

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #37 (98-99)

August 24, 1998

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: 1997-98 MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAM REVIEW

PERTINENT FACTS:

Gail Opalinski, Executive Director of Middle School Education, has prepared a report summarizing the 1997-98 Interscholastic and Intramural Activity Program in the Middle Schools. Also, provided is information relative to how the Middle School Division will address activity issues in 1998-99.

HISTORY:

In 1994-95, the previous athletic competition program was replaced with an intramural program which included a multi school "jamboree" at the end of each intramural season. In 1996, with the imposition of a \$50 per sport competition fee, an interscholastic program was implemented. This program combined a four-week intramural season with a three to four week extra-mural program for most sports. Basketball remained intramural and hockey was added as extra-mural. Problems with the program resulted in revamping it for the 1997-98 School Year.

1997-98 MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

During the 1997-98 School Year, the intra and interscholastic (extramural) programs were separated. Five interscholastic sports activities were offered at all schools with a seven to eight week season. Students paid a \$50 participation fee to participate in these teams. In addition, seven basic non-fee intramural athletic activities were offered at each school along with a variety of athletic and non-athletic intramural activities depending upon student interest and school facilities.

Interscholastic Competitions:

Five sports with their appropriate seasons were identified for the 1997-98 School Year. Each season was seven to eight weeks in length beginning with a required ten days of practice before competition and culminating with a city championship tournament. There was a \$50 sports competition fee to participate. Coaches were paid at the appropriate addendum level for the sport.

<u>Interscholastic Sports Activity</u>	<u>Dates of Season</u>
• Cross-Country Running (boys and girls)	September 2-October 10
• Volleyball (girls)	November 17-January 23
• Wrestling (coed)	October 20-December 12
• Cross-Country Skiing (boys and girls)	January 5-February 27
• Track and Field (boys and girls)	March 30-May 22

Each sport had a coordinating school assigned. The assistant principal at that school coordinated the season, schedule, and the final sports competition. A backup school was also assigned if additional assistance was needed.

• Cross-Country Running	Romig
• Volleyball	Hanshaw
• Wrestling	Mirror Lake
• Cross-Country Skiing	Wendler
• Track and Field	Gruening

A total of 2,405 students participated in the interscholastic athletic activities an increase of 772 participants over the 1996-97 total of 1,633 (Attachment A). School participants ranged from a low of 89 to a high of 370. It is obvious from the statistics that socioeconomic status played a great part in the number of student participants. Some schools reported that the \$50 fee was a great deterrent. Although waivers were available, many families simply chose not to participate rather than request the waiver.

In analyzing participation by sport, there is a definite pattern of participation increasing throughout the year. The earliest interscholastic sport cross-country running, reported only 272 participants, while the last sport, track and field, reported 1,029. Since 1997-98 was the first year of this schedule, it is anticipated that participation will be greater for the earlier sports in subsequent years.

School colors for interscholastic activity purposes were agreed to as follows:

Central Middle School of Science	Red/White
Clark Middle School	Royal Blue /Gold/White/ Black
Goldenview Middle School	Gray /Gold/Purple
Gruening Middle School	Aqua Blue /Black/White
Hanshew Middle School	Red/White /Black
Mears Middle School	Gold /Black
Mirror Lake Middle School	Forest Green/Blue /Black
Romig Middle School	Purple /White/Yellow
Wendler Middle School	Green /White/Black

The budgeted amount for the middle school activity fees was \$140,000. The total actual income for the fees for the interscholastic program was \$109,805. (Attachment B). The break down of receipts by school follows:

Central Middle School of Science	\$ 9,800
Clark Middle School	450
Goldenview Middle School	18,450
Gruening Middle School	11,805
Hanshew Middle School	13,050
Mears Middle School	14,850
Mirror Lake Middle School	15,900
Romig Middle School	9,325
Wendler Middle School	15,025
Girdwood	2,100
Refunds and INS checks	<u>(950)</u>
 Total	 \$109,805

Intramural athletic activities:

Seven specific intramural athletic seasons were identified during the 1997-98 School Year and supported by intramural 40 hour addenda to teachers. One thousand nine hundred (1,900) students participated in the intramural programs (Attachment C). School-wide participation ranged from a low of 84 to a high of 365. Boys Basketball and Soccer had the highest number of participants at 605 and 536 respectively. The lowest number of participants occurred in Hockey with 178. Once again, socio-economic considerations come into play affecting

hockey participation. The cost of hockey gear made participation cost prohibitive for many families. Most families with a strong interest in hockey had students who participated in community programs.

It is difficult to compare participation in intramurals for 1996-97 with 1997-98 because all sports had an intramural followed by an extramural season in 1996-97. A total of 3,376 participated in intramurals in 1996-97, however of these 1,633 went on to interscholastic competition and 1,743 participated in intramurals only. This compares with the 1997-98 numbers of 2,405 interscholastic participants and 1,900 intramural.

<u>Intramural Athletic Activity</u>	<u>Dates of Season</u>
• Soccer (boys and girls)	September 2-October 10
• Fall Basketball (girls)	October 13-November 14
• Fall Basketball (boys)	September 8-October 10
• Hockey (coed)	January 12-February 13
• Winter Basketball (girls)	February 23-March 27
• Winter Basketball (boys)	January 26-February 20
• A spring site selected athletic activity	April to May

A variety of athletic activities were selected for an additional spring intramural activity at the various schools. Clark implemented Native Youth Olympics, Hanshew implemented gymnastics, Mirror Lake had weight training, and Romig had swimming. Since Mirror Lake had few students interested in their second Girls Basketball season, they utilized that addendum for Gymnastics for which there was a substantial interest. The additional intramural was dependent upon the interest at the school, the availability of facilities, and availability of a qualified coach.

Non-athletic activities:

In 1997-98, all nine middle schools offered non-athletic activities in the following areas:

- Battle of the Books or a Competitive reading program within the school
- Science Olympiad
- Spelling Bee
- Math Counts

Eight of the middle schools also participated in the Geography Bee.

1997-98 Funding:

The 1997-98 Budget that funded the Middle Level Activity Program follows:

799-Middle Level Unallocated

- (133) **\$118,440** --Added duty contracts to redistribute to the individual school sites for interscholastic, intramural addendum, and contract services related to the coordination of the competitive program, when enrollment figures stabilize in September. This is also held in reserve in case the student activity fee does not generate sufficient revenue to match the expenditure.
- (303) **\$28,750** --To pay for competitive costs related to interscholastic competition and final tournament costs (referees, meet directors, scorekeepers, weigh-ins, etc.).
- (313) **\$23,858** --To redistribute to the individual school sites for interscholastic transportation costs when enrollment figures stabilize in September.

450, 700, 710, 730, 740, 750, 755, 760, 770, 780--Middle Schools and Polaris K-12

- (133) **\$419,274** --To pay for added duty interscholastic and intramural addendum.
- (313) **\$38,220** --To pay for interscholastic transportation costs
- (602) **\$84,500** --To pay for pupil activity expenses (pennies, uniforms, athletic equipment, supplies, etc.)

1997-98 Concerns:

The biggest concern about the 1997-98 season was the availability of transportation to interscholastic events. A shortage of school buses when schools were dismissed resulted in the loss of valuable class time to transport students to competitions. In some cases the only buses available had to leave one and one-half hours before the end of the school day. When the students left for competitions, all classes in the building were affected.

The no-cut policy resulted in some logistics and control problems at the competitions. If a large group of non-participating students traveled with a team to a competition, those that were not competing that day were difficult to

supervise. The schools recommend that coaches only bring those students who will be competing on the team bus in the future, especially to the final championship events. The Track and Field championship provided an example of the logistical problems which occur when over 1,000 middle school students were brought to a competition in which not all were participants. Although no major problems occurred, the management of restroom facilities and viewing areas were concerns.

The intramural programs experienced varied success depending upon the school. The schools recommend greater flexibility in the scheduling and selection of athletic intramural programs. Gymnastics, for example, could be a viable alternative for the second girls basketball season. Interest in mixed six (coed) volleyball, badminton, and weight training are examples of alternatives.

1998 -99 Middle School Athletic Program:

The introduction of swimming as an interscholastic sport during the 1998-99 School Year has necessitated some modifications to the sports seasons. Wrestling is moved to a later date after the winter holiday and swimming is placed in the fall through winter-time slot. The movement of wrestling will place it between winter and spring break so that the usual diet restrictions on wrestlers will not interfere with family plans during the holidays.

<u>Interscholastic Sports Activity</u>	<u>Dates of Season</u>
• Cross-Country Running (boys and girls)	September 2-October 9
• Volleyball (girls)	November 16-January 22
• Swimming (coed)	November 16 - January 22
• Cross-Country Skiing (boys and girls)	January 4-February 24
• Wrestling (coed)	January 11 - March 5
• Track and Field (boys and girls)	March 29-May 21

Individual schools responsible for the coordination of the competitions will be:

• Cross-Country Running (boys and girls)	Central
• Volleyball (girls)	Hanshew
• Swimming (coed)	Mears
• Cross-Country Skiing (boys and girls)	Wendler
• Wrestling (coed)	Mirror Lake
• Track and Field (boys and girls)	Gruening

To avoid the confusion which had resulted from some similar school colors, the allocation of the **main** color for each school was agreed upon to be the following:

Central Middle School of Science	Red
Clark Middle School	Dark Blue
Goldenview Middle School	Gray
Gruening Middle School	Light Blue
Hanshew Middle School	White
Mears Middle School	Black
Mirror Lake Middle School	Dark Green
Romig Middle School	Purple
Wendler Middle School	Light Green

Swimming

The interscholastic swimming season will be January 4 to February 24. The season was selected so it would not be in conflict with high school swim team usage of their pools. Working under the philosophy that pulling students out of classes to attend swimming practices was unacceptable; the Middle School Department has worked closely with the Transportation Department to put together a schedule for transportation to high school pools which will not call for pull-outs. The Transportation Department will attempt to schedule the swim teams on standard after-school routes to the high schools for their practices. To make this option work, several middle schools will be practicing together at each pool. Because there is greater availability of buses on Wednesdays, the competitions have been set for that day. There will be five competitions in the season and one championship.

One head coach and one assistant coach will be hired for each team at the beginning of the season. Due to safety considerations, more coaches may be hired if numbers make it necessary. The aquatic swim clubs have been contacted to provide timers, judges, and officials for the meets. The Municipal Parks and Recreation Department has coordinated in scheduling the high school swimming pools. The championship will be held at Bartlett. A \$50 fee will be charged for participation.

Intramural Athletic Activities:

Intramural Athletic Activities will be offered using 40-hour intramural addenda. Each school will have their own program based upon the needs and interests of their students, their facilities and equipment, and the availability of coaches. Most of the middle schools will offer the following athletic intramurals:

Intramural Athletic Activity

Dates of Season

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • Soccer (boys and girls) | September 2-October 9 |
| • Fall Basketball (girls) | October 13-November 12 |
| • Fall Basketball (boys) | September 8-October 9 |
| • Hockey (coed) | January 11-February 12 |
| • Winter Basketball or other athletic intramural program (girls) | February 22-March 26 |
| • Winter Basketball or other athletic intramural program (boys) | January 25-February 19 |
| • A spring site selected athletic activity | April to May |

As funding allows, intramural addenda may be used for other programs within each school

1998-99 Middle School Activity Budget

799-Middle School Unallocated

- (133) **\$75,000** -- Each school received approximately \$4,200 more for added-duty contracts. These funds are for student support added-duty contracts for interscholastic, intramural addendum, and contract services related to the coordination of the competitive program. This is also held in reserve in case the student activity fee does not generate sufficient revenue to match the expenditure.
- (303) **\$21,500** --To pay for costs related to interscholastic competition and final tournament costs (referees, meet directors, scorekeepers, weigh-ins, etc.).
- (303) **\$136,590** -- To distribute to funds as needed to establish an interscholastic swim program.
- (313) **\$6,000** --To redistribute to the individual school sites where needed due to enrollment for student activity transportation costs .

450, 700, 710, 730, 740, 750, 755, 760, 770, 780--Middle Schools and Polaris K-12

- (133) **\$563,588** --To pay for added duty interscholastic and intramural addendum. \$48,892 per middle school and \$21,560 for Polaris.

- (303) **\$3,600** --To pay for costs related to tournaments; \$800 per middle school.
- (313) **\$64,810** --To pay for interscholastic transportation costs; \$6,095 per middle school, except \$9,000 Mirror Lake, \$1,050 Polaris.
- (602) **\$65,520** --To pay for pupil activity expenses (pennies, uniforms, athletic equipment, supplies, etc.); \$7,000 per middle school, \$2,530 Polaris.

BC/CC/GO/ccs

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