

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, September 14, 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, Kathi Gillespie, Bettye Davis, Rita Holthouse and Debbie Ossiander.

Others Present: Bob Christal, Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Mark Pasier, Bill Mikawa, Arge Jeffery, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Pat McDowell, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Gail Opalinski, Larry Wiget, Henry Jackson, Hans Bernard, 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 an addendum was added to the Personnel Report.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #62 – Credit Union 1 Joan Kickbush Art Loan

In 1975, artist Joan Kickbush painted an Alaskan classroom scene and donated the work to the Anchorage School Employee Credit Union, now known as Credit Union 1. Then, as now, public school employees make up the credit union's prime membership. Also in 1975, Joan's husband, Roland, retired from the Anchorage School District, where he served as a vocational education coordinator.

For many years the painting was displayed at the credit union, but due to limited space after building renovations, the credit union looked to more publicly display the artwork. Given their school employee membership and the educational theme of the work, Don Franz and Leslie Ellis from Credit Union 1 approached the Anchorage School District with an offer to loan the painting to the District.

It was agreed that the Anchorage School Board meeting room would be the appropriate place to display Joan Kickbush's work.

The School Board recognized Credit Union 1 for their generous loan of the Joan Kickbush artwork now displayed in the Board Room.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Pam Bickford requested that the District revise their evaluation procedures for students with specific learning disabilities noting differences of opinion as to the interpretation of the examiner's manual.

Bob Christal responded that a report should be available by mid-October as to whether or not the District is in compliance with state and federal law in the District's evaluation procedures.

Rich Kronberg, AEA President, commented that the District's employees are well qualified and very dedicated employees and that it is extremely important that all employees have positive feelings about their job. Mr. Kronberg suggested that the District raise its contribution to employee health insurance premiums, establish real employee values and commitments, and support new employees with mentors. In order to build leadership skills, it is important to maintain a positive working environment for all employees so they feel valuable and needed.

Lena Lauth, Mt. View Elementary PTA President, asked the Board to hire an extra teacher to alleviate the severely overcrowded classrooms at Mt. View. Ms. Lauth stated that the Mt. View parents do not support split combination classes.

Bettye Davis commented that she would like to see a staffing plan for Mt. View which will address the overcrowded classrooms.

Bob Christal explained that a recommendation is in process to lower the overcrowded classes at Mt. View and a plan should be in place within the next few days to alleviate this problem.

Sophia Dawson-Masewicz, APA President, addressed the Board regarding fair and amicable agreements for all bargaining groups in the District noting that all employees are very vital stakeholders, dedicated to the goal of educating students for life. Ms. Dawson-Masewicz encouraged the Board to recognize the value of all District employees.

Theresa Obermeyer commented that she supports all the members of the TOTEM Association and welcomed Hans Bernard, the new student representative to the Board.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval Of Minutes:

- a. Special Meeting – August 10, 1998
- b. Regular Meeting – August 10, 1998
- c. Special Meeting – August 24, 1998
- d. Regular Meeting – August 24, 1998

2. ASD Memorandum #30 – School Board Goals FY 1998-99

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals as shown on Attachment A.

3. ASD Memorandum #27 – Revision To School Board Policy 450: Student Surveys (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the revisions to School Board Policy #450, section 14 of the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* document, as shown on Attachment A.

4. ASD Memorandum #59 – Budget Transfer – Family Partnership Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Budget Transfer up to \$42,000 for salary and benefits for the Family Partnership Charter School to allow them to establish a permanent position of Registrar.

5. ASD Memorandum #63 – Creation Of A New Position – Help-Desk Specialist

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to create a new position, Help Desk Specialist, in the Technology/MIS budget for the 1998-99 school year, and delete one Data Control Clerk position from the Technology/MIS budget.

6. ASD Memorandum #43 – Acceptance Of Continuation Grant Award: Even Start Family Literacy

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept an Even Start Family Literacy continuation grant from the Alaska Department of Education in the amount of \$166,000.

7. ASD Memorandum #60 - Acceptance Of Continuation Grant Award: Safe & Drug-Free Schools Greatest Need Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education in the amount of \$190,410.

8. ASD Memorandum #61 – Acceptance Of Continuation Grant Award: MOSAIC School-To-Work Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education in the amount of \$125,125.

9. ASD Memorandum #44 – Approval Of Continuation Contract For Collaborative Services: Anchorage Literacy Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a contract between the

Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Literacy Project which affirms the Letter of Agreement for services in the amount of \$108,000. Funding is through the Even Start Family Literacy budget grant award from the Alaska Department of Education.

10. ASD Memorandum #52 – Acceptance Of Grant Awards: Staff Development CSPD

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept two grant awards from the State of Alaska Department of Education for a total of \$6,316.

11. ASD Memorandum #42 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Polaris K-12 School Habitat Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a Wildlife Cooperative Extension Agreement from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the POLARIS K-12 School's school yard habitat project.

12. ASD Memorandum #53 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Title VII Comprehensive School Grant: William Tyson Elementary

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a Title VII Comprehensive School Grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA), in the amount of \$247,630.

13. ASD Memorandum #45 – Bayshore Elementary School Boiler Replacement – Project Approval

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to reallocate funding for Districtwide Heating and Ventilation in the amount of \$345,000 for Bayshore Elementary Boiler Replacement. This project will replace two boilers. In accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.14, Emergency Contracts, emergency procurement procedures will be used to expedite purchase and installation of the equipment.

14. ASD Memorandum #50 – Award Of Contract – Custodial Equipment

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to Asplund Supply for Custodial Equipment in the total amount of \$107,355.

15. ASD Memorandum #55 – Award Of Contract: Portable Radios

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to the low bidder, Motorola, Inc., for Portable Radios in the total amount of \$71,992.

16. ASD Memorandum #56 – Award Of Contract: Consultant Selection For Multiple Playground Upgrades – Summer 1999

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of Earthscape, Tryck Nyman and Hayes, and Land Design North as consultants for the multiple school playground upgrades and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into one or more contracts with the subject firm(s) for consultant services as addressed in the Request for Proposals dated July 28, 1998.

17. ASD Memorandum #46 – Personnel Report

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

18. ASD Memorandum #69 – Sale Of General Obligation School Bonds - \$55,900,000

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to notify the Municipality of Anchorage that the Anchorage School District requests the issuance of \$55,900,000 of General Obligation School Bonds as described herein.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #30, #27, #59, #63, #60, #61, #44 and #10.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander	to approve the Minutes of the
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson	Special Meeting of August 10,
	1998; the Minutes of the Regular
	Meeting of August 10, 1998; the
	Minutes of the Special Meeting

of August 24, 1998; the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 24, 1998; Memorandum #43; Memorandum #42; Memorandum #53; Memorandum #45; Memorandum #50; Memorandum #55; Memorandum #56; Memorandum #46 with Addendum; and Memorandum #69.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #30 – School Board Goals FY 1998-99

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #30.
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Theresa Obermeyer commented that there is a place in education for testing but that learning is also extremely important.

The School Board read the 1998-99 School Board Goals.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #27 – Revision To School Board Policy 450: Student Surveys (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the revisions to School Board Policy #450, section 14 of the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* document, as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #27.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Bob Christal brought to the Board's attention that a correction needs to be made in Attachment A, Page A-1, Line 9. The wording "of the student not a matter of public record or subject to public observation" needs to remain in Section 14. The sentence should read: No survey or questionnaire that inquires into private family affairs of the student not a matter of public record or subject to public observation will be administered, whether anonymous or not, unless written permission is obtained from the student's parent or guardian (AS 14.03.110).

Debbie Ossiander explained that the intent of any changes to this policy is to follow state and federal laws in the area of student surveys.

Dr. Richard Mandsager, Public Health Service, encouraged the adoption of the current policy change noting that it is very important that anonymity be followed when administering student surveys. Dr. Mandsager noted that it's important to know what our children are doing so appropriate instruments can be designed to educate students as well as to be able to discuss current issues with our children.

Rocky Plotnick commented that it is vital to understand the importance of a solid policy that is consistent with state and federal regulations.

Pam Bickford commented that it is imperative that the policy language follows state and federal regulations and that parental consent for student surveys be maintained. Ms. Bickford requested that parents be allowed to review surveys prior to administering them to students.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to amend Section 14, Page A-1,
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson Line 9 by removing the deletion as noted on Line 9 to read: No survey or questionnaire that

inquires into private family affairs **of the student not a matter of public record or subject to public observation** will be administered, whether anonymous or not, unless written permission is obtained from the student's parent or guardian (AS14.03.110).

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Kathi Gillespie commented that it is very important that people in the schools understand that they fall under state and federal law and because of its importance, this policy was incorporated into the Student's Rights and Responsibilities document. The current policy as it stands gives further direction to the people in the schools for a clearer definition. Ms. Gillespie commented that she will be voting against any change to this policy noting that the description already included in federal law pertaining to what is constituted as family affairs, gives the needed guidance for employees in the schools. If there are parts of the state law that someone would like changed, then it would be more appropriate to address that issue with state legislators.

Debbie Ossiander explained that this change actually makes the District's policy more restrictive than state law.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that it is very important to follow state law and the intent is to make clear what is state law and what is federal law. Ms. Robinson-Wilson further noted that once the policy is changed, we are still at the point of seeing whether or not a specific survey meets the definition of what we mean.

Kathi Gillespie inquired as to how much federal money is given to the state to do the survey and how much the Youth Risk Behavior Survey will cost the District.

Bob Christal commented that there will be more information pertaining to the cost of the survey by Second Reading.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Werdal, Gillespie

MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

ASD Memorandum #59 – Budget Transfer – Family Partnership Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Budget Transfer up to \$42,000 for salary and benefits for the Family Partnership Charter School to allow them to establish a permanent position of Registrar.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #59.
seconded by Bettye Davis

Carol Comeau explained that due to the number of high school students at the Family Partnership Charter School, this position is needed so that transcripts get recorded.

Theresa Obermeyer commented that it seems like no matter what is done, things can be changed by a budget transfer.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #63 – Creation Of A New Position – Help-Desk Specialist

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to create a new position, Help Desk Specialist, in the Technology/MIS budget for the 1998-99 school year, and delete one Data Control Clerk position from the Technology/MIS budget.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #63.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Theresa Obermeyer explained that she signed up to address this memorandum to show support for TOTEM employees and inquired if this was a way through the back door to bypass some of the finest people in the District.

Dave Werdal expressed concern about the backlog of software problems in the schools.

Norm Holthouse explained that this position will be the initial point of contact for anyone in the District who has a problem with his or her software. Dr. Holthouse further explained that at the present time, the department is running a couple weeks behind in addressing software problems in the schools.

Dave Werdal requested a report, prior to the budget process, on the software and hardware needs of the District especially with the inception of this new position.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #60 - Acceptance Of Continuation Grant Award: Safe & Drug-Free Schools Greatest Need Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education in the amount of \$190,410.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #60.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Rita Holthouse inquired as to how many substitute days will be involved with this grant.

Mike Kerosky, Coordinator, Safe and Drug Free Schools, explained that the seven teachers selected as RCCP teachers will be pulled out of their classrooms for three training days (a total of 21 substitute days will be needed).

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #61 – Acceptance Of Continuation Grant Award:
MOSAIC School-To-Work Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education in the amount of \$125,125.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #61.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Rita Holthouse inquired if 30 teachers will be released for each day of the two-day planning institute scheduled for October 1 and 2.

Fred Stofflet replied that 60 substitutes will be needed for the two-day institute.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #44 – Approval Of Continuation Contract For
Collaborative Services: Anchorage Literacy Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a contract between the Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Literacy Project which affirms the Letter of Agreement for services in the amount of \$108,000. Funding is through the Even Start Family Literacy budget grant award from the Alaska Department of Education.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #44.
seconded by Bettye Davis

Rita Holthouse inquired if the teachers removed from the classroom in connection with this grant will be participating in the travel allocation included in this grant.

Sally Vonada, Project Coordinator of the Anchorage Family Literacy Program, responded that teachers involved with this grant will not be participating in the travel allocation associated with this grant.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #52 - Acceptance Of Grant Awards: Staff
Development CSPD

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept two grant awards from the State of Alaska Department of Education for a total of \$6,316.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #52.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Rita Holthouse inquired if teachers will be pulled from the classroom for the additional day of training during each of the two training sessions.

Robyn Rehmann explained that this grant is to cover training taking place on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This component of the grant would be for the teachers on Sunday for the trainer of the trainers portion. There will be teachers involved Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but they will not be connected with this grant.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

Rita Holthouse explained that all of these grants provide excellent services to students and staff members. Each grant, when looked at individually, doesn't seem to be terribly disruptive to the classroom. However, in the aggregate, the number of days teachers are pulled from the classroom really start to add up. Of the four grants discussed this evening, teachers will be pulled from away students for a total of 81 days. Dr. Holthouse expressed concern about the time teachers are being pulled away from their students and noted that she would be interested in the grants giving as much emphasis to doing their inservice on non-school time as the District's staff development appears to be doing in this area. Dr. Holthouse further noted that she would appreciate that in the future, grant memorandums include the number of substitute days associated with a particular grant.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #38 - Middle School Grade Configuration Report

During the 1997-98 school year Capital Projects planning discussions and subsequent School Board action, the Anchorage School Board directed the Administration to conduct a study to attempt to assess the level of support for different grade level configurations for elementary schools and middle schools in the Anchorage Bowl, specifically excluding the Chugiak/Eagle River schools. The Chugiak/Eagle River Schools were excluded due to the fact that this issue had been vigorously discussed in the past during the establishment of the boundaries for Mirror Lake and Gruening Middle Schools.

The Administration believes that the 6-7-8 grade level configuration is a viable educational model for middle schools if the community in an attendance area supports it and space is available. In order to move toward all middle schools with a 6-7-8 configuration, two to three additional middle schools will be needed in the future. The community seems to support the 6-7-8 configuration in different communities where parents and school

staff are supportive; the community is also supportive of retaining the current 7-8 configuration if additional schools are not built. The Mirror Lake Middle School appears to be very successful after its first year of operation using the 6-7-8 grade level configuration.

Carol Comeau gave a brief overview of the report. Ms. Comeau noted that the Administration believes that the 6-7-8 grade level configuration is a viable educational model for middle schools if the community in an attendance area supports it and space is available. Ms. Comeau also noted that Mirror Lake Middle School appears to be very successful after its first year of operation using the 6-7-8 grade level configuration. The achievement scores of Mirror Lake Middle School will be included in the up-coming *Profiles of Performance*.

Kathi Gillespie inquired as to how much it costs to educate a 6th grader in a middle school compared to a 6th grader in an elementary school. Ms. Gillespie also requested information as to how the Department of Education allocates space for 6th graders in a middle school versus 6th graders in an elementary school.

Rita Holthouse expressed an interest in a presentation from Mirror Lake Middle School regarding their programs and their first year experiences as a 6-7-8 grade middle school.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if a significant difference has been realized in the achievement levels of middle level 6th graders compared to elementary 6th graders. Ms. Gillespie expressed interest in reviewing the national comparison on achievement levels in this area as well.

Bob Christal responded that the achievement level can be calculated but the value may be limited after only a one-year implementation of the configuration at Mirror Lake.

- I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
- J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS
- K. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)
- L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of September 14, 1998 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:50 p.m.

Harriet Drummond, President

Dave Werdal, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved