

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 1999

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Thursday, February 25, 1999 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 and Debbie Ossiander.

Absent: (Excused) Bettye Davis and Rita Holthouse.

Others Present: Bob Christal, Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Gail Opalinski, Pat McDowell, Arge Jeffery, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Julie Ginder, Bill Mikawa, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Steve Kalmes, Ed Blahous, Lee Wilson, Jill Waters, Kathy Christy, Michelle Egan, Larry Wiget, 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.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent with the following adjustments: Memorandum #216 will be addressed as the first item under Awards/Recognitions/Presentations; an Addendum has been added to the Personnel Report (Memorandum #206); and Memorandum #203 has been moved to the March 8, 1999 Regular Board Meeting.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #216 – Anchorage Symphony Donation

Each year hundreds of Anchorage School District elementary students wish to participate in beginning music programs, but can't afford to purchase instruments. Without intervention these

students, approximately 850 Districtwide, are unable to reap the enjoyment, discipline and artistic expression that naturally occur in music education.

Although the District owns hundreds of instruments, which are loaned to students who demonstrate financial need, supplemental donations are both welcome and necessary.

Since 1994 the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra has graciously donated a portion of the proceeds from their "Movin' to the Music" fun run to purchase instruments for use in the District's sixth grade band and orchestra program. These gifts ensure the rich rewards of music can be experienced by musically inclined students, regardless of financial limitations. This year's proceeds resulted in the purchase of seven shiny new instruments including 3 flutes, 2 clarinets and 2 trumpets. The Anchorage Symphony's on-going, tangible support of the District's elementary music education program continues to help deserving Anchorage students begin their musical journey on the right note.

The School Board recognized the Anchorage Symphony for their generous donation which will help even the playing field for beginning music students.

2. ASD Memorandum #210 – BP Teachers Of Excellence

Ten Anchorage School District teachers have been selected as first semester BP Teachers of Excellence. This annual award honors outstanding Anchorage educators whose passion for teaching inspires their peers and enhances the lives of their students.

Each teacher receives a \$500 U. S. Savings Bond, a commemorative plaque and an invitation to tour BP's North Slope Facilities. The teachers are also eligible for selection as BP's Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations to: **Tim Andrew**, Chester Valley Elementary School, first grade teacher; **Rhea Bowman**, McLaughlin Youth Center, seventh through twelfth grade remedial reading teacher; **Grant Clark**, Kincaid Elementary School music teacher; **Mary Alice Donaldson**, Sand Lake Elementary School music teacher; **Kathleen Fariday**, Girdwood Elementary School fourth and fifth grade combination teacher; **Rhonda Gardner**, Chugiak High School language arts teacher; **Amy Goodman**, Goldenview Middle School language arts teacher; **Judy Jeffery**, Goldenview Middle School

math teacher; **Scott Kluever**, Clark Middle School science teacher; and **Mary Meade-Olberding**, O'Malley Elementary School sixth grade teacher.

The School Board recognized these teachers as BP Teachers of Excellence.

3. ASD Memorandum #213 – East High School Music Department

Members of the East High School music program really have something to sing about. In November East High was selected as a GRAMMY Signature School, one of 250 schools, out of 14,000 diverse programs nationwide, honored with this distinction. This nomination propelled them into the finals for the title "1999 National GRAMMY Signature School."

East High's program is spearheaded by three full time music teachers including Margaret David, who leads the orchestra and solo ensemble, James Bowers, who strikes up the band, and Janie Dudley, who keeps the guitar, keyboard and choir members hitting all the right notes.

The students, nearly 500 voices strong, stay in tune by practicing from 1 to 20 hours a week. These musicians and troubadours tackle renditions of all kinds of music including classical, folk, jazz and even a bit of funk. Their skills are showcased at school concerts and assemblies, but they also take their act on the road and dazzle local audiences at weddings, hotels and various banquets, including the School District's holiday luncheon.

The School Board recognized the full time teaching staff from East High School's music program, featuring Margaret David, James Bowers and Janie Dudley, whose passion for music contributed to this recognition.

4. Anchorage Promise For Youth Presentation

Students Joshua Wilson and Kari Wise gave a brief presentation outlining Anchorage's Promise for Youth program. This is a national campaign calling on the public and the private sector to focus their time, talents and funding to provide youth with the following five fundamental resources by the year 2000: Nurture (A healthy start for all young children); Protect (Provide safe places to learn and grow during non-school hours); Teach (Marketable skills

through effective education); Mentor (A caring adult, coach, or tutor for all youth); and Serve (Opportunities for youth to "give back" through community service. Anchorage's Promise for Youth program, in partnership with Community Schools, School Business Partnerships, and The People Mover has a goal to provide opportunities for Anchorage's youth to participate in supervised activities between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The Board indicated a keen interest to be kept up-to-speed on this program

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Hans Bernard submitted a recommendation from the Student Advisory Board requesting that the \$7,000 allocated in the 1999-2000 budget for high school lunch assistance be distributed to schools based on socioeconomic need, and that the monies be distributed by a school administrator after a committee has met to advise the distribution (the committee would be made up of counselors, a nurse and school security guards).

Hans Bernard also submitted a resolution for consideration from the Student Advisory Board stating that students may obtain a waiver for physical education through the curriculum principal and that a quarter of a pre-approved activity would count as a quarter of P.E. credit. Students would have their instructor for that activity document their participation while the equivalent of in-class hours is being completed. This form would then be turned into the curriculum principal at the end of each quarter with a one-page overview of their physical activities.

2. Military Delegate

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Anthony Vaska, Census Bureau representative, explained that in one year a census will begin. Census taking ensures that the State of Alaska will be equally represented in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as receive equal distribution of federal resources. Mr. Vaska stated that Anchorage has the worst rate of return in the country for returning the census questionnaires and asked the School District for endorsement for

Census 2000. Mr. Vaska will also be recruiting support from the entire community.

David Olivera, Census Bureau representative, noted that a packet of information will be sent to each school principal which will include a large map of the entire United States.

Vickie McCubbin, Hanshew Middle School teacher and AEA representative, introduced second graders Krysta Axtell, Madisen Holder-Dusenbury, Calvin Schrage and Ricky Walsh who read I Can Read With My Eyes by Dr. Seuss. Ms. McCubbin explained that for the Read Across America program, the National Education Association is calling for every child in every school in every community to celebrate reading March 2, 1999 (the anniversary of Dr. Seuss's 95th birthday). With Read Across America, a crystal clear message is being sent to children that reading is important. The four student readers presented each Board member with a Dr. Seuss hat.

Robert Hayes commented on the Russian Jack fire and inquired as to why the system didn't alert the fire department more quickly. Mr. Hayes also requested information on the fire alarm system at College Gate Elementary.

Ed Conyers explained that the security alarm at Russian Jack went off first because of a broken window and then the fire alarm was activated four minutes later.

Bob Christal stated that a written response will be provided regarding the College Gate fire alarm system.

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 - January 25, 1999
- b. Regular Meeting - January 25, 1999
- c. Special Meeting - January 29, 1999

2. ASD Memorandum #199 - Revisions To School Board Policy Section 200 - School Administration (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve revisions to School Board Policy Section 200, School Administration, on First Reading as shown on Attachment A.

3. ASD Memorandum #204 – Controversial Issues Review: Athletic Shorts

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the continued circulation of the book Athletic Shorts by Chris Crutcher through the District's school libraries.

4. ASD Memorandum #214 – Acceptance Of Grant Contract: Crossroads Summer Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept funds from the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance, through a Memorandum of Agreement with Planned Parenthood in the amount of \$22,567.

5. ASD Memorandum #205 – Romig Middle School Addition One Percent For Art

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board concurs with the artist selection for work of art for Romig Middle School Addition and authorizes the Superintendent to notify the Curator of Public Art at the Municipality of Anchorage.

6. ASD Memorandum #215 – Selection Of Consultant: Eight School Boiler And Ventilation Upgrade Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into one or more contracts with the selected firm, Coffman Engineers, Inc. for professional services associated with the request for proposal dated December 22, 1998 for Heating and Ventilation Upgrades at Abbott Loop, Chugiak, Campbell, Huffman, Tudor, Willow Crest, and Wonder Park Elementary Schools and Gruening Middle School.

7. ASD Memorandum #206 – Personnel Report

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

8. ASD Memorandum #187 – Award Of Contract: Pupil Transportation Service Areas III, IV And V

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept the "All or None" Pupil Transportation Proposal and authorized reimbursement for attendant salaries in Service Areas III, IV, and V from Laidlaw Transit, Inc. for the daily rates as shown on the attached Tabulation of Proposals for the two-year period (1999 - 2001) and to offer a contract to Laidlaw Transit, Inc., as follows:

Service Area III: West High School Attendance Area

1st year cost \$1,089,379.20

2-year cost \$2,178,758.40

Service Area IV: Bartlett High School Attendance Area

1st year cost \$1,541,092.48

2-year cost \$3,082,184.96

Service Area V: Special Education Routes with the Anchorage School District

1st year cost \$1,465,646.40

2-year cost \$2,931,292.80

The first year aggregate cost for Service Areas III, IV, and V is \$4,096,118.08; two-year cost is \$8,192,236.16 not including any Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) adjustments and any adjustments necessitated by increases or decreases in enrollment. The projected first year reimbursement cost for attendant salaries in Service Area V is \$268,771.50. The contract is subject to the approval of the Commissioner of the State Department of Education prior to award.

9. ASD Memorandum #218 – Award OF Contract: Scenic Park Elementary School Renewal And Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Scenic Park Elementary School Renewal and Upgrades

to UIC Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$3,875,900 and that the School Board authorize an increase of \$704,648 in the project funding.

10. ASD Memorandum #225 – 1999 Bond Information Campaign

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$49,000 for the 1999 Bond Information Campaign.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #199, #204 and #187.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 25, 1999; the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 25, 1999; the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 29, 1999; Memorandum #214; Memorandum #205; Memorandum #215; Memorandum #206 with Addendum; Memorandum #218; and Memorandum #225

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Holthouse, Davis

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #199 – Revisions To School Board Policy Section 200 – School Administration (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve revisions to School Board Policy Section 200, School Administration, on First Reading as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #199.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Debbie Ossiander commented on grammatical changes to the following areas: Section 241.22 (Substitute the word alignment for something more definitive.) Section 262.1 (Change employees of the Board to employees of the District.) Section 264.2 (The two references to schools district should read school district.) Section 264.3 (In the first sentence, change the word discriminate to discrimination.) Ms. Ossiander suggested the Administration make the appropriate changes.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Holthouse, Davis

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #204 – Controversial Issues Review: Athletic Shorts

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the continued circulation of the book Athletic Shorts by Chris Crutcher through the District's school libraries.

Bob Christal stated that Board member Rita Holthouse is home ill but will be participating in the discussion of this memorandum via teleconference.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #204.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Chad Sant, Goldenview Middle School teacher, commented that the first story in the book Athletic Shorts fit very well in his social studies curriculum. Mr. Sant explained that the story is about a kid who has been dealt some bad cards in life and triumphed over some difficult situations. Mr. Sant further explained that the unit was very successful and he would recommend it to any teacher in the District.

Linda Masterson, Goldenview Middle School librarian, commented that everything in print is controversial and all kids are very different and have very diverse backgrounds. Chris Crutcher's books are repeatedly on lists for young adult readers. Ms. Masterson noted that most young adult authors have been challenged and Chris Crutcher is no exception. Ms. Masterson urged the Board to keep the book Athletic Shorts in the middle school libraries.

Sue Francis, Goldenview parent, expressed concern with the explicit language and story content in the book Athletic Shorts. Ms. Francis suggested that this book be available at the high school level only or, to have to check it out through the principal's office at the middle school level. Ms. Francis stated that in no way should this book be allowed at the elementary level.

Tammy Hollingsworth, Goldenview Middle School parent, commented that the language and story content in the book Athletic Shorts is extremely inappropriate for thirteen and fourteen year olds. Ms. Hollingsworth stated that kids need to adhere to examples set by parents and that this book has no place in middle school libraries. Ms. Hollingsworth urged the Board to remove the book Athletic Shorts from the middle school libraries.

Marty Habor, parent of two teenage boys and President of G.L.S.E.N., commented that public school families come in many diverse varieties and books need to be made available to reflect those diverse varieties in order to respect all people. Ms. Habor encouraged the Board to approve the Administration's recommendation of continued circulation of Athletic Shorts through the District's school libraries.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

that the word secondary be included in the Recommendation to read: It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the continued circulation of the book Athletic Shorts by Chris Crutcher through the District's secondary school libraries.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson explained that even though this book is recommended for the middle schools and high schools, it is not

appropriate for the elementary school level and should only be available at the secondary level.

Fred Stofflet commented that when the Controversial Issues Committee met, the issue was raised that this book was in two of the elementary schools. In contacting the elementary schools, the librarian at one of them culled it from the library collection; it was never checked out of the library at the other elementary school.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Kathi Gillespie commented that she has read the book and noted that there may be a mixed message being sent especially in the area of the profanity used in the book. Ms. Gillespie further commented that it is her hope that as we move through trying to refocus public education, there will be a restructuring of expectations for libraries as well as what is being taught in our schools. Ms. Gillespie encouraged parents to stay involved with the Standards process.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse (via telephone)

Nays: None

Absent: Davis

MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

ASD Memorandum #187 – Award Of Contract: Pupil Transportation Service Areas III, IV And V

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept the "All or None" Pupil Transportation Proposal and authorized reimbursement for attendant salaries in Service Areas III, IV, and V from Laidlaw Transit, Inc. for the daily rates as shown on the attached Tabulation of Proposals for the two-year period (1999 - 2001) and to offer a contract to Laidlaw Transit, Inc., as follows:

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ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #187.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that this proposal was sent to 22 bidders and that only one responsible bidder responded. Ms. Robinson-Wilson further commented that one of the ways to adjust the bus fleet services is to extend the age of school buses from ten to twelve years and inquired if this would create an unduly number of buses to break down.

Steve Kalmes responded that Laidlaw has added 57 new buses leaving only 13 buses more than ten years old and that this should not present an operational problem. Mr. Kalmes further explained that Laidlaw has added a fulltime recruiter, a fulltime classroom trainer and a third terminal in South Anchorage. Mr. Kalmes also noted that turnover problems appear to be better.

Dave Werdal inquired as to the age of the District's buses.

Steve Kalmes responded that the District has quite a few buses exceeding 12 years of age and noted that the District should get at least 15 years of service out of the recently purchased buses.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Holthouse, Davis

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #207 – End-Of-Month Membership Summary For January 1999

The end-of-month membership report for January 29, 1999 is attached. The total active enrollment at the end of January was 49,318, an increase of 821 students over the January 30, 1998 total of 48,497. Table 1 compares the membership on January 29, 1999 with the totals from January 30, 1998.

ASD Memorandum #208 – Facility Project Report And Change Order Report For The Month Of January 1999

The monthly Facility Project Report Update and Change Order Report for the month of January 1999 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

ASD Memorandum #209 – Operating Budget Transfers-January Monthly Report FY 1998-99

The attached report of budget transfers for the month of January 1999 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000—
Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000, which includes summarized justifications.

Attachment B: Schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of January 1999. Abbreviations in titles represent how data is stored in IFAS; continuity in the abbreviations within IFAS is an on-going process.

ASD Memorandum #195 – Second Quarter Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. This information is shown in the narrative information below and as Attachments A - F.

Overall suspensions decreased at the elementary level. Drug/alcohol and weapons suspensions are down from last year. Gang-related and racial incidents continue to be monitored carefully by principals, who have reported no incidents during second quarter of 1998-99. Middle school suspensions increased over last year in the area of fighting, and decreased in the areas of weapons, drugs/alcohol, and profanity. Suspensions at the high school level decreased in most categories during the second quarter of the 1998-99 school year compared to last year. It is significant to note that there were no firearm offenses during the second quarter at any level.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that it's important to note that there were no firearm offenses during the second quarter at any level which is a good testament as to what is going on in our schools.

ASD Memorandum #212 – Russian Jack Elementary School Temporary Facility-Progress Report

Following the Russian Jack Elementary School Fire, on January 11, 1999, a contract was awarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.14, Emergency Contracts, to Gamble Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$231,000 for the remodel of the first floor of the Alyeska Annex Building. This project was designed by Don Dwiggin and Associates to provide renovations converting from a multiple office layout to nine classrooms and a small administrative area. Alyeska paid the design fee expense for Mr. Dwiggin's architectural services. The District paid the design fee expenses for the electrical design completed by Don Graves and Associates.

Bob Christal explained that this memorandum is an update of the status of the relocation of students due to the Russian Jack fire and that it is still the Administration's hope that the replacement school will stay on track and will open in mid-October.

Dave Werdal asked if there were any non-responsive bids.

Ed Blahous responded that there were six bids and all were responsive.

Dave Werdal requested that the Board be informed if there are ever any non-responsive bidders.

ASD Memorandum #234 – Award Of Contract: Provide Restoration Services For Contents Of Russian Jack Elementary School

The Administration awarded a contract on February 22, 1999 under School Board Policy Section 725.14 Emergency Contracts, to the low bidder, Solar Construction in the estimated amount of \$57,577.26.

Due to a fire that occurred on December 27, 1998, all of the contents of the Russian Jack Elementary School were either destroyed or damaged by smoke and/or water. A list of damaged contents that could be restored was provided by a fire restoration consultant under the direction of the District's insurance carrier. Such list was used as the basis for soliciting competitive bids to restore the contents.

A contract was awarded as quickly as possible in order to minimize the amount of time that the school contents were exposed to the smoke and soot in the school.

Debbie Ossiander inquired if any of the musical instruments will be restored.

Janet Stokesbary responded that the musical equipment will be restored and hopefully this will begin March 8, 1999.

Carol Comeau commented that the District continues to get offers from different groups and organizations to help the Russian Jack Elementary music department.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Kathi Gillespie noted that the fact sheet outlining the school goals, demographics, and testing was very well received by the legislators in Juneau, and she would like this information to be made part of the District's legislative notebook.

Bob Christal thanked everyone in the community who went to the recent Assembly meeting and who contacted Assemblymembers regarding the bond proposal.

Hans Bernard stated that at their recent meeting, the Student Advisory Board again expressed support for the four-year bond proposal. Students plan to attend the up-coming Assembly meetings and will be contacting their Assembly members for support of the bond proposal.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of February 25, 1999 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:00 p.m.

Harriet Drummond, President

Dave Werdal, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved