

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 24, 1998

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, August 24, 1998 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Harriet Drummond presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present: Harriet Drummond, Peggy Robinson-Wilson, Dave Werdal, Bettye Davis, Rita Holthouse and Debbie Ossiander.

Excused Absence: Kathi Gillespie

Others Present: Bob Christal, Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Mark Pasier, Bill Mikawa, Gail Opalinski, Arge Jeffery, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Larry Wiget, Jim Taylor, Marie Laule, Brent Rock, Betsy Nickels, John Alexander, Mary Tanghe, the press and other interested people.

The School Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harriet Drummond announced the scheduled up-coming meetings.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimously consent noting that the Personnel Report has two addenda.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #47 – Student Recognition: Perfect SAT Spanish Score – Megan Cary

Megan Cary, a 1998 graduate of East High School, earned a perfect score on the Spanish SAT and will leave this month for Georgetown University where she has enrolled in Languages and Linguistics, with plans to major in Spanish and International Politics.

The School Board recognized Megan Cary for her perfect Spanish SAT score and for her accomplishments in the Spanish language immersion program.

2. ASD Memorandum #48 – 1997 Presidential Award For Excellence In Mathematics And Science Teaching

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching award program was established in 1983 by the White House and is sponsored by the National Science Foundation to identify outstanding mathematics and science teachers in each state. These teachers serve as models for their colleagues and are leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. The winners receive a cash prize for their school and a trip to Washington D.C. to receive the award with a Presidential Citation.

In June of this year, three Anchorage School District teachers were officially recognized in Washington as 1997 Presidential Award winners. They are:

- Judy Jeffery, from Goldenview Middle School
- Maureen Petronic, from Bear Valley Elementary School
- Alison Vail, from Bowman Elementary School

The School Board recognized these three outstanding teachers as winners of the 1997 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

3. ASD Memorandum #49 – Eagle River Elementary Invention Convention Winners

During the 1997-98 school year, students in Bev Legler's fifth-grade class at Eagle River Elementary School participated in the Entrepreneur Invention Society competition which requires students to invent a unique product and create a marketing and business plan. The students must use business skills in combination with core subject skills including math, science and reading. About 4,000 students nationwide compete in the competition each year. The Eagle River Elementary winners were:

- Tabitha Dohrman, 1st Place, for a computer wire holder designed to keep all of your computer wires neatly contained;

- Christian Everett, 2nd Place, for a blazer designed to keep butter warm even while camping; and,
- Karen Edmondson, 3rd Place, for a utensil designed with a fork on one end and a spoon on the other.

Tabitha Dohrman's computer wire holder was later recognized as one of the top 20 inventions nationwide for the school year.

The School Board recognized these three students for their creativity and accomplishments in the Entrepreneur Invention Society competition.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory
2. Military Delegate

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Larry Holman commented on the need for administrators, coaches, students, parents, and staff to become aware of the NCAA Clearinghouse requirements for student certification for participation in Division I and II college athletics. Mr. Holman explained that he became involved with this process because his son was denied certification to participate in sports at an Arizona university even though he graduated from high school with a 3.2 GPA and scored over 1150 on his SAT. Mr. Holman further explained that the NCAA Clearinghouse manages and determines the eligibility of all incoming college students to participate in athletic activities.

Bob Christal noted that this topic was discussed at a meeting with the principals and encouraged Mr. Holman to talk to Jim Taylor, High School Supervisor, for further discussion on this issue.

Rich Kronberg, AEA President, noted that the ability of the Association and the District to work out their differences in an amicable manner is attributed to the relationship they have cultivated over the years. Mr. Kronberg noted that everyone is on the same side, which is to provide the best education as possible for all students, and extended wishes for a happy and successful school year in educating our 50,000 students.

Robert Hayes commented on his concerns about the District's fire alarm safety issues.

Bob Christal explained that the Fire Marshal has reviewed his concerns and has stated that our schools are in compliance with the Municipal fire code and are in a safe condition. The Ombudsman has also looked into this issue and has determined that his office will not proceed further into this matter.

Alice Jordan, Debbie Bolles and Pam Bickford expressed concerns about the response to a letter regarding Evaluation Procedures for Specific Learning Disabilities, noting that further clarification of the federal regulations associated with this issue needs to be addressed. Ms. Bickford noted that a signed letter will be delivered to the Superintendent's office regarding parents' concerns and requested a response to that letter within ten days of receipt.

Robyn Rehmann commented that she does have questions regarding clarification of Ms. Bickford's issues and noted that she would be more than happy to sit down and talk with everyone involved about their concerns.

Debbie Ossiander requested that the Board receive a copy of the Specific Learning Disabilities report after this issue has been addressed.

Linda Sharp, Village Charter School, asked the Board for their consensus to conduct a feasibility study to see if they could work with an investor to have a facility constructed.

Debbie Ossiander explained that it would be more appropriate for the Village Charter School group to get an administrative analysis regarding this issue before any Board action is considered. Ms. Ossiander suggested that Ms. Sharp contact Carol Comeau's office with any charter school requests.

Carol Comeau explained that a meeting has been scheduled with representatives from the Village Charter School to review administrative procedures, financial questions, and a potential feasibility study.

Bob Christal commented that it is very important to sit down and talk to the Administration about issues regarding charter schools before a recommendation can be brought before the Board.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's office.**

1. ASD Memorandum #39 – Revision To FY 1997-98 Financial Plan

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board authorize the following budget adjustment to reflect the actual end-of-year expenditures in the Food Service Fund. The overall appropriation revision will not exceed the approved upper limit of the budget; therefore, no approval from the Anchorage Assembly is required. The total Food Service Fund budget will be increased \$240,000, from \$9,314,000 to \$9,554,000; and the General Fund budget will be reduced \$240,000, from \$302,786,900 to \$302,546,900. The total revised budget for FY 1997-98 will remain at the \$370,824,469 level as approved previously by the School Board and the Anchorage Assembly. The individual fund budgets will be as follows:

General Fund	\$302,546,900
Food Service Fund	9,554,000
Debt Service Fund	38,723,569
Local/State/Federal	
Projects Fund	<u>20,000,000</u>
 Total All Funds	 <u>\$370,824,469</u>

It is further recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the budget transfers and revisions as outlined below.

2. ASD Memorandum #31 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Earth Systems Implementation Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the National Science Foundation in the amount of \$416,340 to support ESIP: Earth Systems Implementation Project.

3. ASD Memorandum #29 – Prior Approval Of Discretionary Grants: Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Initiative Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant or grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

4. ASD Memorandum #32 – Award Of Contract: Districtwide Bleacher Repair

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Districtwide Bleacher Repair to Palmerco Construction Inc. in the amount of \$119,500.

5. ASD Memorandum #33 – Personnel Report

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

6. ASD Memorandum #40 – Approval Of A Personal Services Contract For Peggy Robinson-Wilson, School Board Member

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Personal Services Contract between the Anchorage School District and School Board member Peggy Robinson-Wilson.

7. ASD Memorandum #51 – Contract Adjustment – Village Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to adjust the contract for the Village Charter School to allow for an enrollment of 40 students in grades K-8 for the 1998-99 school year. This recommendation would increase the budget for the Village Charter School to \$152,348.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #31, #40, and #51.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to approve Memorandum #39;
Memorandum #29;
Memorandum #32;
and Memorandum #33 with
two addenda.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None
Absent: Kathi Gillespie
MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #31 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Earth Systems Implementation Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the National Science Foundation in the amount of \$416,340 to support ESIP: Earth Systems Implementation Project.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #31.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Rita Holthouse inquired as to how many substitute days are included in this grant award, noting that she has serious concerns about the number of days teachers are pulled out of their classes.

Carol Comeau explained that there is one day per teacher allocated this year, which includes stipends for Saturdays, so there are not as many teachers being pulled out of the classroom. Overall, there has been a positive response in utilizing the Saturday stipends, as many teachers are also concerned about being pulled out of their classrooms.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None
Absent: Kathi Gillespie
MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #40 – Approval Of A Personal Services Contract For Peggy Robinson-Wilson, School Board Member

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Personal Services Contract between the Anchorage School District and School Board member Peggy Robinson-Wilson.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to approve Memorandum #40.

Bob Christal explained the history surrounding this issue noting that Ms. Robinson-Wilson informed the School Board at the June 8, 1998 School Board Meeting, of her intention to work through UAA to provide instructional services to teachers employed by the District. At that time Ms. Robinson-Wilson was under the belief that her teaching duties, provided through the District's Instructional Technology Department, were contracted by UAA. The request for approval of a Personal Services Contract for Ms. Robinson-Wilson stems from a recognized change in the status of her employment. The services provided and the remuneration due her have changed and she will now be reimbursed for her services through the District's Technology Literacy Challenge Grant. Ms. Robinson-Wilson is eligible for a Personal Services Contract with the Anchorage School District in accordance with Anchorage School Board Policy 725.222 and AMC Sect. 1.15.170. Ms. Robinson-Wilson has addressed the disclosure component by filing a notice with the Municipality and by placing an ad in the Anchorage Daily News. Mr. Christal further explained that Ms. Robinson-Wilson has gone through all the necessary procedures and all requirements have been met according to the current Municipal Ordinance on conflict of interest. Mr. Christal recommended that the Board approve this Personal Services Contract between the Anchorage School District and Peggy Robinson-Wilson.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson stated for the record that a conflict of interest does exist.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she appreciated the summary from the Superintendent and that the Board is ready to go ahead and approve this recommendation with the caveat that if this grant comes before the Board again for acceptance and approval, that Ms. Robinson-Wilson abstains from participating in the vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Drummond, Holthouse,
Werdal

Nays: None

Abstain: Robinson-Wilson

Absent: Kathi Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #51 – Contract Adjustment – Village Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to adjust the contract for the Village Charter School to allow for an enrollment of 40 students in grades K-8 for the 1998-99 school year. This recommendation would increase the budget for the Village Charter School to \$152,348.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #51.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Susan Anderson, Village Charter School, thanked the Administration for their recommendation to adjust the contract for the Village Charter School to increase their student enrollment.

Carrie Merrill, Village Charter School, thanked the Board and the Administration for their support in allowing the Village Charter School to increase their student enrollment.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #34 – Annual Report For Walden Pond Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

"Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than September 1. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, and other information of interest to the local School Board.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board shall have the right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract."

Representatives from the Walden Pond Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their

report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Mary Hunsaker, Headmistress, Dean Smith, and Sam Lazenby of Walden Pond Charter School, gave a brief overview of the 1997-98 Walden Pond Charter School Annual Report. Approximately 74 percent of last year's students will be returning to Walden Pond for this school year. Walden Pond has renewed their present lease at the Dimond Center for the next three years (at the end of this lease they will need to find another facility to house their program). Overall, the first year in operation was very successful and the charter school is looking forward to another successful year. Ms. Hunsaker thanked the Administration, especially Carol Comeau's office, for all the help and support given to Walden Pond over the past year.

Debbie Ossiander thanked Mary Hunsaker for her hard work in making Walden Pond such a success. Ms. Ossiander suggested that in the future, assessment data such as CAT scores and parental satisfaction be added to the charter schools' annual report.

Sam Lazenby suggested that charter school representatives be included in the annual CIP process to address the issue of space needs for charter schools.

2. ASD Memorandum #35 – Annual Report For Family Partnership Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

"Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than September 1. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, and other information of interest to the local School Board.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board shall have the right to investigate this breach of contract and meet

with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract."

Representatives from the Family Partnership Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Brenda Bray, Teacher in Charge, Janet Powell, and James Posey of Family Partnership Charter School, gave a brief overview of the 1997-98 Family Partnership Charter School Annual Report. Ms. Bray commented that Family Partnership will have approximately 495 students this year indicating a fairly strong interest in this program. In order to be more centrally located, the office for Family Partnership has been moved to a mid-town location allowing the Huffman Elementary site to be used as a fulltime classroom which is booked by the hour. Ms. Bray thanked Carol Comeau for her help this past year noting that Ms. Comeau is the major component in the District in moving forward with charter schools.

3. ASD Memorandum #36 - Annual Report For Aquarian Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

"Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than September 1. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, and other information of interest to the local School Board.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board shall have the right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract."

Representatives from the Aquarian Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is

presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Cynthia Stiegele and Greg Miller, representatives of the Aquarian Charter School Academic Policy Committee, gave a brief overview of the 1997-98 Aquarian Charter School Annual Report. Greg Miller noted that the Aquarian Charter School is having a 90 percent return rate and has a 100 percent waitlist for the up-coming school year. Mr. Miller noted that the academic scores are not in the annual report. However, these scores will be forwarded to the Superintendent's office.

Carol Comeau noted that test scores and reports from all three charter schools will be included in *Profiles of Performance* which will be available the end of September. Test scores will be included in future annual reports.

4. ASD Memorandum #12 – Facility Project Report For The Months Of June And July 1998

The monthly Facility Project Report Update and Change Order Report for the months of June and July 1998 are attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

A copy of the conceptual plans for Chugiak High School will be placed in the Board Office.

A copy of the booklet explaining the various options regarding Dimond High School will be placed in the Board Office.

Debbie Ossiander requested that the executive summary regarding the options for Chugiak High School's expansion be forwarded to Fay Von Gemmingen and Kevin Meyer.

5. ASD Memorandum #37 – 1997-98 Middle School Activity Program Review

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.

Bob Christal noted that the correct dates for the interscholastic swimming season are November 16 to February 24.

Gail Opalinski, Middle Level Education, gave a brief overview of the Middle School Activity Program Report.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson suggested that a one-page handout on the overall budget for the middle and high schools' activity programs, explaining where the activity fees go and why the fees don't specifically stay at a particular school, would be helpful to parents and students.

Rita Holthouse noted that she would like the Policy Committee to discuss a family cap for activities that would combine both the middle and high school grade levels.

Debbie Ossiander commented that this issue is included on the list of topics to be discussed by the Policy Committee.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Rita Holthouse asked for an update on the High School Tech Labs for East and Bartlett.

Bob Christal explained that at the present time there is not an adequate power source at East or at Bartlett to support a tech lab.

Ed Conyers noted that a major electrical upgrade is necessary at both of these schools.

After a short discussion regarding employee fingerprinting, Rita Holthouse suggested that this entire issue, on a statewide as well as a national basis, be addressed by the Policy Committee.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of August 24, 1998 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:05 p.m.

Harriet Drummond, President

Dave Werdal, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved