

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 25, 1998

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, June 25, 1998 at 5:30 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 (via teleconference), 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, Steve Kalmes, Pat McDowell, Ed Lindquist, John Alexander, Bob Price, Kathy Christy, Lee Wilson, Henry Jackson, 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

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

1. ASD Memorandum #360 — Performance Standards For Counselors

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the Performance Standards for High School Counselors presented as Attachment A

2. ASD Memorandum #338 — Contract Revision For S.P.Y.D.E.R. Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a contract revision to delay the opening date for the S.P.Y.D.E.R. Charter School from July 1, 1998 as previously authorized to July 1, 1999, as requested by the S.P.Y.D.E.R. Charter School Academic Policy Committee on Attachment A. A program budget would be developed and submitted to the Administration by November 15, 1998 for FY 1999-2000. This five year contract would be effective July 1, 1999 — June 30, 2004, or until

terminated, and would be subject to an annual review and negotiation as per School Board Policy 333.

3. ASD Memorandum #378 — Acceptance Of Grant Award: Youth Restitution Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept a pass-through grant from the Municipality of Anchorage, Youth Restitution Program, in the amount of \$35,000.

4. ASD Memorandum #377 — End-Of-Year Budget Review And Budget Transfers — FY 97-98

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer from unexpended accounts at year-end in the amount of \$7,255,000 into various accounts as outlined below.

The projects to be funded by this budget transfer include \$7,145,000 of Districtwide major maintenance projects and \$110,000 of equipment purchases. Approval of this recommendation will authorize \$5,700,000 of Districtwide major maintenance projects to be incurred in the FY 1997-98 General Fund rather than selling bonds as previously authorized by the voters in April 1998. This action will result in savings to the taxpayers and making available more projects eligible for State debt reimbursement under Senate Bill 11 in the future.

ASD Memorandum #360 — Performance Standards For Counselors

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the Performance Standards for High School Counselors presented as Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to approve Memorandum #360.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Kathi Gillespie asked when the Administration will pursue performance standards for the middle level schools in the coming years.

Carol Comeau explained that the intent is to continue to work with high school counselors to refine and enhance their program. After this is

accomplished, Administration will look at the performance standards for middle school counselors.

Rita Holthouse asked that a review and determination be made as to who is a senior high counselor and who needs to be certified as a counselor, and if a determination can be made whether "special counselors" are the student's primary counselor or are they just providing additional supportive counseling. Dr. Holthouse expressed concern that students who have many educational concerns and questions are not being served with the proper guidance in counseling and that some of the special counselors may not have the appropriate certification in counseling. Dr. Holthouse specifically noted that there are some high schools where special education students are receiving their counseling from a special education staff member who is not a certified counselor.

Carol Comeau noted that the special education department chair is not a certified counselor and it is very important to make sure that all special education students receive appropriate counseling services under this program as well as supplemental special education counseling.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson requested that the leading words at the beginning of the performance standards requirements listed in Attachment A be written in the active voice.

Lee Wilson explained that a more refined document will come forward later in the year.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if Indian Education students are being served by non-certificated counselors. Ms. Gillespie noted that it is very important that Indian Education students receive appropriate counseling from certificated counselors.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #338 — Contract Revision For S.P.Y.D.E.R. Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a contract revision to delay the opening date for the S.P.Y.D.E.R. Charter School from July 1, 1998 as previously authorized to July 1, 1999, as requested by the S.P.Y.D.E.R. Charter School Academic Policy Committee on Attachment A. A program budget would be developed and submitted to the Administration by November 15, 1998 for FY 1999-2000. This five year contract would be effective July 1, 1999 — June 30, 2004, or until terminated, and would be subject to an annual review and negotiation as per School Board Policy 333.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal to approve Memorandum #338.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Bob Christal explained that the S.P.Y.D.E.R. School Academic Policy Committee had originally planned to open their school this year but they need to delay the opening of school until July 5, 1999 due to an insufficient number of registered students.

Dave Werdal inquired as to what happens to the budget allocated for this charter school.

Janet Stokesbary explained that the funds will go to the Undesignated Fund account and that other charter schools could access these funds (up to 10 percent) if needed.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #378 — Acceptance Of Grant Award: Youth Restitution Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept a pass-through grant from the Municipality of Anchorage, Youth Restitution Program, in the amount of \$35,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #378.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Bob Christal explained that the Anchorage Assembly approved a pass-through grant from the Municipality to the School District for the Youth Restitution Program. This grant allows for the Volunteers of America to provide supervision to youths to maintain and clean elementary school playgrounds during the summer months (no grounds maintenance nor grass cutting is involved). The Municipality asked that the District work with them to get this started and to get the city's youth involved in this project which will be managed through Volunteers of America. Mr. Christal further explained that the District will not be providing any funding for this project from the District's operating funds.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #377 — End-Of-Year Budget Review And Budget Transfers — FY 97-98

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ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #377.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Bob Christal explained that the projected expenditures and encumbrances in the General Fund is approximately \$8 million less than the FY 1997-98 revised budget noting that the major areas projected to be underspent are salaries, fringe benefits and utilities. This surplus gives the District the ability to fund \$5.7 million in projects that were placed on a bond proposition in the April election, which will result in savings to Anchorage taxpayers. Mr. Christal further explained that approximately \$1.4 million will go toward major maintenance projects at older schools and the remainder (approximately \$2 million) will be added to the District's undesignated fund balance which will then total approximately \$13 million.

Mary Bise, TOTEM President, encouraged the Board to use some of the unspent funds to offset increases in the employee health insurance costs and to transfer some of the money into accounts that would directly benefit employees.

Dave Werdal inquired if the undesignated fund balance has ever been as high or higher than it is now.

Kathi Gillespie requested that the Board receive a summary of the budget revisions due to this change in the FY 1997-98 revised budget.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

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

D. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of June 25, 1998, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:00 p.m.

Harriet Drummond, President

Dave Werdal, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved