

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #217 (98-99) February 8, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
SUBJECT: BOND PROPOSITION ADJUSTMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board revise the 4-year bond proposal and submit a substitute ordinance to the Anchorage Assembly. The total amount of the 4-year bond package will remain at \$428,740,000 with the following revisions:

Year 1 — Reduce Russian Jack Replacement \$1,000,000 from \$9,000,000 to \$8,000,000.

Year 2 — Add Central Middle School Renovation for \$3,000,000 as a Reimbursable Project.

Year 2 — Reduce Districtwide Renewal and Replacement/ADA/Code \$2,000,000 from \$8,160,000 to \$6,160,000.

PERTINENT FACTS:

As a result of the 4-year bond proposition there has been considerable discussion within the community regarding future uses for Central Middle School. The School Board indicated an interest in an administrative review of the issues raised regarding Central and the new Muldoon Middle School. The options discussed have been identified below for the School Board and the community. The major question centers on whether the District can justify the new Muldoon Middle School if in the future Central Middle School remains in operation. The answer is yes, if the grade level configuration is adjusted for Clark, Wendler and

the new Muldoon schools. However, no final determination is being assumed with this recommendation.

New Muldoon Middle School: A new Muldoon Middle School designed to the District's Educational Specification size of 158,000 square feet is proposed for Year 2 of the Bond. The District has just updated its projections in the preparation of the annual update to the 6-Year CIP. The question has been raised as to whether this project will qualify for DOE reimbursement in Year 2 of the bond, without impacting other secondary schools. The short answer is yes, if sixth graders are moved into the middle school program at Clark, Wendler and the New Muldoon Middle School.

In the study of the Middle School grade level configuration conducted last year, it was recommended to the Board to add sixth graders to the middle schools where feasible. The space in the northeast area of the bowl has been evaluated with the new projections. If a new middle school is built, sixth graders within three attendance areas could attend middle school once the new school opens (School Year 2004).

The Department of Education calculates capacity on a square footage basis. Students 7 through 12th grade are allocated 150 square feet. The allocation for 6th graders is 105 square feet. For schools considered to house 6th graders the allocation was averaged and the capacity was calculated with 135 square feet allocated to each student. The assumption was made that Dimond High School would be replaced at 1600 students and a new South Anchorage High School constructed at 1600 students. These two projects have been submitted for DOE approval. Once DOE approval is given and the bond passed, these projects are assured of reimbursement.

The Anchorage bowl in 2004 is calculated to have capacity for 18,868 students. The projection (including 6th graders at the three schools) is 18,677 students. There is additional capacity, five years after the projected opening, of 191 students throughout the entire Anchorage bowl. As the New Muldoon Middle School is being planned as a joint-use facility with the Municipality sharing space such as the library and the gym, it will be possible to request square footage variances to justify this comparatively small amount of additional square footage. If the state would allocate 6th graders in middle school programs the same square footage as the other students, the District would be over DOE capacity without any adjustments.

Starting the transition to a 6-8 grade level configuration requires that Central Middle School of Science remain open. However, additional square footage at

any of the middle schools could effect Muldoon's eligibility until DOE regulations are changed in regard to sixth graders.

Moving east side sixth graders has an added benefit. It provides additional capacity in the elementary schools. This will postpone the need for additional elementary construction in an area of town that is experiencing growth.

Central Middle School: The Central Middle School of Science community has expressed tremendous support for their school's program. At a meeting with the Central Parent Advisory Committee on February 2, 1999, parents stated that their priority was the academic program, and they did not require additions to the facility. In fact they did not want the larger school outlined in the middle school educational specifications. They value the smaller school size in the downtown location.

In last year's CIP Central was listed for upgrade in year 2000 and ranked priority 20 just before Wendler Middle School. The renovations in the CIP generally assume bringing schools to educational specification standards. In the case of Central this was a concern as the very small site does not provide the space necessary for additions. The transition to a 6-8 grade level configuration at the schools mentioned above requires the continued operation of Central. With the planned secondary construction identified in the 4 year bond, additional square footage can not be justified to DOE during this time period. Central parents have given their support to remaining a small school.

If Central remains operating with middle school students, Central is in need of upgrade due to the age of the school, although, over the years improvements have been made. The school is now fully sprinklered, lighting has been upgraded in many classrooms and restroom upgrades are already funded for this summer. The electrical system and the mechanical system require an upgrade and funds are needed to upgrade the science rooms. It must be recognized that this amount of funds does not address major programmatic upgrades to the school.

It is recommended that \$3,000,000 be allocated to Central in Year 2000. This will be funded by a \$1,000,000 reduction in Russian Jack Replacement and \$2,000,000 reduction from Districtwide Renewal and Replacement/ ADA/Code in Year 2 of the Bond. Central would be funded in year 2000 as a reimbursed project. This will correspond to Central's priority in the currently approved CIP document.

Russian Jack Replacement The District has received proposals for Russian Jack Replacement for a total project cost of \$10,950,000. Anticipating a minimum insurance reimbursement of \$3,000,000, the District can reduce the bond request in 1999 to \$8,000,000.

Summary Attached is an updated chart of the multi-year bond.

KC/JS/BC

Attachment

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