

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 1998

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, November 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, Arge Jeffery, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Bob Price, Ed Blahous, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Larry Wiget, Michelle Egan, Jill Waters, 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.

Kathi Gillespie announced that she and Harriet Drummond attended an Education Mini-Conference with Senator Stevens on November 5, 1998.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson welcomed east Anchorage Cub Scout Troop 236.

Bob Christal announced that students who do not have their second measles vaccine by November 16, 1998 will not be admitted to school.

Bob Christal announced that *Parents in Our Schools Days* are scheduled for November 17, 18 and 19 and encouraged all parents to visit their student's school.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS1. ASD Memorandum #109 – Chugiak Youth Sports Association Field Adoptions

For the last seven years, the Chugiak Youth Sports Association has taken an active partnership role with the Anchorage School District in the care, maintenance and improvement of school sports fields in Eagle River-Chugiak.

Through the District's Adopt-A-Field program, CYSA soccer coordinators Holly Odegard and Joe Saccone have organized hundreds of volunteers and donated thousands of hours toward field cleanup, fertilizing, seeding and general maintenance. CYSA works closely with Ralph Mingo and Bob Price to ensure a positive, cooperative working relationship with the District's maintenance department.

The School Board recognized the Chugiak Youth Sports Association for their outstanding participation in the Adopt-A-Field program.

2. ASD Memorandum #118 – ASD Milken Award Winners

Two of the four Alaskans who received the 1998 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award are elementary educators in the Anchorage School District. They are: Mary Johnstone, principal of Susitna Elementary; and Jody Solmonson, a fifth-grade teacher at Bear Valley Elementary.

Alaska Department of Education Commissioner Shirley Holloway presented the awards to Ms. Johnstone and Ms. Solmonson at the Alaskan Milken Educators Banquet held on October 16. Each honoree will receive \$25,000 and attend a conference in California next June.

The Milken Family Foundation, the Alaska Department of Education and the Alaska Staff Development Network sponsor the awards program. Alaska has participated in the program since 1990. Since then, 46 Alaskan educators have received the honor.

The School Board recognized Mary Johnstone and Jody Solmonson as 1998 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award winners.

3. ASD Memorandum #120 – LAPD Certificate Of Appreciation To Joseph Kunes

On January 26, 1998, Anchorage School District school psychologist Joseph Kunes was in the Los Angeles International Airport when he observed an altercation between Los Angeles Police Department detectives and suspected narcotics couriers. When one of the suspects broke free and began to run toward the terminal exit, Mr. Kunes quickly cut off the suspect's escape and single-handedly grappled with him until detectives arrived on the scene. According to the LAPD, the suspect, who was on probation for armed robbery at the time, would have surely escaped if not for the action of Mr. Kunes.

In appreciation of his "exemplary perseverance and bravery," the LAPD sent Mr. Kunes a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the department.

The School Board recognized school psychologist Joseph Kunes for his character, courage and citizenship.

4. ASD Memorandum #121 – Alaska Association For Community Education Recognitions

On Wednesday, October 28, 1998, the Alaska Association for Community Education, at their Annual Meeting, presented the following statewide awards to individuals involved in the Anchorage Community School Program.

Mrs. Rebecca Randazzo and the Inlet View Elementary School Staff were recognized for their support and belief in the community school philosophy. They actively participate and support the extended use of the school building. They also work with the community school staff and volunteers to enrich the students learning opportunities. Through Mrs. Randazzo's support, innovative programs have begun and outreach to the satellite schools has been excellent.

Carol Brassfield has been a volunteer at Rabbit Creek Community School for over four years. In addition to serving as current

Chairperson of the Rabbit Creek Community School Board of Directors, Carol has been involved in all of the school enrichment programs, recreation reading and has chaired many of the school family involvement activities.

Sharon Jaeger, Coordinator at Chester Valley/Susitna Community School, has been an active, contributing member of the Association since joining the Anchorage Community School staff in August 1995. The Association recognizes her involvement with training, conferences, newsletters and membership.

The School Board recognized Mrs. Rebecca Randazzo and the Inlet View Elementary School Staff as recipients of the Alaska Association for Community Education Outstanding Cooperation with Community Education Award - 1998, Carol Brassfield as recipient of the Alaska Association for Community Education Outstanding Work by a Community Member, Urban Award - 1998 and Sharon Jaeger as the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to the Alaska Association for Community Education Award - 1998.

E. PRESENTATION

1. Curriculum Presentation: RARE-T Program

Sharon Vaissiere, Coordinator of Health/Physical Education Programs, along with Alexandria Sharp-McCormick, Dimond RARE-T Sponsor, and student trainers Cari Coy and Rachel Davis gave a brief description and presentation of the RARE-T Program (Reduce Aids Risk Effectively In Teens).

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Theresa Obermeyer invited Board members to attend her court hearing at the Nesbett Court House.

Pam Siegfried noted that she has not received a response to the two requests for reevaluation of educational materials which were submitted in June. Ms. Siegfried explained that she filed a challenge on two stories that are on the banned list from American Indian Myths and Legends stories which should be taken off the prohibited list and put in with the rest of the book. It was noted that Native resource materials are still needed in the schools. There has also been a request filed to reevaluate the American Heritage Dictionary which was banned in 1976 and has

since crept into various school libraries. Ms. Siegfried requested that the District reevaluate and reinstate the American Heritage Dictionary.

Carol Comeau explained that a list of Native resource books has been identified from a local vendor. Schools will be able to purchase books from the list using left over library book bond money.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that she and Dave Werdal are the Board members who will be serving on the committee that will be reviewing the applications for both the Health Curriculum Committee and the Controversial Materials Committee. The names of the individuals recommended to serve on these committees will come before the Board for approval.

Bob Christal noted that this recommendation should come before the Board before the holidays.

Jamie McCarrey, President of the Student Advisory Board, read a resolution from the Student Advisory Board requesting that the District's pianos be tuned in time for the winter concerts.

Robert Hayes commented that programming adjustments are being made to some elementary schools' fire alarm systems. Mr. Hayes also noted that his children have been transferred to Russian Jack Elementary.

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 – October 12, 1998
 - b. Regular Meeting – October 12, 1998

2. ASD Memorandum #94 – American Education Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 15 - 21, 1998, as American Education Week in the Anchorage School District.

3. ASD Memorandum #91 – Community Education Day Resolution

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution entitled "A Resolution to designate Tuesday, November 17, 1998, as Community Education Day in the Anchorage School District."

4. ASD Memorandum #107 – Revisions/Additions To School Board Policy Section 851.5 – Optimum Facilities Use (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, the following addition to School Board Policy Section 851.5 - Optimum Facilities Use, on Second Reading, as shown on Attachment A.

5. ASD Memorandum #115 – Revisions To School Board Policy Section 100 – Board Of Education (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve revisions to School Board Policy Section 100 on First Reading as shown on Attachment A.

6. ASD Memorandum #116 – Continuation Grants: Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. And ARCO Foundation Grant For 1998-99

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the continuation grant from Reading is Fundamental, Inc., in the amount of \$17,448, and a one-time-only grant, of \$1,000, from the ARCO Foundation.

7. ASD Memorandum #112 – Contract Adjustment: Family Partnership Charter School Enrollment Increase For FY 1999-2000

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve an adjustment to the contract for the Family Partnership Charter School for FY 1999-2000 to allow for an enrollment of 660 students in grades K-12.

8. ASD Memorandum #113 - Personnel

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #94, #91, #115 and #112.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve the Minutes of the
Special Meeting of October 12,
1998; the Minutes of the Regular
Meeting of October 12, 1998;
Memorandum #107;
Memorandum #116; and
Memorandum #113.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #94 – American Education Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 15 - 21, 1998, as American Education Week in the Anchorage School District.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve Memorandum #94.

The Board read the Resolution.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

Bob Christal noted that he received an Executive Proclamation from Governor Knowles proclaiming November 20, 1998 as Alaska School Principal Recognition Day encouraging all citizens to recognize the important role of school principals, and to support their efforts to provide outstanding educational and social opportunities for Alaska students.

ASD Memorandum #91 – Community Education Day Resolution

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution entitled "A Resolution to designate Tuesday, November 17, 1998, as Community Education Day in the Anchorage School District."

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #91.
seconded by Bettye Davis

Bob Christal commented that November 17, 1998 is National Community Education Day noting that the School District has a very active Community Education Program.

Michael Tavella and Janet Caulkins, members of the Anchorage Community Education Board, recognized the School Board's support in community education and thanked the Board for all they have done for community education in Anchorage.

The Board read the Resolution.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #115 – Revisions To School Board Policy Section 100 – Board Of Education (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve revisions to School Board Policy Section 100 on First Reading as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #115.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Debbie Ossiander explained that due to discrepancies in the current policy and the need for clarification in certain areas, changes needed to be made to Policy Section 100

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
and unanimously approved

that Policy Section 164 be amended to read: In the unusual circumstance that items need to be added to or subtracted from the agenda, it will be announced at the beginning of the School Board meeting.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

that Policy Section 165.5 be amended to read: Items not on the agenda may only be taken up by five votes of the Board members.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson explained that this amendment is made on the basis of wanting to be consistent throughout this policy noting that a change was made under Regular Meetings and Special Meetings, and that if something was going to be added to the agenda for discussion at a meeting, then it needed to have a super-majority vote and it was simply an oversight to not change it in this section.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

that Policy Section 151 (c) be amended to read: Individual Board members who receive citizens' comments, petitions, or complaints which may warrant Board action shall request that same be transmitted in writing to the Board President and to the Superintendent to be considered for inclusion on the agenda.

Rita Holthouse explained that for the purpose of consistency, in looking at Policy Section 131 it talks about the duties of the President of the Board which states that the President of the Board shall prepare the agenda in consultation with the Superintendent. The intent however, is that the President prepares the agenda with input and consultation from the Superintendent. In looking at Policy Section 151 (c), it talks about individual Board members who receive citizens' comments, petitions or complaints which may warrant Board action shall request that be transmitted in writing to the Superintendent to be considered for inclusion on the agenda. The amendment clarifies that the Board President is the one who prepares the agenda in consultation with input from the Superintendent.

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie
seconded by Rita Holthouse

that Policy Section 151 (c) be reviewed for re-wording by the Policy Committee prior to the Second Reading.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that the Board currently has a very good relationship with the Superintendent and that the Board President is made aware of potentially difficult issues that may come to the Board level. Ms. Robinson-Wilson suggested that the Amendment to the Amendment be voted down instead of referring this to the Policy Committee again.

VOTE:

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

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT FAILED.

CALL FOR THE QUESTION

VOTE:

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

CALL FOR THE QUESTION FAILED.

Debbie Ossiander noted that she would be amenable to the Amendment on the floor as she is not in favor of referring this section back to the Policy Committee.

Bob Christal noted that he does not recall any instance where the agenda has not received approval of the Board President.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that the critical phase is “which may warrant Board action” and noted that she would rather this not be sent back to the Policy Committee.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded Kathi Gillespie

that Policy Section 164 be amended to read: The President of the Board shall prepare the agenda, in consultation with the Superintendent.

Rita Holthouse explained that this would be in line and consistent with Policy Section 131.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that she understands the desire to be consistent but she would be more comfortable in using the wording from Policy Section 164 and suggested that a new amendment be brought forward.

VOTE:

Ayes: None

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

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to delete in Policy Section 131 the wording: ~~prepare the~~

~~agenda, in consultation with the Superintendent~~ and add to the wording at the end of the paragraph to read: The President of the Board shall preside at all meetings, decide all questions of order, appoint such committees as desired by the Board, execute all documents on behalf of the Board, and exercise all other powers and perform all duties required by law or Board action or ordinarily pertaining to the office of the President. The Board President and the Superintendent shall prepare the agenda for all School Board meetings.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

ASD Memorandum #112 – Contract Adjustment: Family Partnership Charter School Enrollment Increase For FY 1999-2000

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve an adjustment to the contract for the Family Partnership Charter School for FY 1999-2000 to allow for an enrollment of 660 students in grades K-12.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #112.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Brenda Bray, teacher-in-charge of Family Partnership Charter School, brought to the Board's attention the article in Education Week about the Family Partnership Charter School.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson noted that when the Board approved this charter school it was under the premise that it would be a support for families who are homeschooling. Ms. Robinson-Wilson commented that it was brought to her attention that a group of Family Partnership students meet on a regular basis at a church through the Family Partnership Charter School and that there have been religious overtones associated with this arrangement.

Brenda Bray explained that one of the parents has organized a cooperative learning program that is parent directed and allows a minimal number of contact hours with teachers. Ms. Bray further explained that there is a pooling of resources throughout this program which stretches the dollars to allow more teacher time.

Peggy Grigsby, Family Partnership parent, explained that the program is a cooperative school with 12 students from seven families. The idea was basically to bring in more subjects in the arts area and that it could be worked out to have more hours with teachers if there were more areas brought together. Ms. Grigsby commented that the parents didn't have all of the skills to be homeschooling their kids alone and this has offered this group of parents and students an avenue to enhance their homeschooling program. This program is located in a church because one of the parents involved knows the priest and the space being utilized is rent-free. Ms. Grigsby explained that there are no religious overtones associated with this program and that religion is not being taught. Ms. Grigsby invited the Board to visit their program.

Kathi Gillespie requested that the District obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for the Family Partnership's setting in the church facility that is being used for this program.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTASD Memorandum #114 - Student Membership Projections For September 30, 1999

Attachment A presents the fall forecast for the September 30, 1999 Anchorage School District student membership. The following items highlight trends in the 1999-2000 student population forecast:

- The total projection for September 30, 1999 is 50,201 students. This reflects an increase of 650 students or 1.3 percent from the September 30, 1998 official membership total of 49,551.
- If the projection of 50,201 students is realized, it will be the largest total membership in the history of the Anchorage School District. The previous record of 49,551 students was set this school year. The projected total, if realized, would mark the ninth year in succession that the District has had a record breaking total membership on September 30. The projected total is 7,979 larger than the total of 42,222 observed on September 30, 1990.

Bob Christal noted that according to the projections for the fall of 1999, there will be approximately 650 additional students which in reality equals one elementary school. This information will be used for preliminary discussions on future school construction issues.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMSJ. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Kathi Gillespie noted that she and Larry Wiget attended the Alaska Municipal League Conference which was held in Fairbanks the weekend of November 7, 1998.

Rita Holthouse inquired as to when the Minority Education Concerns Committee will become an active committee again.

Bettye Davis noted that she will be chairing the MECC and that hopefully this committee will resume their regular meetings in December.

Debbie Ossiander inquired if there is going to be a new direction in the area of Impact Aid funding.

Janet Stokesbary responded that the Board will be informed of any changes to Federal Impact Aid funding and noted that the State cannot use Federal Impact Aid funds as part of the formula for the foundation formula.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of November 9, 1998 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:05 p.m.

Harriet Drummond, President

Dave Werdal, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved