

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 6, 1998

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, July 6, 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, Janet Stokesbary, Bill Mikawa, Gail Opalinski, Fred Stofflet, Norm Holthouse, Ed Conyers, Pat McDowell, Ed Blahous, John Alexander, Lee Wilson, Larry Wiget, Kathy Christy, Bob Price, Jill Waters, 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 noting that the next Regular Meeting of the School Board will be on August 10, 1998.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION:

Moved by Bettye Davis	to reorder the Agenda by
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson	moving Memorandum #6
	from the Superintendent's
	Report to the end of the
	Consent Agenda.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Werdal, Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

The Agenda was approved as amended.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

E. PRESENTATION

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Robert Hayes commented on a letter he received from the Fire Marshal and the District's fire alarm system.

Sally Werner expressed her dismay that none of the extra money at the end of the year was allocated towards employees and encouraged the Board to consider redirecting some of the excess funds toward employee health benefits.

Marie Majewske, President of the NorthEast Community Center, requested that the Board consider granting the NorthEast Community Center \$32,000 so they may continue to serve the youth of East Anchorage. This money would be used to staff a new program that would provide structured activities for youngsters aged 6 to 12 in the Muldoon area.

Diane Etter urged the Board to consider allocating \$30,000 to support after-school activities that would benefit children and parents across the entire community.

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 — June 15, 1998

2. ASD Memorandum #1 — Prior Approval Of Discretionary Grant: Urban/Rural School-To-Work Expansion

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for School-to- Work Urban/Rural Opportunities supplemental funds.

3. ASD Memorandum #4 — Award Of Contract: Control Upgrades At Five Prototype Elementary Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Control Upgrades at Five Prototype Elementary Schools to Landis and Staefa, Inc., in the amount of \$338,650.

4. ASD Memorandum #8 — Selection Of Architect/Engineer For Multi-School Electrical Service Entrance And Computer Circuit Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of Coffman Engineers as the Architect/Engineer of record for the Multi-School Electrical Service Entrance and Computer Circuit Upgrade Design and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into one or more contracts with Coffman Engineers for design services as addressed in RFP # 98-74-RFP solicitation for A/E services issued June 9, 1998.

5. ASD Memorandum #7 — Sale Of Surplus Property

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the listed surplus property by sealed bid sale. Prior to sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

6. ASD Memorandum #5 — Personnel Report

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

7. ASD Memorandum #6 — Information Regarding Out-North Theater Program: "ON STAGE"

Clark Middle School was the recipient of a U. S. Department of Justice Grant two years ago, entitled "Pathways to Success" in the amount of \$50,932. This grant application and award were approved by Administration and the School Board prior to the start of the program.

The purpose of the grant was "to bring about change in the lowest socio-economic area of Anchorage, for students at an ethnically diverse, low income middle school. The goal of the project was to prevent delinquency and high-risk behaviors in a population of young people, ages 12—14, through free, innovative performing arts expression activities. The project included coordinated, high quality after-school and summer theater programs." (Project Abstract) Wendler Middle School students also participated in this program.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandum #6.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

to approve the Minutes of the
Special Meeting of June 15, 1998;

Memorandum #1; Memorandum
#4; Memorandum #8;
Memorandum #7; and
Memorandum #5.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #6 — Information Regarding Out-North Theater
Program: "ON STAGE"

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ACTION:

Moved by Bettye Davis
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

that the Anchorage School
District provide a personal
service contract in the amount
of \$30,000 for ON STAGE
programs at east Anchorage
schools for one year.

Bob Christal commented that this memorandum was prepared at the request of some Board members in early June. Mr. Christal noted that the Administration does not recommend a \$30,000 grant from the District's budget to the Out North Theater ON STAGE Program noting that the District has not funded programs of this nature to out-of-District agencies through the General Fund budget in the past and is not recommending that this practice begin at this time. Mr. Christal further noted that a source of funding for this amount has not been identified.

Dave Werdal commented that the issue of where the money would be coming from needs to be resolved.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if this action would mean that the Board would have to approve budget cuts in other areas if the Administration brings forward potential budget cuts.

Bob Christal commented that funding for this would probably come out of the undesignated fund balance and that there will not be a list of budget cuts identified.

Catherine Doss commented that kids are the future of our community and that self expression is critical to expressing oneself. Ms. Doss further commented that it would be an honor for the Board to grant the personal service contract to the ON STAGE Program.

Joe Senungetuk commented that as an artist and a writer he looks at Alaska as having two different histories; one being Native and one being non-Native. Mr. Senungetuk further noted that it's time to forget racism and the idea of ignoring poor people and minorities and urged the Board to support funding for the ON STAGE Program.

Brian Hutton commented that he has been very impressed with the ON STAGE Program and noted that this is the only program that provides theatrical kinds of events for young people. Mr. Hutton also commented that this program provides an opportunity for kids to shine in this area.

David Barney commented that the ON STAGE Program provides kids the opportunity to excel in the performing arts and urged the Board to support funding for this program.

Fumie Anbe commented that she has been involved in Out North for almost a year and that it has helped her to come out of her shell and shyness through acting and that Out North is a really good place to go to.

Michele Miller commented that expression of emotion is an important stepping stone in developing character and that exposure to being on stage enriches our children and society. Ms. Miller urged the Board to support this established, innovative program for at-risk children.

Ian Ingersoll commented that he has been involved with the ON STAGE Program for the past three years and it has helped him in many ways, it's a good program, and he doesn't want to see it go away.

Vivian Kinnaird commented that the ONE STAGE Program reaches at-risk students through the arts. Ms. Kinnaird noted that kids are given an avenue to explore and to express their thoughts in a non-threatening manner. Ms. Kinnaird urged the Board to support funding for the continuation of this program.

Pam Siegfried urged the Board to protect the ON STAGE Program and to help fund a program that really works for kids.

Keith Mason commented that when the cultural fabric is strengthened, families are revitalized and encouraged the Board to support the ON STAGE Program.

Bonnie Jones-Graham commented that she has no protest with funding the arts; however, she noted that she was puzzled that the Board would even think of funding this project when the schools have many needs in the area of books and supplies. Ms. Jones-Graham urged the Board to not fund this theater project when there are needs and programs in our schools that can use this money.

Marilee Miner commented that she is a strong supporter of the Out North Program noting that she has seen a profound growth and a wonderful ability change in the students who have participated in the ON STAGE Program.

Casadaro Shearrod commented that the ON STAGE Program offers kids a place to go and a chance for them to work with people their own age. Mr. Shearrod noted that this is a great program and that the students write their own plays and also perform in them.

Christina Ayala commented that she supports the ON STAGE Program noting that it is a safe environment for young people and that she has gained confidence and self assurance through participating in this

program. Ms. Ayala noted that Out North offers an artistic activity for kids during the summer.

Angela Littleton commented that she is an artist and an educator at Out North and noted that the kids involved in the ON STAGE Program are really learning something and they show a great deal of pride in what they are doing. The skills these students learn will be with them throughout the rest and their lives and will help them become successful adults.

Crystal Edwards noted that the ON STAGE Program helps to keep teens away from drugs and trouble and gives them a chance to open up and be creative. Ms. Edwards further noted that this program is also very educational.

Bettye Davis commented that she was glad to hear that the ON STAGE Program is going so well and believes it is time to grant a one-time supplement of \$30,000 to the ON STAGE Program. Ms. Davis noted that this program helps a lot of at-risk students and by helping this program at this point in time will allow the organization an entire year to seek funds for future years.

Rita Holthouse commented that it's important to consider what's best for students and what helps them learn and that preventing delinquency and at-risk behavior is of the utmost importance. Dr. Holthouse did express concern about the timing of this request noting that this discussion should have taken place during the regular budget process.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that this funding would be for only one year and that this program does address the District's goals in the area of maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning and establishing a supportive learning environment. Ms. Robinson-Wilson noted that even though the District cannot provide everything to everyone, there are ways to maximize our resources and urged support for this funding for the ON STAGE Program.

Debbie Ossiander commented that the ON STAGE Program sounds very strong, attractive and vital and that it's very appropriate to spend additional resources for at-risk students. However, there are other very important needs and programs for students as well. Ms. Ossiander further noted that there is not an administrative or in-school analysis of this program and that if the goal is to help at-risk students in East Anchorage,

Ms. Ossiander questioned whether this is the best avenue for these funds at this time.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if the District is now going to start funding non-profit agencies and if that is the case, some sort of competitive process needs to be developed in order to be fair in the allocation of funding. There needs to be a public process when dealing with public money and the process needs to be done in a fair and equitable manner. Ms. Gillespie also expressed concern about the District approving funding for this program after the Assembly had previously turned them down.

Dave Werdal commented that from what he has heard, the ON STAGE Program is a very good program. However, instead of funding other agencies, it is important to look at other areas within the District as to where these funds could be spent. If all of the District's needs have been met, then a competitive process should be established for the allocation of District funds for out-of-District agencies.

Harriet Drummond commented that the ON STAGE Program is a very effective program and that the District has the funds to allocate to this program at this particular time. Ms. Drummond noted that unique cultural opportunities are hard to come by and that kids in this age group need to be kept occupied in a positive way.

VOTE:

Ayes: Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Holthouse, Davis

Nays: Ossiander, Werdal,
Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #2 — Universal Service Fund (E-Rate) Update

Following several weeks of intense debate in Congress and at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the FCC on June 12, 1998 released its decision concerning 1998 funding for the E-rate and a new schedule for deploying those funds. The following questions and answers provide basic information about the FCC's decision. More detailed explanations of each including how funds will be allocated and how the new schedule will work, will be released by the Schools and Libraries Corporation over

the coming days. In addition, the Board should be aware that additional action by the United States Congress on the E-rate remains a possibility.

2. ASD Memorandum #3 — Conflict Of Interest: Fourth Quarter Report FY 1997-98

The attached listing of employee Conflict of Interest Waiver and Disclosure actions is forwarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.22. This information is provided as the fourth quarter report for the FY 1997-98 school year.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson requested that research be done to make sure that the last individual listed on Attachment A wasn't selling materials to students while working at the Family Partnership Charter School.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of July 6, 1998 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:15 p.m.

Harriet Drummond, President

Dave Werdal, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved