

## MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

### REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 22, 1999

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, March 22, 1999 at 7:00 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, Bill Mikawa, Arge Jeffery, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Pat McDowell, Ed Blahous, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Larry Wiget, Michelle Egan, Jill Waters, Gail Opalinski, Tom Bibeau, Kathy Christy, Marie Laule, 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 noting that the April 26, 1999 School Board meeting has been moved to April 21, 1999.

Dave Werdal commented that he recently visited Romig Middle School and suggested that Board members may be interested in reviewing the *Formula Three* workbook used at Romig Middle School, which emphasizes phonics.

Bob Christal reported that due to the recent heavy snowfall accumulation on the roof of the Girdwood School, there was damage to the porch overhang and the front offices of the school. Mr. Christal stated that the school would be re-opened on Wednesday, April 24, 1999.

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent noting that two addenda have been added to the Personnel Report.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS1. ASD Memorandum #237 – Alaska’s 1998 Spirit Of Youth Awards

Although many student award programs focus exclusively on academic excellence, the Spirit of Youth award demonstrates that a strong GPA is only one measure of personal success and achievement. This award, now in its second year, recognizes youth ages 12-19 for making noteworthy contributions to their local communities.

ASD students took top honors in five Spirit of Youth categories. These students each received \$500 in cash, a certificate and an engraved trophy. The winners and categories include:

Service to Community

Central Middle School's Esther Perman who organized an effort to replace the ever-popular "rocket" at Valley of the Moon Park playground;

Service to Young Children

Gabriel Harvey of West High School for teaching dance, leading performance groups and making costumes for youngsters;

Government Participation

Kari Wise and East High's Josh Wilson, student representatives from Anchorage Promise for Youth, for doing youth outreach and survey work;

Fine Arts

Service High School's Mary Ross who performs plays at Cyrano's; and

Science, Technology and Inventions

Minna and Cody Putnam, of West High and Central Middle School respectively, who collaborated with home-school students Joshua and Ruth Hill to design a t-shirt for babies to help prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Anchorage School District students were also selected as runners-up in five of the ten 1998 Spirit of Youth categories and received \$100 cash awards. The categories and runners-up include:

Service to Peers

Josh Wilson of East High and Frank Cyra-Korsgaard of West High School for organizing "Run for the Books" to raise money for Covenant House;

Service to Young Children

Bartlett High swim instructors who made a splash teaching water safety to elementary students; and Rogers Park Elementary student Graham Nelson for organizing a birthday party for homeless children and donating money to charity instead of purchasing the snow board for which he had been saving;

Cultural Pursuits

Members of the Korean Cultural Dance Troupe, eight of whom are Anchorage School District students, for their dedication to preserving Korean culture through dance;

Environmental

East High's Jamie Bourgeois for studying the Steller sea lion population decline; and

Science, Technology and Inventions

Clark Middle School students for their entrepreneurial efforts with Clark Video Production, the first youth-run video production business.

The School Board congratulated the 1998 Spirit of Youth runners-up and winners for making a difference in the Anchorage community by sharing time, talent, and enthusiasm in abundance.

2. As an additional recognition, Bob Christal thanked Jill Waters, Director of Community Education, for her hard work and dedication to the Anchorage community for over a quarter of a century. Ms. Waters has accepted a position as Associate Director of Community Education in Flint, Michigan.

Debbie Ossiander inquired if the Board will be recognizing students for their academic achievements in the near future.

Bob Christal responded that the student academic achievement recognitions will be coming to the Board this spring.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

## 1. Student Advisory

Hans Bernard noted that the Student Advisory Board did not meet today as scheduled (they will be meeting March 29, 1999 at Chugiak High School). Mr. Bernard invited the Board and staff to attend his presentation *Helping Kids Succeed* (12:00 – 1:00) in the Board Room on April 5, 1999.

## 2. Military Delegate

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Glenn Elliott, Abbott Loop Community Council Planning and Zoning Committee, commented that the committee has recommended that the design for the proposed bike path between the New Southeast Anchorage Elementary School and Service High School be reconsidered to run north along the west boundary of the tank and the school site, joining with the existing path to Service at the north end of the Southeast Anchorage School site. Mr. Elliott explained that the current trail that connects to Bicentennial Park is being rerouted because of the new school. The new trail will require children to cross three, two-lane crossings within a hundred yards. Mr. Elliott suggested that perhaps another trail nearest to the elementary school site would help prevent children from being subjected to the danger of having to cross three busy lanes of traffic.

Bob Christal suggested that the Abbott Loop Community Council set up a meeting with Ed Conyers to discuss a possible alternative route for the trail.

Debbie Ossiander requested that the Board receive a report on this issue after Mr. Conyers has met with the Abbott Loop Community Council.

Theresa Obermeyer introduced two School Board candidates and commented that she admires anyone who runs for the Anchorage School Board noting that school boards are the last vestige of grass roots politics.

Robert Hayes requested that the District follow-up on the accuracy of the maintenance fire alarm system check-off forms, the shorted-out control panel at Inlet View Elementary, and the smoke detectors and sprinkler

system at College Gate Elementary. Mr. Hayes further requested a report/update be sent to him regarding these issues.

Bob Christal commented that he will follow-up on these assertions and will compile a report.

Sharon Long commented on the proposed reduction in funding for the Alyeska Central Summer School. Ms. Long explained that kids depend on the Alyeska Central Summer School as well as the Anchorage School District's summer school schedule. This is an opportunity for Anchorage policy makers to advocate for the needs of all students in Anchorage. Ms. Long explained that PE is no longer being offered through the correspondence program during the summer and that some students have to choose an extracurricular course in order to meet the PE requirement. Not all students can participate in the PE waiver in the Anchorage School District so they count on taking their PE requirement through summer school and their core curriculum throughout the school year. Ms. Long suggested that a statement of support, follow through, and lobbying to maintain the summer school program would be very helpful. Ms. Long further suggested that perhaps this issue could be part of the Board's legislative effort.

Bob Christal suggested that Ms. Long also contract Dr. Bruce Johnson to explain the vital need for the continuation of the Alyeska Central Summer School program.

Rita Holthouse commented that summer school is a very valuable option for high school students and thanked Ms. Long for bringing this to the Board's attention. Dr. Holthouse noted that perhaps the Legislative Subcommittee, with Larry Wiget's assistance, could look into this issue.

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 – February 25, 1999 – 4:30 p.m.
  - b. Regular Meeting – February 25, 1999 – 6:30 p.m.
  
2. ASD Memorandum #236 – A Resolution In Support Of The Challenger Learning Center Of Alaska

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution supporting the establishment of the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska.

3. ASD Memorandum #224 – Community Schools Continuation Grant Application

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to transmit the Community Schools Grant for the delivery of Community Education Services in the amount of \$145,121 to the Alaska State Department of Education. The 1999-2000 Community Schools project budget is outlined in the attachment.

4. ASD Memorandum #226 – Award Of Contract: Independent Audit Of School District's Financial Records

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a three-year contract with Deloitte & Touche to perform audits of the School District's financial records for annual fees of \$60,000 for 1999, \$61,800 for 2000 and \$63,600 for 2001.

5. ASD Memorandum #228 – Award Of Contract: Creekside Park Elementary School Renovations And Additions

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Creekside Park Elementary School Renovations and Additions to Alcan General Inc. in the amount of \$6,797,470 and that the School Board authorize an increase of \$400,000 in the project funding.

6. ASD Memorandum #221 – Project Approval: Districtwide Y2K Compliance For Energy Management Control Systems

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the establishment of a Major Maintenance project for Districtwide Y2K Compliance for Energy Management and authorize current year expenditures against the FY 2000 operating budget after approval by the Assembly in the amount of \$311,000. In addition, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to proceed with the procurement of necessary equipment and to award one or

more contracts to begin the Energy Management System Y2K compliance upgrades.

7. ASD Memorandum #230 – Personnel Report

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

8. ASD Memorandum #249 – Minority Education Concerns Committee Appointments

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint the following individuals to the Minority Education Concerns Committee for terms as identified:

Joy Green Armstrong	2 year term
Talakai Finau	2 year term
Talaesea Sappa	2 year term
Sid Trevethan	1 year term
Wilbert Mickens	1 year term
Ed Earnhart	1 year term

9. ASD Memorandum #250 – Authorization To Proceed: Demolition Of Fire Damaged Russian Jack Elementary School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to initiate a process to demolish the old Russian Jack building and locate a new soccer field in that area no later than the fall of 2000.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #236, #224, #226, and #250.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 25, 1999 (4:30 p.m.); the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 25, 1999 (6:30 p.m.); Memorandum #228; Memorandum #221; Memorandum #230 with Addenda; and Memorandum #249.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #236 – A Resolution In Support Of The Challenger Learning Center Of Alaska

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution supporting the establishment of the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #236.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Theresa Obermeyer questioned why the Challenger Learning Center wasn't located in Anchorage since 40 percent of the State's student population resides in Anchorage. Dr. Obermeyer also noted that an incredible amount of federal money is spent on various programs with no level of accountability.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #224 – Community Schools Continuation Grant Application

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to transmit the Community Schools Grant for the delivery of Community Education Services in the amount of \$145,121 to the Alaska State Department of Education. The 1999-2000 Community Schools project budget is outlined in the attachment.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #224.

seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Theresa Obermeyer commented that she was very pleased that Jill Waters was recognized for her many years of working for the Anchorage community. Dr. Obermeyer wished Jill well on her new endeavor and noted that the Anchorage School District was very fortunate to have a professional like Ms. Waters on staff.

Kathi Gillespie commented that it's very important that the District continues to track funding for Community Schools to make sure funds are received from the State for this program.

Rita Holthouse inquired as to which schools are affected by this grant.

Jill Waters responded that this grant will affect Baxter, Rogers Park/Lake Otis, and Rabbit Creek Community Schools.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #226 – Award Of Contract: Independent Audit Of School District's Financial Records

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a three-year contract with Deloitte & Touche to perform audits of the School District's financial records for annual fees of \$60,000 for 1999, \$61,800 for 2000 and \$63,600 for 2001.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #226.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Theresa Obermeyer commented that she was surprised that no one from Deloitte & Touche was present and suggested that the District may want to look at a new audit firm noting that it's effective to have new thinking on an on-going basis.

Rita Holthouse suggested that perhaps in the future someone from the private sector could be added to the selection committee for auditors.

Dave Werdal commented that this contract is for the District's Annual Financial Statement and that the District has a variety of auditors who do other District audits.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #250 – Authorization To Proceed: Demolition Of Fire Damaged Russian Jack Elementary School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to initiate a process to demolish the old Russian Jack building and locate a new soccer field in that area no later than the fall of 2000.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #250.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Bob Christal explained that this memorandum comes before the Board because of a meeting last week with the Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission. They indicated they would not give their approval for construction of the new Russian Jack Elementary School until a plan is in place for removal of the fire damaged school. Getting the new school in place for occupancy early next fall is very important to the Russian Jack students and to the community. The District needs to proceed with this action and to also proceed as planned with the construction of the new school.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson requested an estimated cost for the demolition of the fire damaged Russian Jack Elementary School and inquired if any asbestos abatement cost is included in the estimate.

Bob Christal responded that the demolition cost is estimated to be between \$750,000 to 1,000,000. At this point, there is not a set figure for asbestos abatement costs. This project will be put out to bid and will follow the normal bidding process procedures.

Debbie Ossiander inquired if the original site location would be the best site location for the new school.

Kathy Christy responded that the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the actual location of the new school. Dowl Engineers looked at the site and concluded that the location designated for the new school is the best location. Even if the existing school was not there, its location would not be the best site. Ms. Christy further stated that the proposed site also allows the contractor to raise the grade to alleviate any problems that may occur (this is not an option on the original school site). Ms. Christy also explained that the contractor has started to move materials to the site, and grading and excavation should begin in the next few days. Ms. Christy further explained that any site relocation of the new school would incur a considerable cost.

Debbie Ossiander inquired as to where the Russian Jack students will be housed if the project is delayed and they do not get into their school in the anticipated time frame.

Bob Christal responded that there will be a contingency plan in place within the next month. Mr. Christal also noted that Ms. Plunkett and the Russian Jack Community Council will be kept informed throughout the entire process of the Russian Jack School project.

Debbie Ossiander requested that the Board be notified of the timetables associated with the Russian Jack project.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #231 – End-Of-Month Membership Summary For February 1999

The end-of-month membership report for February 26, 1999 is attached. The total active enrollment at the end of February was 49,111, an increase of 718 students over the February 27, 1998 total of 48,393. Table 1

compares the membership on February 26, 1999 with the totals from February 27, 1998.

Rita Holthouse requested that the most up-to-date wait list numbers be utilized in this report

ASD Memorandum #232 – Facility Project Report And Change Order Report For The Month Of February 1999

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

ASD Memorandum #233 – Operating Budget Transfers-February Monthly Report FY 1998-99

The attached report of budget transfers for the month of February 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 February 1999. Abbreviations in titles represent how data is stored in IFAS; continuity in the abbreviations within IFAS is an on-going process.

Debbie Ossiander inquired as to the type of testing materials that will be purchased for the kindergarten screening assessment.

Arge Jeffery responded that he will follow-up on this request.

Rita Holthouse inquired as to why there isn't an individual departmental budget number for the funds for the High School Completion Program at the University of Alaska.

Bob Christal explained that this has not been separated out yet but this will be looked at and it will be given its own budgeting number.

ASD Memorandum #246 – Treasurer's Report – December 31, 1998

The attached report for the month ended December 31, 1998 consists of two parts: Graphic Overview and Treasurer's Report. Previously, this report consisted of the Graphic Overview, the Treasurer's Report, and a Financial Recap Report. The School Board requested the Treasurer's Report be submitted on a quarterly basis and the Financial Recap be submitted on a monthly basis. The Financial Recap Report is not provided at this time due to difficulties encountered in creating the report to the Board's specifications on the new IFAS system. It is anticipated that both of these reports will be available in April 1999. This will include the next quarterly update of the Treasurer's Report (3rd quarter) and the monthly update to the Financial Recap Report.

ASD Memorandum #248 – Russian Jack Building Insurance Settlement

Meetings were held on February 17, 1999 and on March 2, 1999 at the Facilities/Maintenance building for insurance settlement of the cost to repair Russian Jack Elementary. Attendees of the meetings included Ray Amsden, Design Planner; Tom Bibeau, Risk Manager; Kathy Christy, Director, Facilities; Andy Shemchuck, General Adjuster, Factory Mutual System and representatives from USKH and Wick Construction. An agreement was reached for a gross amount of \$5,250,000 for repair, including code upgrades, of the fire damaged building. The insurance company has stated in writing that the total amount can be used for construction of a new building. The settlement for the building does not include restoration and/or replacement of equipment, furniture and supplies or extra expense; for example, the cost of repair and rental of the temporary locations for the students.

Kathi Gillespie suggested that a copy of this memorandum be sent to Assembly members.

Debbie Ossiander requested that at some point the Board receive a total summation of all costs and revenues associated with the Russian Jack project.

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

Peggy Robinson-Wilson requested information on the cost of the Youth Risk Behavior Study to see if it is worth paying for or not. Ms. Robinson-Wilson would like to receive this information as the Board looks at the results of the Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant Survey to see if there might be a better way to get the survey information.

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

The Regular Meeting of March 22, 1999 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:40 p.m.

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Harriet Drummond, President

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Dave Werdal, Clerk

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Date Minutes Approved