

## **MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD**

### **SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 1998**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Wednesday, December 9, 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, Pat McDowell, Gail Opalinski, Robyn Rehmann, Arge Jeffery, Norm Holthouse, Ed Conyers, Kathy Christy, Steve Kalmes, Lee Wilson, Larry Wiget, Michelle Egan, Roger Fiedler, Mary Tanghe, the press and other interested people.

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

#### **B. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### ASD Memorandum #126 — 1999 General Obligation School Bond Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve one bond proposal for a four-year construction and renovation plan totaling \$408,740,000. If approved by voters, this four-year bond plan would eliminate the need for additional construction and renovation bonds until at least 2003. The recommended bond proposal includes the following projects, listed by year.

It is further recommended that the Anchorage School District commit to sell the bonds for projects listed in years two through four only if those projects become eligible for at least a 50 percent funding match from the state legislature. Exceptions would be made in the case of the Transportation facility, Districtwide ADA/code renewal and replacement, and other projects that may not meet the state's eligibility requirements. These bonds could be

sold without the availability of reimbursement at the direction of the School Board.

### Year 1

#### Reimbursement projects (48 percent state reimbursement)

- Dimond High School Replacement
- New South Anchorage High School
- Chugiak High School Renovation, Phase 1
- Government Hill Elementary School Addition and Renovation

#### Non-Reimbursement Projects

- Districtwide HVAC
- Districtwide Roof Repairs
- Electrical Support for Elementary Labs

#### Redirection of Surplus 1997 Planning Funds to High School Planning

- New Eagle River High School
- East High School
- Bartlett High School

Total for Year 1 (1999):      \$162,150,000

### Year 2

#### Reimbursement projects

- Service High School Renovation, Phase 1
- Wendler Middle School Renovation
- Denali K-8 School Replacement
- New Muldoon Middle School

#### Non-Reimbursement Projects

- Renewal and Replacement/ADA/Code\*
- Transportation Facility Replacement

Total for Year 2 (2000): \$95,380,000

### Year 3

#### Reimbursement projects

- Chugiak High School Renovation, Phase II
- New Eagle River High School Design
- East High School Renovation, Phase I
- Bartlett High School Renovation, Phase I
- Service High School Renovation, Phase II
- Polaris K-12 School Renovation/Addition
- Russian Jack Elementary School Renovation
- Chugach Optional Elementary School Renovation
- Chester Valley Elementary School Renovation
- Inlet View Elementary School Renovation
- Rabbit Creek Elementary School Renovation
- Turnagain Elementary School Renovation
- New ABC School

#### Non-Reimbursement Projects

- Renewal and Replacement/ADA/Code\*

Total for Year 3 (2001): \$99,985,000

### Year 4

Reimbursement projects

- Chugiak High School Renovation, Phase III
- East High School Renovation, Phase II
- Bartlett High School Renovation, Phase II
- Service High School Renovation, Phase III
- O'Malley Elementary School Renovation
- Sand Lake Elementary School Renovation
- Eagle River Elementary School Renovation
- Airport Heights Elementary School Renovation

Non-Reimbursement Projects

- Renewal and Replacement/ADA/Code\*

Total for Year 4 (2002): \$51,255,000

Four-Year Bond Proposal Total: \$408,740,000

\*This includes heat and vent, electrical upgrades, roof repair and replacement, code upgrades and Americans with Disabilities Act requirement projects. Some of these projects may be eligible for debt reimbursement by the State of Alaska depending on the criteria for eligibility.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #126.

seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Bob Christal presented a brief overview of the issues related to recommending a multi-year bond proposal noting that the challenge has been to identify and address the multiple needs of the District. A multi-year bond proposal will also show the community what is needed throughout the District. Years 2000,

2001 and 2002 will be bond-free years. Mr. Christal highlighted the projects as they are listed by each year explaining that the Administration is recommending that the District commit to sell the bonds for projects in years two through four only if those projects become eligible for at least a 50 percent funding match from the State.

Brian Szender, Polaris K-12 student, thanked the Superintendent for including Polaris K-12 in the bond proposal and noted that Polaris really is in need of a gymnasium, a cafeteria and science rooms. The planning money in Year 1 of the proposal will allow Polaris to plan for a school that will fit the needs of its students.

Jenna McIntyre, Wendler Middle School student, encouraged the Board to approve the bond proposal noting that Wendler is very much in need of a renovation which would add more classroom space.

Eliso Barrera thanked the Board for including Polaris K-12 in the bond proposal and thanked the District for supporting their program. Noting that Polaris has limited classroom space, Mr. Barrera requested the Board to consider adding money to Year 1 of the proposal to replace the five relocatables at Polaris with permanent classroom space.

Don Edwards thanked the Board for their support of the Polaris program and for including Polaris in the bond proposal. Mr. Edwards commented that it is time to address the physical plant needs of Polaris and would like a small amount of money to be moved to Year 1 of the proposal to begin to convert the educational specifications into a physical plant plan.

Natalie Burnett, Chugiak High School teacher, commented that she is in favor of the bond package noting that the bond proposal is well thought out and encouraged the Board to support the Administration's bond recommendation.

Jan Christensen, Chugiak High School principal, explained that she is in favor of the bond recommendation and urged the Board to support the bond proposal as presented. Ms. Christensen commented that she was very pleased to see the work of the Educational Specifications Committee put to use. Ms. Christensen congratulated the Superintendent on his long term vision and again

urged the Board to support the bond proposal. The staff at Chugiak High School has unanimously put forth a recommendation to go forward with a renovation and a plan for a new high school in the future.

Rhonda Gardner, Chugiak High School teacher, commented that she supports the remodel of Chugiak High School and that the faculty, staff and student body are up to the challenge of a renovation. Ms. Gardner encouraged the Board to move forward on the remodel and thanked the Superintendent for addressing Chugiak High School's concerns in a well thought out, long term plan.

Terry Jorgensen, Chugiak High School teacher, commented that he really likes the four-year plan for the community and that it's tied into State matching funds. Mr. Jorgensen further commented that if the bond is successful, Chugiak High School will be renovated but the overcrowding in the Eagle River community will still need to be addressed and suggested, as a friendly amendment, that an 800 student high school be considered for the Eagle River area that could be added on to in order to accommodate the huge amount of growth going on in Eagle River.

Mark Eidem, President of the Eagle River/Chugiak Chamber of Commerce, commented that there is strong support for the health and safety issues addressed at Chugiak High School and expressed concern that phase one will add student capacity which will not be reduced until phase two and three. Mr. Eidem commended the Board and the Administration that the long term plan addresses the overcrowding issue but it is important to both renovate Chugiak High School and to also build a new high school in the Chugiak/Eagle River area due to the many new subdivisions planned for the area.

Connie Sipe, Denali Elementary parent and substitute teacher, commented that the parents of Denali are very supportive of the four-year bond package and suggested, as a friendly amendment, to move Denali up to Year 1 of the bond proposal.

Margie MacNeille, Denali Elementary parent, requested that Denali be moved up to be included with the high schools in Year 1 of the bond proposal. Ms. MacNeille commented that they are ready to go

and noted that a school similar to the Fairview model will work well on their existing site.

Bob Christal carefully explained that there has been no discussion with him, or a decision, or a commitment as to what the design will look like for Denali.

Steve Cline, Service High School principal, commented that the renovation that is proposed in the bond recommendation will address the needs of Service High School. To have the system upgraded will greatly enhance the instructional delivery.

Peggy Brown, Service High School parent group, expressed support for the bond package and noted that she would like clear explanations and definitions of the projects.

Sara Gantt, Service High School parent, commended the Superintendent for his long term vision in the four-year bond recommendation and strongly supports the renovation package for Service High School. Ms. Gantt commented that she would like to see further discussion in the community as to what exactly is included in the entire bond proposal.

Lisa Fitzpatrick, Government Hill representative, commented that the Government Hill community supports the Administration's bond proposal package and that the community, as a whole, will rally to the success of this recommendation.

Guy Okada, Dimond High School principal, explained that a group of Dimond parents, students and staff members are engaged in the process of coming up with a schematic design that will meet the needs of the students and the community. Mr. Okada expressed the community's overwhelming support for this project and commended the Superintendent and his staff for presenting Dimond's needs. Mr. Okada encouraged the Board to have the fortitude to say yes to the bond proposal and to do what is right for students throughout the system.

Shirley Reeves, Dimond High School PTSA, thanked Superintendent Christal in how the bond recommendation is designed and noted how pleased the Dimond community is that Dimond High has been included in the proposal to receive top priority.

Dale Tibor, Dimond High School student, thanked the Board for their consideration in replacing Dimond High School. Mr. Tibor commented that this will be beneficial to everyone.

Mike Frost, Chinook Elementary PTA, commented that the Chinook community is overwhelmingly supportive of the bond recommendation but did express concern about designating the elementary school for South Anchorage as an ABC school. Mr. Frost noted that a neighborhood school may be needed more than an ABC school in South Anchorage.

Mary Rasmussen, Mears Middle School PTSA, commented that the Mears community strongly supports a new replacement school for Dimond as well as a new South Anchorage high school and that it should be built as soon as possible. Ms. Rasmussen further commented that it's important to deal with the high schools and to show that high school students are important. Ms. Rasmussen commended and applauded the Superintendent's bond package and sees this as the beginning of a new process for school bonding in this community. All of the projects are very much needed and it is the community's responsibility to educate our young members of society. Ms. Rasmussen encouraged the Board to support the Superintendent's bond recommendation.

Dave Harrington, Dimond High School, reiterated the comments of the previous speaker and strongly encouraged the Board to support the entire bond package.

Cynthia Davis-Jackson, East High School principal, commented that it is important to keep in mind that the bottom line is that this bond proposal is designated to improve schools across the entire community. Ms. Davis-Jackson further commented that she and the entire East High community is very appreciative to be included in the bond package and would like to have East High considered to be moved up a year in the bond package.

Al Grant, East High School, commented that the East High parent group is very supportive of the bond proposal and they would also like to see East High moved up a year on the list. Mr. Grant noted that the bond proposal is strongly supported because it supports the education of kids.

Fannè Johnson, Wendler Middle School PTSA, explained the many needs at Wendler and noted that the Wendler PTSA supports Superintendent Christal's bond proposal package which includes a renovation to Wendler Middle School.

Lewis Sears, Bartlett High School principal, commented that he is very pleased that the District is looking at forward funding for construction of schools. Dr. Sears noted that the plan itself is a very good concept, the bond proposal is a very good package, and it's important to go out and sell it to the community.

Bill Kuhlmann, Chugiak/Eagle River resident for 28 years, expressed concern about space and the housing of students. Mr. Kuhlmann noted that it's important to work with area legislators about working towards a change in matching funds for school construction. It's imperative to begin the renovation of Chugiak High School as well as the construction of a new high school for the Chugiak/Eagle River area.

Dennis Clark, Chugiak/Eagle River Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee, commented that the Chamber formed a high school task force and their highest priority is the health and safety issues at Chugiak High School and then the overcrowding issue. The ideal situation would be to go ahead with the renovation of Chugiak High and to begin plans for a new high school in the Chugiak/Eagle River area.

Lance Bowie, West High School principal, thanked the Board and the Administration for the recent renovation of West High School and encouraged the Board to go forward with the bond proposal recommendation noting that this proposal is a giant leap forward for the Anchorage School District.

Bob Christal referred to questions from Board members:

Number of classrooms at Chugiak High School after the renovation is completed:

Kathy Christy responded that Phase 1 will have a net change of an additional nine classrooms. Phase 2 will have a net change of losing seven classrooms. Phase 3 will add seven classrooms. After the renovation, Chugiak High School will have a total of nine additional classrooms. Ms. Christy further explained that even

though the square footage is not dramatically increased, the renovation provides a much better use of classroom space. (A future Phase 4 would add an additional five classrooms.)

Bob Christal explained that a design of a new high school for the Chugiak/Eagle River area is projected in year three of the bond proposal so that by the year 2008, construction of a new high school can be dealt with to accommodate the escalating growth in this area.

Denali Elementary demolition costs:

Kathy Christy explained that the cost estimate for Denali includes the demolition of the existing school.

Clear definition of Service High School phases:

Kathy Christy explained that Phase 1 consists of the upgrade of the science classrooms to the District standards. Phase 2 consists of knocking the outside wall off the science wing and to add more classrooms. There will be a total of 13 additional classrooms. Phase 3 will be the renovation of the other wing. Ms. Christy further explained that in the future, the library could be renovated to allow a more efficient use of that space and at the same time allow more community use of the library area. The students will be able to use the library through all phases of the renovation.

Number of zone exceptions at Dimond High School:

Pat McDowell responded that Dimond has 120 zone exceptions.

Why an ABC Alternative School and not a neighborhood school at the 92nd Street site?

Bob Christal explained that with the anticipated growth in south Anchorage and because the District already has the 92nd Street site, it would address some of the concerns in that area.

Number of classrooms used as offices at East High School:

Bob Christal responded that eight classrooms are currently being used for other programs. The District also uses space at the King Career Center and Bartlett for other programs. If Central Middle

School were closed, that facility could be used for administrative space.

Is there any wiggle room if there is not a 50/50 match from the State? Would the District end up sitting still for the next three years?

Bob Christal explained that the District would probably be sitting still for the next three years. However, it is important to be very up front with the voters or they won't support the bond.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to postpone any decision to  
seconded by Rita Holthouse a Special Meeting on  
January 7, 1999 and to do a  
public opinion poll on a bond  
proposal.

Bettye Davis commented that she likes the bond proposal concept but there are still many questions that need to be addressed.

Rita Holthouse asked if there will only be Board deliberation at the January 7 meeting.

Harriet Drummond replied that there will only be Board discussion. The January 7 meeting will be a continuation of this meeting from this point.

Mr. Christal asked that any bond questions from Board members be turned in by Monday, December 14.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,

Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,

Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Public opinion poll suggestions:

Debbie Ossiander commented that she would prefer to do an approach of what is being planned but only offer Year 1 on the ballot.

Dave Werdal agreed with Ms. Ossiander's approach and only put the first year on the ballot.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson noted that she is in favor of the four-year plan but would like some flexibility in the wording to still be able to sell some of the bonds and to go forward with the projects in case there is no State reimbursement.

Kathi Gillespie commented that she agrees with Ms. Robinson-Wilson noting that it's important to have some flexibility if there is no 50/50 match from the State. Ms. Gillespie noted that she is in favor of a four-year plan with flexibility.

Rita Holthouse commented that she is delighted with the emphasis on high schools and likes the four-year, long-range plan. Dr. Holthouse further commented however, that instead of gambling on the 50/50 State match, she would prefer to support a one-year bond proposal on the ballot.

Bettye Davis commented that she is very supportive of the four-year concept noting that there is still work to be done for public support but the proposal is on the right track.

Harriet Drummond explained that a high amount of energy has been expressed across the entire bond proposal that can be turned into a successful bond campaign. Ms. Drummond noted that this is an innovative plan that may need some flexibility in the 50/50 match. Ms. Drummond encouraged everyone to get behind the Superintendent and support this bond proposal.

The Special Meeting was recessed at 11:35 p.m.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION — (PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/  
LITIGATION)

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to recess to executive session.

seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Tape #12/9/98-1 Negotiations: Local Teamsters 959 — The date of the release of this tape of the executive session shall be one year after expiration of the contract currently being negotiated.

Tape #12/9/98-2 Negotiations: TOTEM - The date of the release of this tape of the executive session shall be one year after expiration of the contract currently being negotiated.

The Special Meeting was recessed at 12:30 a.m. on December 10, 1998 and will reconvene on January 7, 1999.

**CONTINUATION OF THE DECEMBER 9, 1998 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Thursday, January 7, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Harriet Drummond presided.

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, Pat McDowell, Gail Opalinski, Arge Jeffery, Norm Holthouse, Ed Conyers, Kathy Christy, Lee Wilson, Larry Wiget, Michelle Egan, Russ Ament, Bill Mikawa, Hans Bernard, Mary Tanghe, the press and other interested people.

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

ASD Memorandum #126 — 1999 General Obligation School Bond Recommendations (Revised)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve one bond proposal for a four-year construction and renovation plan totaling \$397,355,000. If approved by voters, this four-year bond plan would eliminate the need for additional construction and renovation bonds until at least 2003. The recommended bond proposal includes the following projects, listed by year.

It is further recommended that the Anchorage School District commit to sell the bonds for projects listed in years two through four only if those projects become eligible for at least a 50 percent funding match from the State legislature. Exceptions would be made in the case of Districtwide ADA/code renewal and replacement, and other projects that may not meet the state's eligibility requirements. These bonds could be sold without the availability of reimbursement at the direction of the School Board.

#### Year 1

##### Reimbursement Projects (70 percent state reimbursement)

- Dimond High School Replacement Construction
- New South Anchorage High School Construction
- Chugiak High School HVAC, Electrical and Fire Code Upgrades

##### Non-Reimbursement Projects

- Dimond High School Replacement Design and Demolition
- New South Anchorage High School Design and Site Improvement
- Chugiak High School Renovation, Phase 1 — House 2
- Government Hill Elementary School Addition and Renovation
- Russian Jack Elementary School Replacement
- Districtwide HVAC

- Districtwide Roof Repairs
- Electrical Support for Elementary Labs

Total for Year 1 (1999): \$169,150,000

### Year 2

#### Reimbursement Projects

- Service High School Renovation, Phase 1
- Wendler Middle School Renovation
- Denali K-8 School Replacement
- New Muldoon Middle School

#### Non-Reimbursement Projects

- Renewal and Replacement/ADA/Code\*

Total for Year 2 (2000): \$83,130,000

### Year 3

#### Reimbursement Projects

- Chugiak High School Renovation, Phase II — House 3 & Lower Level
- New Eagle River High School Design
- East High School Renovation, Phase I
- Bartlett High School Renovation, Phase I
- Service High School Renovation, Phase II
- Polaris K-12 School Renovation/Addition
- Chugach Optional Elementary School Renovation

- Chester Valley Elementary School Renovation
- Inlet View Elementary School Renovation
- Rabbit Creek Elementary School Renovation
- Turnagain Elementary School Renovation

Non-Reimbursement Projects

- Renewal and Replacement/ADA/Code\*

Total for Year 3 (2001): \$77,850,000

Year 4

Reimbursement Projects

- New ABC School
- Chugiak High School Renovation, Phase III —  
Elective Classes
- East High School Renovation, Phase II
- Bartlett High School Renovation, Phase II
- Service High School Renovation, Phase III
- O'Malley Elementary School Renovation
- Sand Lake Elementary School Renovation
- Eagle River Elementary School Renovation
- Airport Heights Elementary School Renovation

Non-Reimbursement Projects

- Renewal and Replacement/ADA/Code\*

Total for Year 4 (2002): \$67,225,000

Four-Year Bond Proposal Total: \$397,355,000

\*This includes heat and vent, electrical upgrades, roof repair and replacement, code upgrades and Americans with Disabilities Act requirement projects. Some of these projects may be eligible for debt reimbursement by the State of Alaska depending on the criteria for eligibility.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson seconded by Bettye Davis	to withdraw ASD Memorandum #126 that was put on the floor at the December 9, 1999 Board Meeting and to replace it with (and approve) Memorandum #126 (Revised) dated January 7, 1999.
--	---

Bob Christal explained the changes to the current, revised memorandum and what has occurred since the December 9 meeting, including the fire at Russian Jack Elementary that happened during the holiday break. Mr. Christal further explained that the District is waiting on the final analysis from the structural engineer and the number may change slightly over the next few weeks for the Russian Jack replacement. The school will not be used until it is fully repaired or replaced. Mr. Christal thanked the entire community, Alyeska Pipeline, The Boys and Girls Club, and the large number of District staff who put together a very good working contingency plan. Overall, the bond package has not significantly changed. The \$10 million originally designated for a transportation facility has been deleted because this project may be accomplished through a lease/lease purchase agreement over several years and to claim it under Pupil Transportation funds. Also, the new ABC School which was originally projected for Year 3 of the bond proposal has been moved to Year 4.

Dave Werdal questioned why the new ABC School has fallen so far on the list and noted that the ABC community was not informed of this change.

Bob Christal explained that when looking at the Six-Year CIP, the Board inserted a study for a new ABC School. The new ABC School has been moved to Year 4 because of recent information from the

Department of Education (DOE) stating they are not willing to give us full credit for the new school. An adjustment had to be added due to the fire at Russian Jack Elementary. Mr. Christal noted that the Six-Year CIP only addresses a study of a new ABC School.

Dave Werdal asked: How can a new middle school in the Muldoon area be justified when the average capacity is only 80 percent at the two new middle schools that were just recently opened? What will happen to all the happy Central parents who will be displaced unnecessarily if Central Middle School is closed? Will this action not sink all the bonds?

Bob Christal explained that in reviewing the cost estimate for the major renovation at the Central Middle School of Science, it appeared that some other alternatives should be considered. Since this school is on a smaller site and since well over half of the student population is not from the immediate geographic vicinity, it may be appropriate to explore other options. Putting \$15 million into Central without considering other alternatives would be poor planning. Mr. Christal noted that it is misleading to suggest that this recommendation of the facility is a reflection of the instructional program at Central Middle School of Science. This program has been very successful and could be replicated at one or more of the middle schools including Romig or the new Muldoon Middle School.

Bob Christal further explained that justifying the construction of a new Muldoon Middle School is based on the premise that putting \$15 million into the Central facility is not the best alternative. If the District could construct a new school for \$40 million which would allow the District to actually move approximately 200-300 students who live on the military base and post to a closer school, and allow us to place a school in the East/Muldoon part of Anchorage that has no middle school now, and which would also potentially open up space for other programs (Charter Schools) in the central part of the city, then this recommendation is justifiable.

As far as the Central parents who will be displaced unnecessarily, Mr. Christal explained that he did provide to the Board at the previous meeting his suggestions for student relocation. First, Romig does have space to house about 275 students. There are 253 students who live in the Central area that could be placed into Romig. Other than Government Hill and the military students,

most of these are within one and a half to two miles of Romig Middle School. The enrollment at Central from Elmendorf Air Force Base is 210 and from Fort Richardson is 121. Mr. Christal noted that he has spoken to the military delegate to the School Board as well as General Case from Fort Richardson and both are supportive and feel the parents from these areas would also support being placed at a new middle school in East Anchorage. In addition, there are approximately 170 students on zone exceptions into Central. The options for these students would be the same as for other students. If space existed in schools other than their neighborhood schools, they can apply for a zone exception.

Mr. Christal noted that he did not agree with the assessment that this recommendation will sink all the bonds. Mr. Christal explained that the success or failure of school bonds is a very complicated matter that is oftentimes based on uncontrollable factors. For example, since administratively we cannot advocate in an aggressive and positive manner for bond proposition, we are oftentimes in a reactive rather than active mode. Elected officials like Assembly members and School Board members can, however, take a positive and proactive stance on bonds which, Mr. Christal hoped, all Board members would do once a package is approved by the School Board.

Rita Holthouse requested clarification that there is planning money in the bond and an explanation in how it will be handled.

Bob Christal explained that the original recommendation included redirection of \$550,000 of 1997 Planning Funds. It is recommended that if the School Board approves a four-year bond that this redirection occurs by School Board action and not be included in the bond election. Voter approval for redirection is not required. If redirection was on the ballot, it would have to be a separate proposition. School Board redirection is a simpler process and it would not be necessary to wait until after the election to start the additional planning projects. The Administration will present this to the School Board for formal action in a future School Board memorandum.

Kathi Gillespie inquired as to why the new ABC School should be designated as an ABC School instead of a neighborhood school.

Bob Christal explained that the District has not modified from the fact that there is a significant number of people who want the ABC program option based on the wait list. If there is an ABC School in South Anchorage, there is a high potential that school will be filled. Mr. Christal noted that the District can address for the most part, the overcrowding in the neighborhood schools in that area. Mr. Christal explained that both Bayshore and Klatt elementary schools were at 120 percent of program capacity on September 30, 1998. Bayshore had 570 students and has a program capacity of 475, which equates to 95 students over capacity. Klatt had 525 students and has a program capacity of 437, which equates to 88 students over capacity. Bayshore is projected to be 103 students over capacity on September 30, 1999 and Klatt is projected to be 86 students over capacity, for a combined total of 189 students over capacity. Unfortunately, 189 students over capacity does not justify the construction of a new elementary school in that area. Confounding the situation is the fact that revised elementary projections for the Anchorage School District show the elementary student population peaking at 28,070 next year and then declining by 1,905 students to 26,165 at the start of school year 2004-05. Significantly smaller Kindergarten classes for the next five years is the major factor accounting for the projected decline. The short term fix is to make boundary adjustments that will utilize available space in Ocean View when the renovations are completed at that school. The program capacity of Ocean View will be 520 students when the renovations are completed by the start of the 2000-2001 school year. Ocean View is projected for 407 students at that time, which equates to space to accommodate another 113 students. Balancing the membership among Bayshore, Klatt, and Ocean View would provide a short term solution to the current problem. The longer term solution is to construct another elementary school in that area when justified by student population.

Dave Werdal asked for clarification on building a smaller, secondary facility in Eagle River.

Bob Christal explained that the community has many differing ideas about what the new high school in Eagle River should be and what the appropriate size is (400 to 1,200), or how to master plan it for growth. The type and size of facility, and therefore the costs, under these differing proposals varies considerable. It would be much better to invest time and effort into developing a consensus direction and plan for the new school before identifying how much

it should cost. There is planning and design money in the bond proposal. The goal would be to have a firm plan for funding in 2003, if the growth continued as projected. A new facility could be completed by 2005. Thirty million dollars would get a basic infrastructure for a secondary school which would allow additions further down the road.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she would prefer to look at a two or three year bond proposal instead of a four year proposal and not to group the big projects in Year 1. Ms. Ossiander also noted that it might be wiser to put Dimond back a little and do the South Anchorage High School which would give us some room. The alternative program and the charter school folks are looking for additional assistance. Ms. Ossiander stated that she would like to see the new ABC School moved up on the list and look at it as a design/build in either East Anchorage or South Anchorage, saving the 92nd Street site for potential growth in South Anchorage. It's also important to talk about long-range plans for the Chugiak/Eagle River area and perhaps going with a smaller secondary school for that area. It's imperative to be able to have some discretion in dealing with overcrowding schools in geographically isolated areas.

Dave Werdal expressed concern about a four-year bond proposal and the amount of money that is involved and noted that it's very important to put forward a good proposal that has a good chance of passing.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that the opinion poll survey response was very positive and that she is comfortable with going ahead with a four-year bond proposal that addresses the needs in every part of town.

Kathi Gillespie commented that the Dimond High School and the new South Anchorage High School need to stay on the same track. Ms. Gillespie expressed concern about the possibility of eliminating Year 4 from the bond package. Service High School has consistently come out to discuss their needs and they need to have Year 4 to do Phase 3 of their renovation. The recommended bond proposal is very strong. It is districtwide in scope, and has long term planning and vision.

Rita Holthouse commented that her preference is for a one-year bond package noting that the District has been doing good long-range planning with the Six-Year CIP which is revised every year. The total amount of the bond package is very large and it will be hard to explain State reimbursement. Dr. Holthouse also expressed concern for the lack of flexibility in Years 2, 3 and 4 noting that the District cannot afford to freeze construction for three years. Dr. Holthouse noted that she does not support closing Central Middle School of Science or the new Muldoon Middle School project and would like to see the East and Bartlett renovation be moved to Year 2 of the bond as well as the Chugiak/Eagle River design phase.

Bettye Davis expressed support for the multi-year bond proposal and noted that the District ought to be looking into the area of being visionary and that this recommendation is on the right track. Adjustment needs to be made with the Legislature - not the public, and if we can get information out to the public, we can move these bonds. Ms. Davis commented that she is willing to hear all the concerns but would like to see the Board pass the recommended bond proposal.

Harriet Drummond stated that she is supportive of the bond package as recommended by the Administration. Ms. Drummond noted that at the recent Economic Forecast luncheon, she heard positive comments about the Anchorage economy as a whole and that Anchorage can economically weather what is currently going on in the oil industry. Construction is an area that can be pumped up through this bond proposal noting that the School District provides a major amount of construction dollars in the community. Ms. Drummond further noted that during a Facility Planner International Conference which was held in Anchorage in early December, that the need for long-range planning was discussed and the District's proposed four-year bond proposal received a very positive reception.

Debbie Ossiander noted that the Chugiak/Eagle River Comprehensive Plan outlines the anticipated growth for the Chugiak/Eagle River area and it basically details and explains that in the last 20 years, the population of the Chugiak/Eagle River area has increased more than the Anchorage proper has. The District would be remiss if the overcrowding problem in the Chugiak/Eagle River area was ignored. Ms. Ossiander explained



Dave Werdal commented that there will be a credibility issue in not having accurate numbers for the projects in Years 2, 3, and 4. The numbers do not tell what will actually be done at the specific schools. The current bond proposal greatly favors the projects in the first year. Mr. Werdal also noted that Central is a very successful school and there has been no discussion about closing Central and that it is not a good idea to close that school on the spur-of-the-moment. Mr. Werdal noted that he is not in favor of the new ABC School being moved further back and that the current proposal does not address the overcrowding in the Chugiak/Eagle River area. Also, Mr. Werdal is not in favor of making four years' worth of decisions at one time and taking away many of those decisions from future Board members.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson noted that one of the major negatives of this amendment is that it leaves out all of East Anchorage. The older elementary schools that are on the bonds for Years 3 and 4 will still need renovations and their needs will still need to be met. The necessity for long-range planning is being heard throughout the community and the recommended four-year proposal addresses that need.

Kathi Gillespie commented that the Central Middle School program can be replicated at another school such as Romig Middle School or the new Muldoon Middle School. In reality, a better facility would allow expansion of the Central program. Ms. Gillespie urged support for the recommended four-year bond proposal.

Rita Holthouse noted that she is in agreement with the amendment and supports a one-year bond proposal and in regards to the Central issue, commented that you can't just move the program to another school and think you have a new school of science; you need to have community and staff support. Central is one of the most successful schools in the District and it's important that if it is going to be closed, to be up front and say it will be eliminated.

Debbie Ossiander noted that she supports the amendment.

Harriet Drummond commented that according to the opinion poll survey, that generally speaking, there is overwhelming support for the four-year bond proposal if we educate the community. There is

also support for the recommended bond proposal from a number of Assembly members.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal, Holthouse

Nays: Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,

Gillespie, Davis

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to add as the third paragraph of the Recommendation of Memorandum #126 (Revised): It is further recommended that if the State Legislature and Governor do not approve a debt reimbursement program with at least a 50 percent match for the projects identified in Years 2, 3 and 4 that the School Board can choose to go back to the qualified voters of the Municipality of Anchorage and ask them to fund the projects in Years 2, 3 and 4 with 100 percent local tax support.

Rita Holthouse explained that at the end of the December 9, 1998 meeting she expressed concern of the flexibility of Years 2, 3 and 4 if the District did not get the 50 percent State match. As it stands now, only the projects in Year 1 are for certain. If there are not matching funds in Years 2, 3 and 4 there will be not bonds. This District has too many facility needs to sit back for three years and that is what would happen with the current wording and if the District doesn't get the 50 percent match. Dr. Holthouse noted that if the bond proposal is passed, there will be the expectation for any schools listed on the bond to work for it. It is misleading and unfair to get the schools all excited and to pass this bond that unless this

flexibility is added, the projects could be delayed. Dr. Holthouse urged support for this amendment.

-

-

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,

Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,

Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal                      to move the new ABC School  
seconded by Rita Holthouse              from Year 4 to Year 3 of the bond  
proposal.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson expressed concern that if the new ABC School is moved to Year 3 it may have to be paid at 100 percent and won't be eligible for debt reimbursement.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if the District would qualify for a new elementary school for State reimbursement in Year 3.

Bob Christal explained that it would not qualify for State reimbursement in Year 3.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,

Holthouse, Davis

Nays: Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,

Gillespie

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson      to replace the wording  
seconded by Bettye Davis              New ABC School in  
Year 4 to read: New  
Elementary School  
location and program to be  
determined later).

Peggy Robinson-Wilson explained that there may be a need to keep the 92nd Street site as an elementary school site for use at a later date for a neighborhood school. This amendment would allow some flexibility in the designation of location.

Rita Holthouse commented that there is support for a new ABC School and it is inherent to move it from Year 4 to Year 3 of the bond proposal.

Dave Werdal noted that to change the program from an ABC School to something else then it is no longer an ABC School.

Kathi Gillespie noted that it's important to keep as much flexibility in this area as possible and that this amendment doesn't preclude the school from being an ABC School.

VOTE:

Ayes: Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,

Gillespie

Nays: Ossiander, Werdal,

Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT FAILED.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander      to bring back the previously  
seconded by Dave Werdal        Tabled Amendment.  
and unanimously approved

TABLED AMENDMENT:

That the New Eagle River High School Design in Year 3 be changed to the New Eagle River Secondary School for \$30 million.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that she doesn't have a problem with the idea of building a smaller secondary school in the Chugiak/Eagle River area; the problem is with building it too soon when there are other parts of town that are always at 100 percent capacity or higher.

Debbie Ossiander suggested that the bond proposal could be trimmed to accommodate this amendment by cutting the elementary schools in Year 4, the Service High School Phase 3 and Polaris Phase 2.

Kathi Gillespie stated that if the Board wants to talk about putting an additional school on the bond proposal to just add it to the bond and to not neglect the older elementary schools and other needs by deleting part of Year 4 of the bond proposal to make up for the addition of a new Chugiak/Eagle River school. Ms. Gillespie further stated that she is not supportive of removing other projects in order to make room for this project. Ms. Gillespie would be supportive to add a new school for the Eagle River area but not at the expense of the other schools.

Hans Bernard commented that Chugiak High School is presently overcrowded and even though there are differing opinions in the anticipated growth in the Chugiak/Eagle River area, Mr. Bernard urged support for this amendment.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal

Nays: Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,

Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT FAILED.

-

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

that Phase 2 and 3 of the Chugiak High School Renovation be placed in Year 3, that the new Eagle River Secondary School be placed in Year 4 under on Reimbursement Projects, and to move the New Eagle River Secondary Design to Year 2 under Non-Reimbursement Projects.

Debbie Ossiander explained that in the event this project doesn't qualify for State reimbursement, it will go back to the people. The intent is that the school is going on Year 4 of the bond proposal.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,

Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,

Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson  
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

that the location for the New ABC School be determined at a later date.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,

Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,

Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

-

-

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

Ayes: Ossiander, Robinson-Wilson,

Drummond, Gillespie,

Holthouse, Davis

Nays: Werdal

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

D. SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

E. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of December 9, 1998 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:50 p.m. on January 7, 1999.

---

Harriet Drummond, President

---

Dave Werdal, Clerk

---

Date Minutes Approved