

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 1998

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 12, 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, Arge Jeffery, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Steve Kalmes, Pat McDowell, Gail Opalinski, Larry Wiget, Ed Blahous, Bill Mikawa, Lee Wilson, Heather Wagner, Bob Price, Teresa Johnson, 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.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

E. PRESENTATION

1. Curriculum Presentation: Elementary Science

Judy Hurlburt, Project Director of Earth Systems Implementation Project, gave a brief overview and evaluation of the project which is funded through a National Science Foundation Grant.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Danny Glover, Air Force Public Health, commented that he supports the Youth Risk Behavior Survey noting that as a member of the public health profession, it is imperative to know what the risks are to the youth of the community.

David ThunderEagle commented that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a good tool to help make Anchorage a better community. Mr. ThunderEagle also stated that it is important to be able to talk to children about what's going on in the community and this survey allows parents to better communicate with their children.

Anita Powell stated that she supports the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and that her two sons, who filled out the survey in 1995, are very supportive of this survey. Ms. Powell commented that young people want to be heard and that it is important that adults listen to them.

Mike Livingston, Anchorage Police Department, expressed support for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey noting that many of the details in it helps police departments throughout the state. This document contains a great deal of information about what is having an impact on the students in the Anchorage community and the information also helps the community at-large.

Ellen Gamel, TOTEM President, commented that communications and morale are very important items for the Board to keep high on their list. Employees need to know what is happening and what is expected to happen. Ms. Gamel invited the Board members to visit the various departments throughout the District to see what TOTEM employees are doing to keep the District up and running efficiently.

Colin Olito, Romig Middle School student, stated that he supports the Youth Risk Behavior Survey noting that if this type of survey isn't utilized, the community won't be able to see the reality of what is actually happening in the lives of the community's youth. Being able to see what is happening helps to solve some of the problems.

Terry Powell stated that she believes the Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a valuable survey for our students and for the community. However, if the information requested is sensitive, then it is important to have the consent of the parents of the students. It is also important that any research done with our children is done correctly and there is plenty of time between now and March to receive written consent from the participants' parents.

Anita Magby invited the Board members to the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Northern Lights ABC School. Ms. Magby also brought to the Board's attention that there are 634 students on the wait list for Northern Lights ABC School and encouraged the Board to begin to look for another facility to house an additional ABC School.

Robert Hayes requested assistance in transferring his children from College Gate Elementary to another school in the area because College Gate does not have smoke detectors or a fire alarm system.

Bob Christal explained that all District schools are in compliance with the Municipal Fire Code and that if he is interested in obtaining a zone exemption to another school he needs to talk to the principal of College Gate Elementary and to Arge Jeffery, Executive Director of Elementary Education.

Charles McKee addressed the Worker's Compensation Law and its relationship to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Theresa Obermeyer commented that it seems like she has made a career out of defending herself in fabricated court hearings and that this is becoming a challenge of a lifetime.

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 – September 14, 1998
 - b. Regular Meeting – September 14, 1998

2. ASD Memorandum #82 – Resolution In Support Of Drug-Free Schools' Week, October 23-31, 1998

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached Resolution in support of Drug-Free Schools Week, October 23-31, 1998.

3. ASD Memorandum #83 – School Bus Safety Week Resolution

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution recognizing the week of October 18-24, 1998 as School Bus Safety Week.

4. ASD Memorandum #93 – Conflict Of Interest Waiver

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a conflict of interest waiver to allow R. Robin Finley, teacher at Hanshew Middle School, to sell curriculum material for which she is the author, to the Anchorage School District for use in the school system.

5. ASD Memorandum #84 – 1999 Legislative Priorities

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the 1999 Anchorage School District Legislative Priorities (Attachment A).

6. ASD Memorandum #89 – Acceptance Of Continuation Grant Award: School-To-Work Urban/Rural Opportunities Grant - CASTLES

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$169,020.

7. ASD Memorandum #90 – Acceptance Of Subcontract Award: America Reads Challenge – Anchorage Reads

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a subcontract award from Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in the amount of \$50,000.

8. ASD Memorandum #92 – Award Of Contract: School Bus Routing Software

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to Creighton Manning, Inc. for School Bus Routing Software in the amount of \$66,000 to be expensed over a five-year period with payments of \$13,200 each year.

9. ASD Memorandum #85 – Personnel Report

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

10. ASD Memorandum #41 – Budget Transfer – New Business System

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to make the FY 1998-99 budget transfers required to allocate an additional \$250,000 for consultant support, equipment, contingency, and extra help/over-time in the implementation of the Payroll/Human Resources modules of the new business system.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #82, #83, #93, #84, #89, and #41.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve the Minutes of the
seconded by Kathi Gillespie Special Meeting of September
14, 1998; the Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of September
14, 1998; Memorandum #90;
Memorandum #92, and
Memorandum #85.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #82 – Resolution In Support Of Drug-Free Schools' Week, October 23-31, 1998

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached Resolution in support of Drug-Free Schools Week, October 23-31, 1998.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #82.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Theresa Obermeyer commented that she spent seven years in graduate school, received a Ph.D., and that her dissertation was on drug abuse.

The School Board read the resolution.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #83 – School Bus Safety Week Resolution

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution recognizing the week of October 18-24, 1998 as School Bus Safety Week.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #83.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

The School Board read the resolution.

Kathi Gillespie suggested that a copy of the Resolution be posted at the Transportation Center.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #93 – Conflict Of Interest Waiver

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a conflict of interest waiver to allow R. Robin Finley, teacher at Hanshew Middle School, to sell curriculum material for which she is the author, to the Anchorage School District for use in the school system.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #93.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Debbie Ossiander questioned whether or not it is appropriate for a teacher to sell required materials for a class she teaches.

Carol Comeau explained that parents of homeschooled students have been purchasing the materials in question for a number of years. Now that some of them are part of the Family Partnership Charter School, they would like to be able to purchase these materials for their children who are enrolled in the Family Partnership School. Ms. Comeau further explained that many other classrooms use these materials also. Parents know in advance that this book is part of the course and that charter schools do have the right to apply for a waiver to all Board policies.

VOTE:

Ayes: Werdal, Robinson-Wilson,
Drummond, Gillespie,
Hothouse, Davis

Nays: Ossiander

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #84 – 1999 Legislative Priorities

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the 1999 Anchorage School District Legislative Priorities (Attachment A).

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to approve Memorandum #84.
seconded by Bettye Davis

The speaker who signed up to address this memorandum was not present.

Rita Holthouse inquired if the financial impact was the main item being addressed in Rationale #1 under *Relief From Unfunded Mandates* or if all types of impacts are going to be studied.

Kathi Gillespie responded that it addresses the financial impact on a local school district.

Rita Holthouse inquired if in #4 under the same Rationale, that instead of just looking at full funding of all mandates imposed on the Anchorage School District, if the Board would want all mandates looked at for the entire state.

Kathi Gillespie explained that the main concerns are the mandates imposed on the Anchorage School District. Some of the mandates that are imposed only affect large school districts but it would certainly be true for school districts statewide.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
and unanimously approved

(Rationale listed under Relief From Unfunded Mandates)
#1. To add the word financial. Statement to read: a study of current mandates and their financial impact on local school districts. #4. To delete the words ~~the Anchorage~~ and add s to District. Statement to read: full funding of all mandates imposed on school districts.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

to add an additional legislative priority to read: The Anchorage School Board supports changing education regulations providing for state capital improvement grants. Geographically isolated schools in a service area should be allowed additional time to reach and sustain their design capacity. Rationale: It is not feasible to change the boundaries of either the Chugiak/Eagle River or Girdwood attendance area. Current regulations call for any new schools in those areas to be full within five years of occupancy. This forces an isolated 1600 student high school to grow to over 2500 students before construction of a new high school could possibly justify full matching grant state funding.

Debbie Ossiander explained that this became a real problem to the District as we struggled years ago in how to structure the bonds for the two middle schools (one at each end of town). The way we finally ended up addressing this was in no way because we believed the problems were less at one particular part of town than another, but we ended up with a greater local match for the school in the north end. This problem is surfacing again particularly with the overcrowding at Chugiak High School. We have been told that there is no way we can qualify for state reimbursement until the schools that are built in that area reach capacity. Ms. Ossiander noted that she intends to talk to districts throughout the state to see how they qualify for reimbursement funding under the same constraints. The only possible way to justify building a full size high school or middle school in parts of town where there are not adjacent schools or to have a big army of relocatables, is to have double shifting or to actually put part of the population in some unusual space such as an elementary school or a middle school. Both south Anchorage and Eagle River are continuing to grow. It's important to do some forward thinking because the growth is coming in these areas. Ms. Ossiander urged support for this added priority.

Kathi Gillespie cautioned the Board to not set up a dual system where the Anchorage School District is held to a different standard than everyone else which would cause an outflow of capital money towards the Bush. Ms. Gillespie suggested to move the second sentence down to the rationale noting that it needs to be said but it would give us a little more flexibility in talking about this issue.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she did not object as long as the intent is clearly understood that this is a particular problem that we would like to see some work towards resolving.

Kathi Gillespie commented that it's important to talk to the Department of Education about regulations for capacity. In some areas, even in the Anchorage bowl, five years is a long time to have to qualify for state reimbursement. In order to qualify for reimbursement money, a school needs to get to 100 percent and then be overcrowded for a period of time before the District qualifies for more money. If the second sentence is moved down to the Rationale, it would give us the flexibility to talk about the regulations as they regard to all capital funding

Debbie Ossiander noted that it's important to realize that this is a bigger problem in isolated schools than it is in town. Chugiak High School has been at 121 percent capacity yet Service is overcrowded but not to that percentage. However, a new high school in south Anchorage can almost

immediately be justified because it can also pull from Dimond. That flexibility is not available when a school is more geographically isolated.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to table this memorandum until the next School Board Meeting and to refer this priority to the Legislative Subcommittee to work out the wording of this priority.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Ossiander, Davis

MOTION PASSED.

Debbie Ossiander called for a point of order explaining that any motion to postpone is debatable and any motion to refer to subcommittee is debatable. Ms. Ossiander appealed to the Chair on this point of order and to bring the amendment back for limited debate

Harriet Drummond declared the previous motion to table out of order.

MOTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie
seconded by Bettye Davis

to postpone discussion on Legislative Priorities until the next regularly scheduled meeting and after a referral to the Legislative Subcommittee.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she is very amenable to specific wording on this amendment. When the Board talks to legislators, we do more than just state the sentence that is the priority; the problem is discussed. Ms. Ossiander noted it is acceptable to her if the second sentence is moved to the Rationale.

VOTE:

Ayes: None

Nays: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse

Abstain: Davis

MOTION FAILED.

The Regular Meeting was recessed at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

Harriet Drummond reminded the Board that the previous Amendment made by Debbie Ossiander is on the floor.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to title this particular priority: Flexibility in State Capital Improvement Grants. The first sentence to read: The Anchorage School Board supports changing education regulations for state capital improvement grants in the areas of the state that have unique needs. The second sentence would be moved down to the Rationale statement.

Debbie Ossiander commented that it has been a real sense of frustration and inequity that certain schools have to reach 150 – 170 percent capacity before they qualify for full state capital improvement reimbursement. In some schools, it is only necessary to reach 120 percent to qualify because they can draw from a variety of populations. Ms. Ossiander stated that this problem needs to be addressed and urged the Board to adopt this as a priority.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie
and accepted by the Maker
of the Motion

(Under Rationale) 1.) delete the words service areas and to insert the words funding community. Sentence to read: Geographically isolated schools in a funding community should be allowed additional time to reach and sustain their design capacity. 2.) to allow the Administration to add under the Rationale statement, potential examples of other areas where the regulations

might be an impediment to instructional programs for students.

Larry Wiget suggested that the title of this additional legislative priority should read: Flexibility in State Capital Improvements and School Debt Reimbursement.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Language for this Legislative Priority reads:

Title: Flexibility in State Capital Improvement Grants and Debt Reimbursement Program.

The Anchorage School Board supports changing education regulations for state capital improvement grants and debt reimbursement.

Rationale: Geographically isolated schools in a funding community should be allowed additional time to reach and sustain their design capacity. It is not feasible to change the boundaries of either the Chugiak/Eagle River or Girdwood attendance areas. Current regulations call for any new schools in those areas to be full within five years of occupancy. This forces an isolated 1600 student high school to grow to over 2500 students before construction of a new high school could possibly justify full matching grant state funding.

Kathi Gillespie called for the question on the main motion.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

ASD Memorandum #89 – Acceptance Of Continuation Grant Award:
School-To-Work Urban/Rural Opportunities Grant - CASTLES

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor in the amount of \$169,020.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #89.
seconded by Dave Werdal

The speaker who signed up to address this memorandum was not present.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #41 – Budget Transfer – New Business System

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to make the FY 1998-99 budget transfers required to allocate an additional \$250,000 for consultant support, equipment, contingency, and extra help/over-time in the implementation of the Payroll/Human Resources modules of the new business system.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #41.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Rita Holthouse commented that it was her understanding that there are two microcomputer specialists at the Data Center who are involved in the software support associated with the new business system. These

specialists provide support to the schools and their involvement with the new business system has more than overloaded their work schedule. Dr. Holthouse requested that the Administration consider the impact the new business system has created in other areas and to look at ways to provide relief in this area because the specialists are pulled away from their work in the schools which impacts the instructional services.

Janet Stokesbary explained that this budget transfer is a one-time expenditure. Funding for on-going positions should come forward in a separate memorandum.

Bob Christal stated that during the next four to six weeks, positions in other areas will be looked at and a recommendation for funding these positions will be brought to the Board for approval.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #57 – Profile Of Performance: 1997-98

The enclosed Profile of Performance: 1997-98 reviews the achievement of the Anchorage School District for last year. Attachment A provides a summary of some of the high lights from the over 650 pages of statistical information and analysis.

The demographic composition of the Anchorage School District continues to change. The Anchorage School District reached a record student enrollment of students on September 30, 1997. Anchorage had another year of increased enrollments; record levels of cultural and linguistic diversity, high student mobility, and substantial numbers of students eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Overall student academic performance continues to be strong. Norm referenced test scores have remained stable. College entry examination scores improved. Anchorage test scores are above those of the nation on both the norm-referenced tests (CAT) and on college entry examinations (ACT/SAT).

Fred Stofflet, Ray Fenton and Tom Straugh presented an overview of the 1997-1998 Profile Of Performance.

Debbie Ossiander requested information on how many 7th graders did well enough in the pre-algebra exam to go straight into algebra.

Rita Holthouse inquired why Kasuun Elementary (and other schools) did well on the CAT yet have so few students recommended for pre-algebra.

Debbie Ossiander asked if there are areas where AP classes are being offered and if so, how many AP classes are given and what is the percentage of students taking the classes.

Rita Holthouse requested a Work Session on mobility and transiency and would like to have principals attend to share their perspective on how these issues affect their individual school.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if there will be a planned expansion of the Enrichment Program during the summer school session.

Dave Werdal asked what the overall goal is in regards to the academic achievement in spelling.

Kathi Gillespie suggested that copies of the Profile of Performance be sent to the Mayor and the Assembly members.

Rita Holthouse expressed interest in looking at a different test other than the CAT and would like to see a recommendation come forward to either stay with the CAT or to try something new.

Kathi Gillespie requested information on the cost of the Terra Nova tests and if the state would allow the District to use the tests.

ASD Memorandum #58 – Assessment Schedule: 1998-99

A number of Districtwide testing and large-scale survey activities are planned for 1998-99. A version of the information included in the attachment was provided to principals in August to help in the development of school calendars. Some information has changed from the original schedule and some dates are still subject to change as we receive more information from the State of Alaska on the new Alaska High School Qualifying Examination and other state assessment activities. The State Department of Education has discontinued the requirement for the statewide writing assessment and for the testing of 11th graders with the

California Achievement Tests (CAT). The recommendation from the Instructional Division is to continue the grades 3 through 11 CAT testing in Anchorage, to continue the 5th and 7th grade writing assessment locally, and to shift the high school writing assessment to 9th grade.

Kathi Gillespie requested information on whether or not funds have been allocated to do all the listed assessments and the cost for teacher time out of the classroom.

ASD Memorandum #86 – Bayshore Elementary School Boiler Replacement

At the September 14, 1998 School Board meeting the Board approved ASD Memorandum #45 to establish a project to replace Bayshore Elementary School boilers. Based upon the timing of the discovery of the problem and the eminent onset of winter, School Board Policy Section 725.14, Emergency Contracts, emergency procurement procedures are being utilized to secure a general contractor to accomplish this work. The memorandum indicated that the required report to the School Board would be delivered at this meeting. However, additional design work was required, delaying the advertisement of the project. The report will be delivered at a later meeting once the project has been bid and awarded.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Kathi Gillespie commented that she was interviewed by a reporter from Education Week and noted that the Anchorage School District is viewed as being on the cutting edge in many areas.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of October 12, 1998 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:15 p.m.

Harriet Drummond, President

Dave Werdal, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved