

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 1998

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, September 28, 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, Mark Pasier, Arge Jeffery, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Pat McDowell, Gail Opalinski, Larry Wiget, Ed Blahous, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Ray Fenton, Steve Garrison, Bill Mikawa, Kathy Christy, 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 and informed the public that Board packet information is now on the ASD Web Site at www.asd.k12.ak.us.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent noting the following changes: A travel addendum has been added to the Personnel Report, Memorandum #81 has been pulled to be addressed at a later date, and Memorandum #76 will be discussed immediately following Memorandum #57 under the Superintendent's Report.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #70 – BP Equipment Donation

In June of this year, BP Exploration assistant director Tom Gallagher and department head Keith Dunn organized a donation

of surplus audio-video equipment to the Anchorage School District. The BP donation included studio cameras, monitors and control room equipment that allowed the District to improve its audio-video production capability. Two of the cameras have been installed in the School Board Room for use during televised meetings.

This recent donation is just one part of BP Exploration's support of Anchorage public schools. In addition to their partnership with Rogers Park and Gladys Wood elementary schools, BP sponsors the high school Teacher Exploration Center technology labs, the Teacher of Excellence recognition program, the Science Olympics, and other activities Districtwide.

The School Board recognized BP Exploration for their generous donation of audio-video equipment to the Anchorage School District, and for their continued support of Anchorage students.

2. ASD Memorandum #71 – McKinley Fence Donation

The Polaris K-12 School outdoor habitat, which is being created in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation and many community volunteers, is designed to provide an outdoor education area for students. Development and construction of the habitat began near the end of the 1997-98 school year.

With the start of school this fall, Polaris began the task of fencing the habitat's pond. Teacher Mark Lyke contacted McKinley Fence for a cost estimate on the more than 500 feet of fence needed for the project. Richard Lindstrom from McKinley Fence met with Mr. Lyke, and after surveying the habitat and hearing of the strong community involvement that is helping to create the habitat, Mr. Lindstrom offered to donate the needed materials and labor. Installation of the fence will begin soon.

The School Board recognized McKinley Fence for their donation to the Polaris K-12 School outdoor habitat.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Hans Bernard commented that the Student Advisory Board will meet the second and fourth Monday of every month at the King Career Center.

2. Military Delegate

Bill Turner commented that the school year has started very well except for a few bus problems. Major Turner further commented that MMR vaccinations, in lieu of the recent measles outbreak, are also available on base for military dependents.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Rich Kronberg, AEA President, commented that the educators in the Anchorage School District are quality people who help students attain a quality education. Quality instruction is provided in spite of an evaluation system that produces fear and anxiety which is counterproductive to growth. The current system of alternative evaluation models subjects proficient educators to unnecessary paperwork which in turn takes time away from students. Mr. Kronberg also noted that staff provides quality education in spite of a dysfunctional substitute finder system and that teachers need to know they do not have to go to work when they are ill. Mr. Kronberg further stated that educators provide quality instruction despite an ever increasing workload. It is important to make sure that teachers' time is used to produce quality instruction and to promote professional growth.

Jeanne Brooking, North Star PTA President, commented on the severely overcrowded kindergarten classes and requested that the District consider adding an additional teacher at North Star Elementary.

Bob Christal stated that this situation will be addressed this up-coming week.

Ellen Gamel, TOTEM President, commented that the TOTEM Association represents a very large component of professional employees in the District and that it was her hope that the Board and the Administration acknowledge respect, recognition and remuneration for not only members of the TOTEM Association, but all employees of the District.

Trevor Bonk, Village Charter School student, commented that he would like the Village Charter School to remain open and to have Ms. Sharp as his teacher.

Jan Haugan-Bonk, Village Charter School parent, encouraged the Board to approve \$40,000 to maintain a building so that the Village Charter School can remain open noting that her son needs the least restrictive learning environment which the Village Charter School provides.

Richard Hermosillo, Village Charter School parent, commented that the Village Charter School provides an avenue for students to excel in learning Spanish and encouraged the Board to approve additional funds to keep the Village Charter School's doors open.

Ray Justus, Village Charter School student, commented that he would like to continue to learn Spanish and Norwegian at the Village Charter School and that the parents and kids hope the school can stay open.

Raylene Sauer, Village Charter School parent, commented that if the Village Charter School remains open and the program is successful, it will benefit the entire school system as well as children who are excited to learn.

Juliet Fast, Village Charter School parent, encouraged the Board to approve additional funding so that the school can remain open.

Karen Iris and Eileen Burnside, members of the Alaska State Literacy Conference Committee, invited Board members to attend the Alaska State Literacy Conference to be held in Anchorage on October 8, at the 4th Avenue Theater and October 9, and 10 at the Egan Center.

Tom Hardwick from Faith Baptist Church commented that the church has space available for educational use but costly renovations will be necessary to accommodate space for a school.

Steiner Hansen commented that there is space available at the Viking Hall for school use but a substantial amount of money would be needed for renovation.

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 8, 1998

2. ASD Memorandum #78 – AASB Resolutions

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the following:

1. Association of Alaska School Boards' (AASB) 1998 Belief Statements and Core Resolutions including the changes and additions proposed by the School Board (Attachment A). Suggested Anchorage School Board (ASB) proposed resolutions and amendments are highlighted both in the table of contents and within the document.
2. Proposed ASB Resolution on School Vouchers (Attachment B).
3. Proposed ASB Resolution on Funding for the High School Qualifying Examination (Attachment C).
4. Proposed ASB Resolution on Implementation of School-To-Work Programs (Attachment D).
5. Proposed ASB Resolution on Development of Post Secondary Special Education Programs in Alaska and Educational Opportunities for Alaskans to Complete Special Education Certification Training Outside Alaska (Attachment E).

3. ASD Memorandum #27 – Revision To School Board Policy 450: Student Surveys (Revised) (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading, the revisions to School Board Policy #450, section 14 of the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* document, as shown on Attachment A.

4. ASD Memorandum #65 – Revision To School Board Policy 341.3: Controversial Issues (Revised) (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the following revision to School Board Policy 341.3 Controversial Issues on Second Reading, as shown on Attachment A.

5. ASD Memorandum #72 – Alaska Department Of Education Debt Reimbursement Applications

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit applications to the State of Alaska, Department of Education (DOE) for debt reimbursement for \$54,526,000 in potentially eligible April 1998 Municipal Bond projects and reserve the balance of available reimbursement for future bond projects.

6. ASD Memorandum #54 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Alaska Health Online

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) for a model online health curriculum and assessment project in the amount of \$139,115.

7. ASD Memorandum #80 – Acceptance Of Continuation Grant For Title VII Comprehensive School Grant For Government Hill Elementary School To The U. S. Department Of Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept continuation grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$238,758 to fund the continuation of the Title VII Comprehensive School Grant for Government Hill Elementary School.

8. ASD Memorandum #79 – 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 the sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

9. ASD Memorandum #73 – Personnel Report

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

10. ASD Memorandum #81 – Ratification Of Agreement Between The District And Public Employees Local 71 (Custodians And Building Plant Operators)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the collective bargaining agreement between the District and Public Employees Local 71, which will establish terms and conditions of employment for custodians and building plant operators during the period between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 2001.

11. ASD Memorandum #88 – School Board Membership In Association Of Alaska School Boards

It is recommended that the School Board authorize payment of \$23,800 to the Association of Alaska School Boards for membership for 1999.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #78, #27, #65, #54, #80 and #73

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve the Minutes of the
Special Meeting of September 8,
1998; Memorandum #72;
Memorandum #79
and Memorandum #88.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #78 – AASB Resolutions

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the following:

1. Association of Alaska School Boards' (AASB) 1998 Belief Statements and Core Resolutions including the changes and additions proposed by the School Board (Attachment A). Suggested Anchorage School Board (ASB) proposed resolutions

and amendments are highlighted both in the table of contents and within the document.

2. Proposed ASB Resolution on School Vouchers (Attachment B).
3. Proposed ASB Resolution on Funding for the High School Qualifying Examination (Attachment C).
4. Proposed ASB Resolution on Implementation of School-To-Work Programs (Attachment D).
5. Proposed ASB Resolution on Development of Post Secondary Special Education Programs in Alaska and Educational Opportunities for Alaskans to Complete Special Education Certification Training Outside Alaska (Attachment E).

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve memorandum #78.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Theresa Obermeyer commented that the AASB Resolutions are very important to not only the State of Alaska but also to the Anchorage School District noting that Anchorage has almost 40 percent of the State's student population.

Kathi Gillespie stated that the Legislative Committee has met and reviewed the four resolutions brought forth in this document.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson (Page 31, 3.5 Rationale under
seconded by Kathi Gillespie Violence In Media and
and unanimously approved Entertainment) to leave in the
wording that is suggested to
be deleted and to delete the
wording that is suggested
to be left in, and to insert
a new statement after
the rationale. The following is
the suggested wording:
[Leave In] Surveys frequently
cite media violence as a major
factor contributing to school
violence. In a 1993 national
survey conducted by Met Life,

55% of teachers and 60% of law enforcement officials believed that violence in the mass media is a “major” factor contributing to violence in the schools. A recent national School Boards Association survey of school districts found similar results: 60% of the districts cited media violence as a leading cause of violence in schools. [Delete] Many Surveys have cited media violence as a major factor contributing to school violence including a 1995 National School Boards Association survey of school districts which found that 60% of the districts cited media violence as a leading cause of violence in schools. [Insert New Statement] Analysis of the recent multiple victim school shootings (Anchorage Daily News, June 21, 1998) indicate a commonality of these four factors: obsession with the violent pop culture, a child who felt inferior or picked on (probably suicidal), easy access to high-powered guns, and ample warning signs. Reducing the violence will not eliminate the threat, but will work in conjunction with efforts directed at addressing the other three factors.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that this language is less redundant and more clearly defines in the rationale, the commonality of the factors that cause violence.

Amendment passed by unanimous consent.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
seconded by Bettye Davis

To remove the ASD Committee recommended deletion on Page 32, 3.7: The wording is to remain as follows: The Pledge further states that “If we, Alaska Natives and concerned individuals, are to remain as healthy distinct nations, it will be because I took a stand against the elements which weaken and destroy our spirits, our values and our languages. If our spirits are to remain strong and sober, it has to begin somewhere, Let it begin with me.”

Peggy Robinson-Wilson expressed concern about the deletion of the Native sobriety part and that it would be better to leave the Pledge in the rationale.

Kathi Gillespie explained that the committee was a little concerned about this particular statement because when this resolution was originally discussed, the Pledge was not part of the rationale. This does agree with the sobriety movement but goes a bit further and in the light of the discussion of Indian Country, it is important to be careful of what is being publicly endorsed.

Debbie Ossiander commented that in retrospect, the resolution is supporting the sobriety movement which is vital. The inclusion of the Pledge language in the rationale doesn't really mean that the Anchorage School Board endorses the idea of Indian Country.

Kathi Gillespie noted that it's important to remember that this doesn't go directly to the floor, this will go to the Resolutions Committee.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie

to delete Resolution 3.7.

Motion died for lack of second.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie

seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

(Page 43, 5.3) to delete and
replace rationale as follows:

The same rules of operation
should apply for all statewide
correspondence programs. The
Anchorage School Board
supports local determination of
the program offered in each
district. Each district reserves
the right to create and provide
programs for their students
and/or contract for these
services.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that she heard that the Family Partnership Charter School had discussions with DOE regarding whether or not they should be considered a correspondence study program.

Carol Comeau explained that the District's and the Family Partnership's position is that the Family Partnership is not a correspondence program. The District believes it is an alternative program in a charter school. The face to face contact with teachers further indicates that it's a local charter school that does not have children coming in from outside the District and it doesn't fit in to what the District believes is the definition of a correspondence program. The Family Partnership School has written to the Department of Education appealing the information received from Eddy Jeans saying they are only going to potentially fund them at 80 percent. A letter is being written from the District in support of the Family Partnership's position stating they should be funded the same as the other schools and not at the 80 percent level.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
seconded by Kathi Gillespie
and unanimously approved

to make the following changes
to the wording of the first
paragraph of Attachment E
to read as follows: The
Anchorage School Board
promotes the establishment
and/or expansion of post-
secondary educational programs
to train additional individuals
as certified special education
teachers and the initiation of
programs to train related service
providers (i.e. school
psychologists, physical
therapists, and speech
therapists) within our State
University system.

Rita Holthouse inquired why the focus is on Special Education.

Debbie Ossiander explained that there have been discussions about the difficulty in hiring teachers to staff schools in remote and small locations which is only part of the picture. Statewide there are specific problems that are particularly acute in urban areas in the area of Special Education and the special service providers. In those areas, it has been necessary to contract out to various organizations to provide the needed service. This is a statewide problem not just a problem in Anchorage.

Kathi Gillespie added that the District is under a federal mandate that the state provide qualified people to fill these positions in the state. With the reauthorization of IDEA, it mandates that the state provide the school districts access to qualified personnel. Discussions need to begin with the state and the university system to provide those specialists. School districts are now being held accountable to providing these services as of last July.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson noted that the wording of the first sentence indicates that there are no current post-secondary educational programs to train special education teachers. There is a Special Education program at UAA at both the Bachelors level and Masters level. Ms. Robinson-Wilson inquired if the program is limited to a small number of students or if these programs are not offered at the other university campuses.

Kathi Gillespie explained that this concern is addressed in recognizing the need to expand the programs that are in place and to initiate new programs to provide those specialists that we are not able to attract and train at the present time within the system.

Amendment passed by unanimous consent.

ASD Memorandum #27 – Revision To School Board Policy 450: Student Surveys (Revised) (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading, the revisions to School Board Policy #450, section 14 of the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* document, as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #27.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Diane Etter, PTA President, expressed concern with the language in the last sentence of the second paragraph following the eight items requiring prior parental written consent which states: "In addition, it is appropriate to require students to complete these surveys." Ms. Etter explained that students should not have to be required to complete a survey.

Debbie Ossiander inquired as to what instance this language is relevant.

Carol Comeau explained that there are a number of curricular areas where students fill out a survey and never turn them in but may use the survey in a discussion. Students are encouraged to fill out the survey but if students do not want to, they don't have to. There are academic courses that have connection to academic programs and curricula where this type of activity is used in the classroom.

Andree McLeod commented that now is the time to strengthen this policy in making it more restrictive to what is asked in surveys in schools. At issue is what constitutes private family affairs and asking students questions about private family affairs without getting parental permission which could lead to having that action challenged in a court of law.

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to delete the last sentence
seconded by Dave Werdal of the second paragraph under
the eight items requiring prior

parental written consent which reads: ~~In addition, it is appropriate to require students to complete these surveys.~~

Kathi Gillespie questioned if deleting this sentence would create a problem in allowing academic/instructional type surveys.

Bettye Davis noted that the wording says it is appropriate to require students to complete these surveys; it does not say they have to complete the surveys. The PTA is saying they do not want any student to be forced to fill out a survey they do not want to fill out. Ms. Davis suggested changing the word "these" to "instructional" surveys.

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to change the word "require" to "encourage."

Peggy Robinson-Wilson stated that word would substantially change the meaning. Ms. Robinson-Wilson further stated that there is no real harm in deleting the sentence.

Kathi Gillespie withdrew her Amendment to the Amendment.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Drummond

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Debbie Ossiander asked how the previous policy on student surveys was more restrictive than state and federal law.

Andrena Stone, legal counsel, explained that the previous policy was more restrictive than state law and federal law because it mixed both laws. The previous policy was more descriptive in that it identified prohibitive categories and at present, there is not a clear definition of private family affairs. In an individual's opinion, the items could be interpreted as falling under private family affairs.

Kathi Gillespie stated that it is important to be as clear as possible to everyone about what the law is in these matters and what is prohibitive under the law.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson noted that there will not be a clear definition of private family affairs until there is a court resolution on the matter.

Andrena Stone explained that students can participate in voluntary surveys but it is important to remember that any survey in the state must abide by state law.

Kathi Gillespie commented that there is a state law in Alaska protecting families about private family affairs and that there is a public process to go through if anyone wants to get a state law changed. Ms. Gillespie encouraged the Board to stay with the policy as it is written and not make any changes.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson stated that it's very important to be very clear with Board policy and to make sure that in doing so that state and federal laws are being followed. To be on the safe side, go with what is included here which is quoting both state and federal law and let others sort it out as far as what something actually is interpreted as and means, and how something fits in or not. Both state and federal law will be followed regardless of which way it is interpreted. District policy includes both state and federal law. If state law changes, the policy will be changed and if federal law changes, the policy will be changed.

By unanimous consent, the School Board recessed the Regular Meeting and went into executive session at 9:30 p.m. in order to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel regarding this issue.

The Regular Meeting was reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

Debbie Ossiander stated that the Board has received further clarification regarding potential District liability and explained that the old policy was more restrictive because it clearly defined private family affairs. The recommendation is that if state and federal law is separated, this issue will then be approached in a clearer fashion.

Bob Christal explained that the reason the Administration supports the change in this policy is because it delineates state and federal law. This action does not give support to any individual survey. If a survey asks about a student's behavior in some area, whether it's illegal or has to do with sexual behavior, it will be viewed as a private family affair. This change in policy will not cause the Administration to go further to one side or the other on any particular survey. Both state and federal law are quoted in this policy. An administrative judgement will still be made for

all surveys. It will be clearer for everyone to see what the two laws are if they are separated and delineated as suggested in this memorandum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Werdal, Gillespie

MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

ASD Memorandum #65 – Revision To School Board Policy 341.3:
Controversial Issues (Revised) (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the following revision to School Board Policy 341.3 Controversial Issues on Second Reading, as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #65.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Bob Christal explained that this memorandum was tabled last spring in order to get recommendations from the bargaining groups for potential committee members. These names will be given to the Board so they can process through the various individuals.

Diane Etter, PTA President, commented that the PTA Executive Board supports the changes to this policy and noted that the application process should help to balance the committee.

Hans Bernard, Student Representative, inquired if an additional student could be added to the list of student representatives who would serve on the Controversial Issues Committee.

Debbie Ossiander explained that this was previously discussed and there was a concern as to how large the committee would become.

Harriet Drummond inquired if there were any reasons why a student could not apply for one of the "citizens" positions.

Bob Christal commented that it would depend on the opinion of the Board and that in all fairness, students have been very articulate and present their positions very clearly.

Rita Holthouse expressed concern about the members of the committee being appointed by the Board which may discourage people from applying because they will be publicly discussed.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that the Board encourages a broad range of individuals to apply to serve on the Controversial Issues Committee.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #54 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Alaska Health Online

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF) for a model online health curriculum and assessment project in the amount of \$139,115.

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to approve Memorandum #54.
seconded by Dave Werdal

Kathi Gillespie inquired if the questions on the survey connected to the online health curriculum and assessment project will meet the guidelines of the survey policy just previously discussed.

Bob Christal explained that it will definitely meet those guidelines.

Steve Garrison, Research Associate, explained that this project will be used as an assessment tool for curriculum in that it will help to understand how a child is learning the District's health curriculum. Dr. Garrison explained that no personal information will be asked, there will be total anonymity, and that this is basically an assessment of the health curriculum.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Drummond, Gillespie,
Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None
Abstain: Robinson-Wilson
MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #80 – Acceptance Of Continuation Grant For Title VII Comprehensive School Grant For Government Hill Elementary School To The U. S. Department Of Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept continuation grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$238,758 to fund the continuation of the Title VII Comprehensive School Grant for Government Hill Elementary School.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #80.
seconded by Dave Werdal

Peggy Robinson-Wilson inquired if there has been any kind of legal analysis, from an educational stand point, of the English as the Official Language Initiative and how that would relate specifically to the District's language immersion programs in both the two-way and the one-way. Ms. Robinson-Wilson asked if that information could be given to the Board before the November election so if it does pass, how it would affect the District's programs and what costs might be involved for the District.

Carol Comeau explained that she has done a little research on this initiative and from what she understands, they are really not trying to take away language immersion kinds of programs and it is not as restrictive as the California initiative. Even two-way Bilingual programs in California, in many cases, were not abandon; they were modified based on student population. A legal review can be done but the way the initiative is written, it is more for government functions rather than language immersion programs.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson noted that she would appreciate someone looking into this initiative from the legal stand point in case there is an unintentional spin-off the District may need to be aware of.

Rita Holthouse commented that she is in favor of this grant but noted there are 60 days of teaching time being taken from a particular school.

Sandy Stephens, Government Hill Principal, explained that some of that time is sub-time and that in the third year of the grant the number of days

teachers will be pulled out drops substantially. Ms. Stephens further explained that both sub-time and addendum time will be utilized noting that most teachers are choosing to use addendum time.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #73 – Personnel Report

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

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #73.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Rita Holthouse asked if retired employees are now being rehired and coming back in to the District as new employees.

Bob Christal explained that current law allows retired teachers to work part-time and that the District is being very cautious about watching the amount of time and salary range of these positions.

Russ Ament, Executive Director of Human Resources, explained that these positions are mainly in the hard-to-fill areas, are mostly .25 FTE positions, and are compensated at the new teacher salary range.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #77 – Enrollment Status As Of September 11, 1998

Enrollment figures for the first seven days of the 1998-99 school year indicate that the Anchorage School District has experienced projected growth this school year. The total membership on the seventh day of school, September 11, 1998, was 49,162, which is a gain of 729 students over the seventh day total in 1997. The total of 49,162 is the largest membership total in the history of the Anchorage School District.

It is estimated from historical trends that the total membership will grow to approximately 49,500 by September 30, 1998. If the active enrollment reaches 49,500 by September 30, that total would be 56 less than the fall projection of 49,556. The current 1998-99 budget was developed using the fall projection of 49,556.

Norm Holthouse, Executive Director of Technology/MIS, explained that as of today, there are 49,513 students in the District (just 43 students under projection). Dr. Holthouse further noted that Kindergarten enrollment is 376 under projection and that a Kindergarten Enrollment Report will be prepared for the Board.

2. 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).

Due to the lateness of the evening, this memorandum was moved to the October 12, 1998 School Board Meeting.

3. ASD Memorandum #76 – Underachieving Schools’ Report FY 1997-98

The past school year marked the third year of at least partial implementation of the Underachieving Schools' Grants in six Anchorage School District Schools. Ptarmigan Elementary, Taku Elementary, Willow Crest Elementary, Central Middle School of Science, Romig Middle School, and West High School all participated in the grants in 1997-98. Principals and staff from those schools have compiled reports detailing both goals and accomplishments related to the Underachieving Schools' Grant funds. Those reports are presented in full with this memorandum as Attachments A through F. Attachment G provides a summary of California Achievement Test (CAT) information related to the schools and to the District as a whole. Additionally, Memorandum #60 (97-98) dated September 21, 1997, provided the Board and public with a review of the programs through the 1996-97 school year.

In the attached school reports, the norm referenced test (CAT) review was compiled by Curriculum and Evaluation staff after the documents were turned in by principals. The remainder of the reports were compiled by principals and others at the school level.

A brief report from each school participating in the Underachieving Schools' Grant was presented to the Board. The six schools participating in this grant include: Ptarmigan Elementary, Taku Elementary, Willow Crest Elementary, Central Middle School of Science, Romig Middle School, and West High School.

4. ASD Memorandum #58 – Assessment Schedule: 1998-99

A number of Districtwide testing and large scale survey activities are planned for 1998-99. The information included in the attachment was provided to principals to help in the development of school calendars. Some dates are 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 Examination (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.

Due to the lateness of the evening, this memorandum was moved to the October 12, 1998 School Board Meeting.

5. ASD Memorandum #75 – Facility Project Report And Change Order Report For The Month Of August 1998

The monthly Facility Project Report Update and Change Order Report for the month of August 1998 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

Debbie Ossiander inquired if Chugiak High School had any money left from their soccer field project that could be used for fencing.

Ed Conyers replied that he will look into this and will get the information back to the Board.

Rita Holthouse inquired about the status of the technology labs at East and Bartlett high schools.

Ed Conyers explained that an engineer test will need to be conducted to see if there is enough electricity to run the labs before they are able to come on-line.

6. ASD Memorandum #64 – Relocatable Building Disposal

In accordance with School Board Policy 734.1, the Administration has arranged for the transfer of a no longer useable relocatable building (#100-G-63) to the Municipality of Anchorage Fire Department for its use as a fire fighting training aid.

The relocatable has little or no residual value to the District and is beyond the point of economic repair and/or renovation. It is currently located at Government Hill Elementary School.

The relocatable will be moved to a new location, as selected by the Fire Department, by the Anchorage School District Maintenance Department. Upon delivery to the new location, the District will relinquish ownership and any further liability.

Bob Christal explained that this relocatable was unusable, unsafe, and was not cost effective for renovation and that Government Hill Elementary did receive a replacement.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Harriet Drummond commented that there is a need to set a date for a Joint Public Hearing between the School Board and the Planning & Zoning Commission

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of September 28, 1998 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:05 a.m., September 29, 1998.

Harriet Drummond, President

Dave Werdal, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved