

Colonel Prior thanked Alaska Parent Teacher Association for hosting the Military Family Dialogue Summit at that Marriot the previous week. It was well attended and a great event.

3. MECAC

The MECAC representative did not attend.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

G. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

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. Early Meeting - October 12, 2009

2. ASD Memorandum #86 - Resolution in Support of Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board, recognizing Alaska Native culture provides significant contribution to our community; adopt the attached resolution in support of

November 2009 being Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month.

3. ASD Memorandum #131 - Approval of Health Center at Clark Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a school-based health center as a pilot project at Clark Middle School beginning in January 2010 and extending through June 2011.

4. ASD Memorandum #133 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Bus Drivers and Attendants Unit, General Teamsters Local # 959, 2009-2012

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and General Teamsters Local #959, which will establish terms and conditions of employment for Bus Drivers and Attendants during the period between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2012.

Mr. Steele noted the Adoption of the Tentative Agreement had been approved and thanked the negotiating teams.

5. ASD Memorandum #134 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 114, Nondiscrimination and Harassment, Second Reading

It is the Policy Committee's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading the recommended policy revision to School Board Policy 114, Nondiscrimination and Harassment as shown on Attachment A.

6. ASD Memorandum #79 - Personnel Report

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

Jeannie Mackie asked that Memorandum #131 - Approval of Health Center at Clark Middle School be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau requested that Memorandum #85 - Profile of Performance be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for a presentation.

Ms. Comeau asked Ms. Williams to talk about the vision of the health center and what she believed it could do to increase student attendance and good strong academic achievement.

Ms. Williams, principal of Clark Middle School explained prior to the Clark rebuild, they brainstormed on programs they wanted and considered essential to helping students be successful. Free physicals were part of Clark before. Research reports students engaged in afterschool sports do better in school and to participate they must have a physical. The school had a health fair at registration and 700 students were seen. They had vision screenings, height, and weight recorded. Over 300 students had their immunizations. All of this was done at no cost to ASD.

Nancy Edtl voiced her enthusiasm for the pilot because school nurses can only go so far and this would expand. All immunizations are provided free by the state. This helps kids be healthy, stay in school and miss less school.

Jeannie Mackie said she was excited and the fact Providence was donating \$25,000.00 a year was excellent news. She asked about suggested health services and the difference between acute care services and behavioral health services and the note that providers might not be interested in doing the behavioral health without the limited acute care being available on site. Ms. O'Connor with the DHHS answered.

John Steiner asked Ms. Comeau to introduce for the record the following supporting entities voicing support for the pilot health center: Diane Ingle, Director of DHHS. Amy Schumaker, MD, Medical Director of Primary Care Center, South Central Foundation, Mary Grisco, MPA, Executive Director of All Alaska Partnership, W. Jon Lyon, MD, FAAP of The Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, Joan Fisher, Executive Director of Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Inc., Andrew Mayo, PhD, Chief Executive Officer of North Star Behavioral Health, Gabriel Garcia, PhD, MA, MPH, Assistant Professor of Public Health from the University of Alaska, Richard Mandsager, MD and Al Parish from Providence Medical Center.

Tim Steele asked how students would interact with the nurse. If a child thinks they have a cold do they go to the nurse first and then get sent to the health center? He wanted to know if there would be preauthorization by the family or if it was event oriented. He also asked what the hours would be. Ms. Edtl explained the school nurse would act as a gate keeper. The hours would be during school hours depending on the providers.

Most families would do the preauthorization on a year by year basis by electing to have their student seen or not. The center will not be writing prescriptions. They may look at other services later if the community wants them. Ms. Comeau added the district would identify and work through any issues and see if there was an interest in expanding but to start focus the focus would be on physicals and screening. If the board approves the health center data will be kept to see if it improves attendance. Ms. Williams noted students would still go to their class for attendance before they went to the nurse. Mr. Steele asked if younger siblings of students would have access to the clinic. Ms. Edtl responded they would not. However, 5th graders at the end of the year of that school year could be seen if they would be going to Clark. Mr. Steele stated the health center would be a great benefit to students needing physicals.

Jeff Friedman asked for an explanation of what would be involved behavioral health screenings and services and what might be included in each down the road. Ms. Edtl explained some schools do a depression screening or suicide screening on computers. Students could do voluntarily. In Juneau many students came to the health center with some kind of behavior health needs. So, they chose to add a mental health component. Most students would have a 30 minute appointment scheduled with a mental health counselor. Mr. Friedman voiced his support.

Kathleen Plunkett appreciated the tour of Clark and being able to see the facility firsthand and as a member of the Clark community and a board member she could attest to the need in the community. She believed it to be a wonderful program and appreciated the work that had gone in to it. She wondered what other community needs had been mentioned. Ms. Williams said the community was very excited and supportive and understood the need to take things slowly.

Mr. Steele asked how the district therapists and specialists would be used. His thought would be there would be interaction and referrals. Ms. Edtl responded if a screening was done by an outside provider and they found the student needed more they would be referred. The school based health center would not be on the ASD system. The school nurse would still be a gate keeper and can make referrals in our own system.

Crystal Kennedy wanted to know if anyone penciled out an annual cost for the health center. Ms. O'Connor said they had looked at first year of operation and during that time it would mostly be volunteer providers so the cost would be in the supplies, equipment and medical records. The

total was thought to be \$25,000.00. Ms. Edtl noted the district would not pay for the employees. As part of the pilot, the goal in the future would be to bill the third party payers such as Denali Kid Care and insurance companies. It was also noted the Juneau model had been self-sustaining for 15 yrs.

Pat Higgins had a question about insurance and billing the parents. Ms. O'Connor said they would not want to charge the students or turn them away. Ms. Edtl mentioned most people who provide this type of health care see it as a community service.

John Steiner pointed out the district would be providing space and services would be provided by donors. It made sense to him to pilot the project to see how it worked out.

Crystal Kennedy voiced some concern at first glance. She had been assured the district would not provide the service but it would be a collaborative effort. She wanted to see the Memorandum of Agreement after the approval of the pilot program.

Ms. Kennedy proposed an amendment to the main motion. To be amended as follows: delete: "accept a school based health center as a pilot project "and insert: "enter into collaborative agreements with various community groups to pilot a school based health center project."

Mr. Steele seconded the motion.

Mr. Higgins and Mr. Friedman voiced their support for the project. Mr. Steele said he looked forward to a successful clinic.

Mr. Steiner asked Ms. Kennedy if she wanted to see the Memorandums of Agreement for review and approval. She answered she had only wanted clarification the district would be entering in to collaborative agreements with the various groups.

The amendment to the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Ingle explained the health center was discussed over a year and a half ago. The health community said they wanted to see kids be better educated and it would help spread the capacity so not everyone had to go to Department of Health and Human Services department and have to wait for services. She introduced: Terry O'Connor, Joan Fisher, Dr. John Lyon, Dr. Bruce Chandler, Mary Grisco, and Angela Taplin.

Ms. Williams introduced assistant principals, Ann Olson, Ron Brown and Brian Hilmes and Nurse Salwa Hussein.

Ms Kennedy said it was refreshing to see such strong community support.

Mr. Steiner thought it great to be moving in a direction allowing would allow the removal of logistical barriers. He added again the health center would not be at additional cost to the district.

The main motion with amendment passed unanimously.

VOTE

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION WITH AMENDMENT PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #80 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of September 28, 2009 through October 9, 2009.

2. ASD Memorandum #78 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of September 2009

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of September 2009 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

3. ASD Memorandum #82 - Operating Budget Transfers - July-September Monthly Report FY 2009-2010

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of July, August and September 2009 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 month of July, August and September 2009 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

4. ASD Memorandum #83 - Out-of-District Travel - First Quarter Report FY 2009-2010

The attached Travel Report provides details on in-state and out-of-state travel taken by District employees during the first quarter of FY 2009-2010. Though School Board members did not travel during the first quarter of FY 2009-2010, School Board and Superintendent travel expenses for other periods may be recorded in this quarter. A summary, by funding source, of the attached Travel Report appears below. The summary includes costs for substitutes used during a traveler's absence. Specific travel information by traveler and trip is available on the Travel Report.

5. ASD Memorandum #85 - 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 2008-2009 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.

Ms. Comeau thanked the Assessment Department for their herculean effort putting the Profile of Performance together. She introduced Laurel Vorachek and noted the presentation was quite lengthy and would be an overview. Ms. Vorachek introduced her staff, Dr. Xiaogeng Sun and Kristine Stout, both who had put many hours in to

the project. A PowerPoint Presentation followed.

The profile would be posted online Tuesday morning with a notice to the principals and a link for their school.

At the conclusion of the presentation Ms. Vorachek thanks the entire Assessment and Evaluation Staff: Teresa Welch, Eugene Geller, Kristine Stout, Sharon Brewer, Julie Melson, Kimberly Handy, Regina Frazier, Erica Baird, Regina Sather and Dr. Xiaogeng Sun. She also thanked Mike Fleckenstein and the IT staff.

Ms. Kennedy asked about trends and projecting them. Dr. Sun answered predictions were calculated using Microsoft Excel based on previous years trends. Ms. Vorachek further explained it was a statistical calculation based upon the performance years we have.

Ms. Mackie questioned more questions about the trends because the achievement gap is still widening and the trends seem to be showing an increase. Ms. Vorachek said it was looking at the statistics over all for all students. The achievement gap shows numbers for subgroups.

Mr. Higgins felt an attendance reason for dropping out was redundant. He asked if there was a lack of being able to get information from over half of the dropouts. Ms. Vorachek explained the dropout rate and the difficulty determining why students dropped out without interviewing them. A lot of judgment calls have to be made. Mike Henry further explained. He added it was very difficult to determine why the students dropped out. Mr. Higgins asked if there was any correlation in the math scores and if Everyday Math had an effect. Ms. Vorachek said it had not been done.

Sandy Schoff explained the math program. At the end of this year all 55 of the regular math programs will be using Everyday Math. All schools need to use the program before it can be determined if the curriculum is working.

Mr. Steele observed the dropout rate reduction and graduation rate increase showing a 50% growth due to summer school. He asked if there were any missing or double counted students due to the reporting time July 1 through June 30 reporting period. Ms. Vorachek responded it was determined by the students' graduation date

Ms. Comeau congratulated everyone on the success of improving writing scores. She acknowledged the staff was working very hard.

Jeff Friedman pointed out East High School dropout rate decreased dramatically and he was very pleased.

Brandon Boyer noted the difficulty getting replies for the climate survey and asked if it was at all levels. Ms. Vorachek responded the primary level grades 3&4 and secondary level grades 5-12. The struggle tends to be with the parent/guardian. He asked if they considered electronic contact or tried to interview the dropout students. Ms. Vorachek said the email contact was a very good suggestion and with the new Student Information System, Zangle, it would be likely they could try it. Mr. Henry state it was difficult to categorize it with the dropout codes we have use. They would also like to do something with successful students, to see why they choose to stay in school. Mr. Boyer said he would be happy to bring it up at SAB and work with Mr. Henry.

Mr. Higgins noted the board goals had been changed this year and asked if it would change how the data was shown next year. Ms. Vorachek explained sub groups would be reported with historical data.

Mr. Steele suggested offering extra credit or some sort of incentive to help students return parent survey forms.

Ms. Mackie voiced her concern with the widening of the achievement gap. She noted grade 10 math scores were good and wondered if there was a reason they were much better than the others. Ms. Vorachek answered those students did particularly well historically.

Mr. Steiner appreciated all of the effort had gone in to the report. He noted frustration seeing one sub group doing significantly better and another not. The real work would be trying to figure out what goes on at the school level.

Mr. Friedman noted it was important to remember Anchorage was not isolated from what was happening in the rest of the world also factors into it.

Ms. Comeau asked Gail Raymond what happened with 4th grade Science scores. Ms. Raymond speculated it was a result of teachers

not realizing science has to be taught k-4 all the way through and it goes back to the fidelity of implementation. She said they had started looking at the data for each individual school. Ms. Carlson thought time allotment to instruction of science had waned due to focus on math and reading. She added Easy Reference Guides had been distributed to all schools and teachers.

Mr. Steiner noted the multiethnic group did not do as well as any of the other groups and wondered what was going on. Ms. Vorachek said they would break it down to see what was making up the multi-ethnic group into sub groups.

Mr. Steiner and Ms. Comeau thanked everyone for the presentation.

- 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 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:15 p.m.

John Steiner, President

Jeannie Mackie, Clerk

Vanessa Blake, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved