

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #65 (98-99) (REVISED)

September 28, 1998

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: REVISION TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 341.3:  
CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES (SECOND READING)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the following revision to School Board Policy 341.3 Controversial Issues on Second Reading, as shown on Attachment A.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The School Board forwarded the Administration's recommended revision of School Board Policy 341.3 Controversial Issues on March 23, 1998 (First Reading). The revision was then recommended to the School Board on April 13 and April 27, 1998 for final approval (Second Reading). During the School Board meeting on April 27, 1998, the policy revision was tabled due to language inconsistencies with current employee association agreements. After subsequent consultation with the Anchorage Education Association representative, Rich Kronberg, the identification and selection of Controversial Issues committee members representing the Anchorage Education Association has been addressed.

The School Board Policy Subcommittee, after substantial discussions, has developed some modifications to the current policy regarding the committee composition for the Controversial Issues Review Committee. The revisions in this policy are written to increase public awareness and participation in keeping with the District's intent to strengthen the school-community relationship.

The changes to 341.3(e) were made in an effort to increase the commitment to involve a greater number of community members in the Controversial Issues review process. Additionally, policy language has been added to outline the

manner in which the application process will be conducted. This process demonstrates the responsiveness of the School Board to public comment regarding the Controversial Issues Review Committee and the selection of its members.

341.3(f) was revised to allow the Superintendent to give more definitive directions on the procedures to be followed and to insure that all parties are treated in a fair and responsible manner throughout the review process. It is essential that issues are discussed in a reasonable and thoughtful manner in an environment of mutual respect and tolerance for differences of opinion.

These changes reflect a consensus approach by the Policy Subcommittee after substantial discussion involving the many perspectives presented by individual School Board members.

Attachment B is provided to allow review of the procedural manner in which the Controversial Issues Review Committee will be utilized and how applicants will be screened prior to selection.

BC/MP

#### Attachments

Prepared by: Mark J. Pasier, Special Assistant to the Superintendent  
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Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction