

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 10, 1999

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, May 10, 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, Dave Werdal, Kathi Gillespie, Bettye Davis, Rita Holthouse and Debbie Ossiander.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Carolyn Buckley, Arge Jeffery, Pat McDowell, Gail Opalinski, Robyn Rehmann, Teresa Johnson, Fred Stofflet, Bill Mikawa, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Bob Price, Kathy Christy, Michelle Egan, Lee Wilson, Bill Turner, Mary Tanghe, the press and other interested people.

The School Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Awards/Recognitions/Presentations portion of the Agenda (H) was reordered to follow the Announcements portion of the Agenda (B).

Harriet Drummond announced that Superintendent Bob Christal is out of town and that Assistant Superintendent Carol Comeau is Administrator-in-Charge.

H. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #293 - Letters About Literature Student Recognitions

Recognizing the power of the written word, the national Letters About Literature contest was developed by the Weekly Reader Corporation and the Center for the Book, in the Library of Congress.

To enter, students in grades 4 through 12 must write a letter to an author - living or dead - explaining how his or her work somehow changed the student's way of thinking about the world.

Rachel Bennett, senior at Dimond High School, captured first place for students in Level II - grades 8 through 12 - for her letter to Charlotte Bronte, author of *Jane Eyre*. She received a \$100 cash award and her letter was forwarded for consideration in the national Letters About Literature competition.

Three Anchorage School District students received recognition as Level II finalists, they include:

Eighth-grader Davone Khamleu from Clark Middle School and Chugiak High School seniors Sarah Stehn and Caroline LeBlanc

In the Level I category - grades 4 through 7 - Bethlehem Pal-laya, 5th grader at Ursa Minor Elementary, received recognition as first runner-up.

Hopefully this achievement will encourage these readers to continue to allow books to challenge their thinking, open their eyes and touch their hearts.

The School Board recognized these students for their accomplishments in the 1999 Letters About Literature competition.

2. ASD Memorandum #294 – ExploraVision Award Winners

The ExploraVision science competition was designed to challenge students to envision what a form of technology would be like 20 years in the future. This contest, sponsored by the Toshiba Corporation and administered by the National Science Teachers' Association, is the world's largest K through 12 student science competition.

Students present their ideas through descriptive essays and story boards which outline the current form of technology and how it could be improved through future technological breakthroughs. Teams are judged on creativity, scientific accuracy, communication and feasibility of the vision.

In this year's competition nearly 4,000 entries were submitted, representing more than 13,000 students in the United States and Canada. Anchorage School District students captured top honors in three of the four grade-level categories in the regional competition, including K through 3rd, 4th through 6th and 7th through 8th:

In the K through 3rd category, winners include:

Alexa Schulte from Denali Elementary, Erin Jackson from Inlet View and Paige Alston from Mt. Spurr Elementary.

Their project, titled "The Universal Ear," features a device similar to a hearing aid which, when inserted into the ear, is capable of instantaneous translation of foreign languages.

The students were advised by Ann Torpy.

In the 4th through 6th grade category, winners include:

John Murphy and Matt Smith from Eagle River Elementary and Maggie Burgess from Rogers Park Elementary.

Their project, titled "Lifesaver: Moving Toward Health," features a device designed to remove harmful bacteria on hands, surfaces and in the air.

The students were advised by Shelley Szipszky.

In the 7th and 8th grade category, winners include:

Tiffany Larsen, Brandon McElroy, Hana Freymiller and Parke MacDowell from Goldenview Middle School.

Their project, titled "Asthma Treatments into the Millennium," features a device for asthma sufferers which would work as an inhaler, surgically implanted below the clavicle.

The students were advised by Janice Flanders.

For their winning efforts, the students were awarded \$100 savings bonds and each school represented received a TV and VCR. Additionally, these regional winners became eligible for the national competition.

In late April, the 4th through 6th grade team learned their entry took second place in the national competition. This summer these innovative students will attend an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., where, in addition to praise, they will each receive a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond.

Congratulations to these forward-thinking students whose ability to envision a better future through technology served them well in this prestigious competition.

The School Board recognized these students for their regional and national honors in the 1999 ExploraVision competition.

3. ASD Memorandum #298 – Shawna Borgen: Fur Rendezvous Button Design

Willow Crest Elementary School's Shawna Borgen never really had an interest in art. So when she heard about a contest to design a button for Anchorage's Fur Rondy celebration, initially she didn't show much interest. However, after a little encouragement from her mom, she decided to put her creativity to the test.

As an Alaska native, Shawna has participated in many Fur Rondy festivities. Relying on her past experiences to dictate the design theme, she selected a Ferris wheel and fireworks to represent the winter celebration. It took about one hour and several preliminary drafts for this 12-year-old to complete her artwork.

Approximately 350 students entered the contest, which was open to 6th-graders across the District. When Shawna was notified that her design captured the judges' attention, she was surprised and excited to win her first contest.

Shawna's winning design appeared on a variety of mugs, shirts and other souvenirs, making her work of art a part of Fur Rondy and Anchorage history.

The School Board recognized Shawna Borgen for her outstanding creative efforts and community spirit!

4. ASD Memorandum #302 – 1999 Alaska High Schools' Mock Trial Winners

On February 27, ten Chugiak High School students spent the day in court, without any objections.

They were participating in the 1999 Alaska High Schools' Mock Trial Law Competition, battling 12 other teams for the championship title.

This competition is an annual event conducted by the Anchorage Bar Young Lawyers' Section. It gives high school students the opportunity to showcase their courtroom skills, acting as attorneys for both the prosecution and defense in a simulated trial.

At the conclusion of the competition, the verdict was clear. The Chugiak team prevailed, earning their third state championship in as many years.

Student participants included James Bales, Jacqui Ague, Chris Wintrode, Kris Jensen, Jon Wakeland, Sara Ruehling, Brian Hellesto, Kirsten Staveland, Chase Landmesser and Steve Barnett.

These champion litigators were coached by James Jorgensen, Lyn Jorgensen, Leha Uehling and John Conroy. The coaches were assisted by attorneys Shane Osowski, Michaela Kelly Canterbury and Christopher Canterbury, all of whom are Chugiak alumni.

The School Board recognized these members of the Chugiak High School Mock Trial team for their championship performance.

5. ASD Memorandum #258 – Breast Cancer Focus, Inc. Donation

Breast Cancer Focus is an Anchorage based organization dedicated to helping eradicate breast cancer. The group supports advocacy, education and research and believes that all women must be educated about the importance of taking responsibility for their health. Providing factual information to the young women of Alaska is the crucial first step toward lifelong preventive care, early detection and healthy habits.

To help accomplish this goal, Breast Cancer Focus has pledged \$5,000 to the Anchorage School District to be used for in-school

health seminars for middle and high school girls during the 1999-2000 school year.

The School Board recognized Breast Cancer Focus for their donation to the Anchorage School District and for their commitment to the health of our children.

6. Carol Comeau announced that the District has received a plaque commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Japanese Immersion Program.

C. SUMMARY OF 1998-99 YEAR, Harriet A. Drummond, President

Harriet Drummond presented a brief overview of the past year's accomplishments and thanked the Board for all their support and for a year well done.

On behalf of the School Board, Peggy Robinson presented a gift of appreciation to Harriet Drummond for her service as president for the past year.

D. ADJOURNMENT OF 1998-99—SINE DIE

Harriet Drummond adjourned the School Board of 1998-99 sine die.

E. OATH OF OFFICE – NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

The Honorable Judge Sigurd E. Murphy administered the oath of office to School Board members elect Peggy Robinson and Dave Werdal.

F. ORGANIZATION OF 1999-2000 SCHOOL BOARD

Assistant Superintendent Carol Comeau presided as temporary chair until a new president was elected.

The School Board elected the following officers by secret ballot:

- | | | |
|----|----------------|----------------|
| a. | President | Peggy Robinson |
| b. | Vice President | Dave Werdal |
| c. | Clerk | Rita Holthouse |
| d. | Treasurer | Bettye Davis |

G. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent noting that addenda had been added to Memorandum #275 - Instructional Materials Approval: Grades 7-9 Integrated Sciences, and Memorandum #289 - Personnel Report.

I. PRESENTATION

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Diane Etter, President of the Anchorage Council of PTAs, noted that at the May 3, 1999 PTA General Membership Meeting, Sophia Masewicz, Principal of Romig Middle School, received the PTA's Principal of the Year Award. Ms. Etter noted that Ms. Masewicz helps students excel beyond their wildest dreams and that she is highly regarded by Romig's students, parents and staff.

Corbit Magby, Northern Lights PTA President, asked for the Board's support in going before the Assembly to request that Laurel Street be expanded to create a safe drop-off lane for the students attending Northern Lights Elementary. Mr. Magby further noted that the speed limit in front of the school is still 35 mph (not the standard school zone speed limit).

Laura Waldron expressed concern about fair and equitable discipline in schools, both in the classroom and the playground, and noted that all children must be treated equally.

David Mitchell commented on violence in schools and noted that it is extremely important to address this issue and deal with this problem at the elementary level. Mr. Mitchell further noted that if these problems are ignored in the early years, they will only continue.

Greg Miller, Chair of Aquarian Charter School, informed the Board that a site has been found to house the Aquarian Charter School in the fall and requested that this issue be placed on the next School Board agenda for discussion and approval.

K. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's office.**

1. ASD Memorandum #292 – Recommendation For Fort Richardson Elementary Schools For 1999-2000

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the recommendation of the Fort Richardson Schools' Task Force to operate three schools separately for the 1999-2000 school year.

2. ASD Memorandum #275 – Instructional Materials Approval: Grades 7 – 9 Integrated Sciences with Addendum

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, and authorize the Superintendent to purchase:

- Concepts & Challenges in Earth Science, Berstein, Schachter, Winkler, Wolfe, Globe Fearon Educational Publisher, 1998,
- Concepts & Challenges in Life Science, Berstein, Schachter, Winkler, Wolfe, Globe Fearon Educational Publisher, 1998,
- Concepts & Challenges in Physical Science, Berstein, Schachter, Winkler, Wolfe, Globe Fearon Educational Publisher, 1998,

3. ASD Memorandum #276 – Instructional Materials Approval: Algebra I, Geometry, And Algebra II

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of the following math textbooks and materials for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II:

ALGEBRA I an Integrated Approach. Benson, et al. McDougal Littell. 1995.

GEOMETRY for Enjoyment and Challenge. Rhoad, et al. McDougal Littell. 1996.

ALGEBRA II and Trigonometry. Benson et al. McDougal Littell. 1995.

4. ASD Memorandum #242 – Textbook Adoptions: Seventh Grade Social Studies (Revised)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to purchase new

seventh grade social studies textbooks and program materials as identified in Attachment A.

5. ASD Memorandum #277 – Budget Transfer: Library Automation Replacement Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer required to allocate \$209,348 for contracted services, networking installation, and extra help required for the implementation of the Library Automation Replacement Project.

6. ASD Memorandum #279 – Grant Application: Alaska State School For Deaf And Hard Of Hearing

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply to the Department of Education contract for the instructional support component of the Alaska State School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the amount of \$318,975.

7. ASD Memorandum #280 – Grant Application: Alaska Early Intervention Hearing Resource

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the Alaska Early Intervention Hearing Resource grant application for FY 1999-2000. The total budget amount for this grant application is \$150,500.

8. ASD Memorandum #281 – Grant Applications: Title VI-B Individuals With Disabilities Education Entitlement And Preschool Incentive Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for the Title VI-B Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Entitlement Grant and the Preschool Incentive Grant for FY 1999-2000. The total amount of both grants combined is \$4,065,790 based on the attached budgets (Attachment A and B).

9. ASD Memorandum #282 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Technology Literacy Challenge Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education in the amount of \$537,226.

10. ASD Memorandum #283 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program grant from the Alaska Department of Education for the first year's implementation of the First Steps literacy approach at Willow Crest Elementary School, in the amount of \$50,568.

11. ASD Memorandum #284 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Mayor's Neighborhood Enhancement Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award for \$5,000 from the Municipality of Anchorage for the Russian Jack Elementary School Beautification Project.

12. ASD Memorandum #304 – Prior Approval Of Discretionary Grant: Prevention Coordinators In Middle Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant for middle level Violence Prevention and Developmental Asset-building, under a competition through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

13. ASD Memorandum #305 – Prior Approval Of Discretionary Grant: Disney Learning Partnership's Creative Learning Communities Grant Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for grant funds from The Walt Disney Company's Disney Learning Partnership, through its *Creative Learning Communities* grant program.

14. ASD Memorandum #285 – Conflict Of Interest

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a conflict of interest waiver to allow Joseph D. Sparkman, teacher at King Career Center, to sell curriculum material (video series, Crime Prevention) for which he is the author/producer, to the Anchorage School District for use in the school system.

15. ASD Memorandum #290 – Renewal Of Contract: Natural Gas Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract extension for Natural Gas Supplies to Aurora Power for the one-year period effective July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 at a discounted price of 10.9 percent off the regular Enstar price.

16. ASD Memorandum #256 – Award Of Contract: Furnish And Deliver Two New 1999 Electric Powered, Single Reach Lift Trucks

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to the low bidder, Independent Lift Truck of Alaska, for two (2) New 1999 Electric Powered, Single Reach Lift Trucks (Forklifts) in the amount of \$37,040 each for a total award of \$74,080.

17. ASD Memorandum #257 – Award Of Contracts: Miscellaneous School Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of contracts to the bidders as shown on the Tabulation of Recommended Awards by Vendor for Miscellaneous School Supplies (Attachment A) in the total amount of \$421,523.62.

18. ASD Memorandum #291 – Increase In Project Funding, Taku Elementary School Modifications

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize allocation of \$150,000 of Capital Projects Fund unrestricted interest earnings to increase the funding of the Taku Elementary School renovation project to a total of \$7,916,456. This will complete the renovation of Taku Elementary School.

19. ASD Memorandum #286 – Project Approval – Bear Valley Elementary School Water System Repair And Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the establishment of a Major Maintenance project to replace defective water piping at Bear Valley Elementary School. The project budget is established at \$150,000, to be funded from a budget transfer from the teacher salary and benefit accounts. Further, it is recommended that due to the need to expedite the project the Superintendent be authorized to issue the contract without formal School Board approval.

20. ASD Memorandum #287 – Award Of Contract: Bartlett High School Reroof And Structural Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Bartlett High School Reroof and Structural Renovations to the low bidder, Consolidated Enterprises Inc., in the amount of \$1,653,500.

21. ASD Memorandum #288 – Award Of Contract: Multiple School Playground Upgrades For 1999

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for installation of Multiple School Playground Upgrades for 1999 to the low bidder, Consolidated Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$1,019,080.

22. ASD Memorandum #297 – Award Of Contract: Abbott Loop Elementary School And Wendler Middle School Ventilation System Rehabilitation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Abbott Loop Elementary School and Wendler Middle School Duct Cleaning, to the low bidder, CRL Services, LLC, in the amount of \$109,036.

23. ASD Memorandum #299 – Award Of Contract: Electrical System Upgrades – Airport Heights, Chugiak, Eagle River, And Homestead Elementary Schools And Clark Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Electrical System Upgrade Projects at Airport Heights, Chugiak, Eagle River, and Homestead Elementary Schools and Clark Middle

School to the low bidder, Electrical Construction and Consulting, Inc., in the amount of \$204,856.28.

24. ASD Memorandum #300 – Award Of Contract: Electrical System Upgrades – Chugach Optional, Lake Otis, Rogers Park, And Tudor Elementary Schools And Wendler Middle School – Power

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Electrical System Upgrade Projects at Chugach Optional, Lake Otis, Rogers Park, Tudor Elementary Schools and Wendler Middle School, to the low bidder, All Alaska Electric, in the amount of \$129,398.

25. ASD Memorandum #289 – Personnel Report (With Addendum)

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 #292, #275, #276, #242, #277, #282, #291, #286, and #287.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve Memorandum #279;
Memorandum #280;
Memorandum #281;
Memorandum #283;
Memorandum #284;
Memorandum #304;
Memorandum #305;
Memorandum #285;
Memorandum #290;
Memorandum #256;
Memorandum #257;
Memorandum #288;
Memorandum #297;
Memorandum #299;
Memorandum #300; and
Memorandum 289 with
Addendum.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,

Robinson, Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #292 – Recommendation For Fort Richardson Elementary Schools For 1999-2000

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the recommendation of the Fort Richardson Schools' Task Force to operate three schools separately for the 1999-2000 school year.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #292.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

LTC Edward Snead and Arge Jeffery gave a brief overview of the rationale used by the Task Force in bringing this recommendation forward for Board approval. Both LTC Snead and Mr. Jeffery expressed appreciation to all who participated in the Task Force and urged the School Board to approve this recommendation.

Monte Harber, teacher at J. F. Kennedy Elementary, commented that the State of Alaska may receive a significant number of troops in the near future and suggested that it would not be prudent to close Kennedy Elementary at this time. Mr. Harber urged the Board to approve the recommendation of the Task Force and to keep all three schools located on Fort Richardson open for the next school year.

Gary Ballister, President of J. F. Kennedy PTA, commented that allowing all three Fort Richardson schools to remain open ensures the highest quality of education for students. Mr. Ballister noted that it is of the utmost importance to keep the welfare of the children, the community and the School District uppermost in all decisions and encouraged the Board to approve the recommendation of the Fort Richardson Task Force.

Beth Webber, President of Ursa Major PTA, commented that Ursa Major has taken the brunt of the upheavals connected with the renovations at the Fort Richardson schools. Ms. Webber noted that two schools can very adequately house the students on Fort Richardson. Ms. Webber expressed concern about maintaining the core curriculum and programs already in place at Ursa Major if their student population is reduced.

Teresa Foster, Ursa Major Elementary, asked the Board if they have visited the Fort Richardson schools during the last year.

Kathy Hagge, Ursa Major teacher, commented that many of the students attending Kennedy Elementary are physically closer to Ursa Major and that it would make more sense to combine Ursa Major and Kennedy in one school facility. Ms. Hagge further commented that the needs of all the students on Fort Richardson could be met by making small adjustments to the attendance areas between Ursa Minor and Ursa Major thus utilizing two schools on Fort Richardson instead of three.

Sharon Jones, Ursa Major parent, commented that it was an expectation of the Ursa Major community that Kennedy would blend with Ursa Major and that it is discouraging that the recommendation is to keep all three schools on Fort Richardson open. Ms. Jones expressed concern that their Title I program will be reduced and the loss of FTE would force the formation of combination classrooms. Ms. Jones requested that sensitivity be shown toward Ursa Major by blending Kennedy with Ursa Major or to stabilize Ursa Major by retaining their FTE and Title I monies.

Mary Shroder, J. F. Kennedy Elementary, commented that combining Kennedy and Ursa Major may not guarantee not having combination classes. Ms. Shroder asked that Kennedy be kept open for at least one more year and urged the Board to approve the recommendation of the Task Force.

Cynthia Keyes, Ursa Major teacher, commented that the stability, continuity and viability of Ursa Major has been compromised over the past three years during the on-going renovation process. Ms. Keyes further commented that there is no longer the necessary student population to fill three schools on Fort Richardson and suggested that the students from Kennedy be blended with the students at Ursa Major.

Carol Comeau noted that Title I funding is being reduced in all of the Title I schools for next year. Ms. Comeau noted that it is important to review the recommendation that the three schools be kept open for next year, to meet with the military community by November 1, and to come back with a recommendation to the Board by the end of December.

Rita Holthouse inquired if Kennedy were closed, would the renovation to Kennedy still proceed.

LTC Snead responded that the renovation will continue to go forward. A formal announcement will be made as to the intended use of the facility in both the interest of the federal students and the public.

Rita Holthouse inquired if Kennedy were closed, would the military agree to non-base students utilizing that facility.

LTC Snead responded that the Task Force discussed the future use of Kennedy but did not have time to research all the options. It would be a great concern to the parents of children who live across the street from Kennedy if their children were told to go down the street to another school and another school/program opens up in Kennedy. This would create a community impact by that action. There would be certain programs appropriate to house there and others that would not be appropriate.

Debbie Ossiander inquired if the Task Force discussed the option of bringing children from off-base to attend school there.

Arge Jeffery responded that the Task Force had a wide range of discussions but did not make a recommendation in that area.

Carol Comeau noted that discussions will need to begin soon with the military population and staff, depending on Board interest, on pursuing the discussion about possibly co-locating a charter school there for a few months (this has been one of the possibilities the Board has expressed an interest in pursuing). There are other issues that will need to be discussed. LTC Snead has made it clear that there is a great need for some sort of school age child care on post which helps families if they need additional space for their child care either before or after school. There are a number of things to pursue as far as the use of extra space is concerned. The Administration is aware of the desire to give special consideration to Ursa Major if in fact the school stays open. Ursa Major has been very supportive and willing to work with the Administration through these many years of transition. Many community task forces have indicated that they would prefer to open and close a school rather than double shifting or use other more disruptive means (this has been a very public process since 1991). It is the Administration's intent to bring all of the interests of the Board and the military community into further discussions to determine what the right mix of programs would work in the military facilities and which ones would be supportive of each other.

Ms. Comeau further explained that she has been asked by Board members about what will be done with the extra space at the military schools when all the renovations are completed and if charter schools will be considered to utilize this extra space. At this point no commitment has been made to any charter schools for use of this space. There are two

charter schools desperately looking for five months of school classrooms and there is still the issue of the Russian Jack 4th, 5th, and 6th graders over-flow who are currently housed at Nunaka Valley. No commitments have been made for any extra space in the military schools. If it is the Board's direction not to entertain discussions about housing charter schools in this space it will be taken off the table for further consideration. Ms. Comeau noted that any program that is separate and autonomous will have a definite impact within that facility.

Peggy Robinson inquired if the military would allow 250 non-military parents and students daily on to the post to attend school.

LTC Snead responded that it is dependent upon the security status on post at the time. No absolute commitment can be made in this area. Security conditions will always drive what happens on a military post. Any decision about any program must be a joint decision between the School District and the military.

Recessed at 8:50 p.m.

Reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie
seconded by Bettye Davis

to postpone further discussion on
on Memorandum #292 until after
discussion/action on
Memorandum #275 and
Memorandum #276.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

*(Please see below for discussion/action on Memorandum #275 and Memorandum #276.)

Continuation of discussion/action on Memorandum #292:

Bettye Davis commented that she would like to see some special things done for Ursa Major since they have been in a state of transition for such a long time and would like assurance that other types of programs will not be forced on Ursa Major. Ms. Davis would also like the Administration to

come back to the Board, if necessary, to address what is needed to enhance the program at Ursa Major.

Debbie Ossiander expressed support for the Administration's recommendation and also expressed concern if a guarantee is made that one school will not have any combination classes when other schools will have combination classes. Ms. Ossiander further noted that Kennedy Elementary has also gone through a trying time as well.

Rita Holthouse noted that she would like some type of commitment by the Administration to help protect Ursa Major and would like an update this spring on the status of a fulltime counselor, the Title I positions, the special services in the math area, and maintaining the teacher they were given last year and not lose that teacher if they get an additional teacher through federal funding. Dr. Holthouse further noted that she would not like to see extra programs housed at Ursa Major.

Carol Comeau commented that she is hearing loud and clear that there is not interest from the Board in having the Administration go any further in discussions about putting charter schools at Fort Richardson. The military community may have issues very much in sync with what would work very compatibly at Ursa Major.

Kathi Gillespie expressed support for the Administration's recommendation to operate the three schools on Fort Richardson for the 1999-2000 school year. It is important to have this next year to figure out whatever program is most acceptable to everyone involved.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Dave Werdal
seconded by Rita Holthouse

that the School Board direct the Administration to operate two schools on Fort Richardson in the 2000-2001 school year and if the Administration brings back another recommendation for a different use for J. F. Kennedy Elementary, it will only do so after interfacing with the military.

Dave Werdal commented that the District needs to bring to closure at some point that it will be necessary to close one of these schools and to consider what will be done with that facility. Mr. Werdal further commented that it's important to have a specific time frame to consider

the entire issue for Kennedy Elementary (to have no time limit will create more turmoil in the next few months that could be avoided).

Debbie Ossiander commented that if passed, this amendment would preclude or not allow any discussion of drawing in more students through some sort of a programmatic change or some sort of a magnet program. This also would send the wrong message to a task force that has been working for a good amount of time in trying to resolve a very serious situation.

Kathi Gillespie asked LTC Snead if the military would rather the District decide if these schools would be combined or if a decision coming out of a task force would be preferred.

LTC Snead responded that the military would rather have a task force to work through this issue. LTC Snead further responded that it's important to not eliminate options for the task force. During discussions, the Kennedy Task Force addressed the need that when this is studied next year, that alternatives are looked at so this can be brought to closure by the middle of the year and allow six months to transition the Fort Richardson community to whatever decision is made.

Peggy Robinson referred to paragraph three on the third page of the memorandum where the Superintendent states that another Task Force is not needed at this time, and inquired if the Superintendent's intentions are to take all the information that has been generated and put together a proposal that would then go to a public hearing.

Carol Comeau explained that that is the intent of the Superintendent. The Superintendent prefers not to continue and prolong the Task Force. Part of the reason is because there has been so much animosity generated and the Superintendent does not wish to prolong that into the next school year. Any new information will be included in the Administration's recommendation that would be addressed at a public hearing in the military community with a full expectation that any new information could then be formulated into a final recommendation to the Board by the end of this year.

Dave Werdal noted that it was not the intent of his amendment to preclude programmatic changes (the changes would just not happen this year). This would be interfaced with the military community and there would be the option of coming back with something different after the next school year.

LTC Snead commented that it is important to preserve the latitude in the decision making. One of the issues offered earlier in discussion was an ABC school or an immersion program. If the language of the amendment eliminates that from consideration then the work of the Task Force has been somewhat stifled.

VOTE:

Ayes: Werdal, Holthouse

Nays: Drummond, Ossiander,
Robinson, Gillespie, Davis

AMENDMENT FAILED.

Bettye Davis questioned, in pertaining to the Task Force, if the military agrees that there is no need for the Task Force at this time.

LTC Snead responded that he would rather have the Task Force involved in the entire process.

Carol Comeau explained that the Superintendent's intent is to talk to the military leaders and then come up with a proposal to take to the public.

LTC Snead responded that there are a number of members of the staff and faculty of these schools, as well as the public, who had a lot of questions of alternative programs that may be possible in those schools. The Task Force did not have the expertise gathered at the meetings to answer those questions. If it is not a task force and there is no representation from the District and the military cannot draw on those resources that provide that expertise, the military cannot provide a qualified answer to the Superintendent when asked if a specific recommendation is acceptable.

Kathi Gillespie noted that the School District and the military have had a very cooperative relationship in the past and commented that the Superintendent certainly wouldn't be opposed to working with the military to come forward with the right decision.

Carol Comeau responded that the Superintendent will not have any objections to sitting down to identify questions that the military would want the District to explore. The District will definitely commit to providing resources to respond to questions on any particular program. The intent was not to go back and rehash everything that has already been covered. The District is very interested in exploring some alternatives that may work.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Bettye Davis
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to delete the third paragraph on
the third page under Pertinent
Facts, addressing the need of
the Task Force to continue.

Bettye Davis explained that this will allow everyone to get where they need to go without going over the same ground and territory. This will provide the opportunity for the Task Force to further discuss alternative programs and to then forward their recommendations to the Administration.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Peggy Robinson expressed concern about the additional cost of keeping both Ursa Major and J. F. Kennedy open for another year. However, there really needs to be time to blend the two schools together on a long-term basis. Ms. Robinson explained that she does support the recommendation but it is clearly based on the fact that there will be a final recommendation that will come from the Administration in December.

Rita Holthouse commented that she will be listening with great interest in how the program at Ursa Major will be getting some special consideration and if Kennedy has been disrupted as much as they're saying, perhaps some consideration needs to go in that direction also.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: Werdal

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

*ASD Memorandum #275 – Instructional Materials Approval: Grades 7 – 9 Integrated Sciences with Addendum

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, and authorize the Superintendent to purchase:

- Concepts & Challenges in Earth Science, Berstein, Schachter, Winkler, Wolfe, Globe Fearon Educational Publisher, 1998,

The person who signed up to address this memorandum was not present.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #242 – Textbook Adoptions: Seventh Grade Social Studies (Revised)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to purchase new seventh grade social studies textbooks and program materials as identified in Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #242.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Peggy Robinson noted that in her review of World Explorer she noticed that Latvia was not listed in the index. Ms. Robinson further noted that it is important that all countries are listed in geography books (the other recommended textbooks do list the Balkan countries).

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson that Prentice Hall World Explorer
seconded by Debbie Ossiander be moved from the textbook
selections to “other social studies
materials.”

Kathi Gillespie commented that she supports this amendment and is appalled at the quality of some of today's textbooks.

Doug Phillips, Coordinator of the Social Studies Program, noted that omissions in textbooks are to be taken very seriously. However, there are supplemental materials/aids available to help students get information in other areas. Mr. Phillips explained that there is not one particular textbook that will cover absolutely everything in a given subject area.

Rita Holthouse commented that District specialists review the textbooks and materials and it's important to follow their recommendation.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she had an extensive discussion with a member of the review committee and suggested that over the next year

that perhaps the Board can take a greater interest/involvement in curriculum issues such as this.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Robinson, Gillespie

Nays: Ossiander, Werdal, Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT FAILED.

Kathi Gillespie suggested that the schools be made aware that there are some countries such as Latvia missing from World Explorer.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,

Robinson, Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #277 – Budget Transfer: Library Automation Replacement Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer required to allocate \$209,348 for contracted services, networking installation, and extra help required for the implementation of the Library Automation Replacement Project.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #277.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Debbie Ossiander explained that she has heard concerns from elementary librarians about the procedures involved in moving towards library automation. Ms. Ossiander commented that the areas of concern include the purchase of the bar codes, the purchase of the scanners, and whether or not there will be time to do the physical labeling of the books.

Norm Holthouse explained that two-thirds of the libraries have already acquired the necessary bar codes out of their operating budget. Dr. Holthouse further explained that the scanners have been put on hold because the software vendor has not been selected yet.

Carol Comeau noted that she will find out why some schools have not purchased their bar codes yet and also noted that the expectation is that

each school will be able to purchase their bar codes and scanner out of their school budget.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #282 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Technology Literacy Challenge Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education in the amount of \$537,226.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #282.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander that Peggy Robinson has a
seconded by Kathi Gillespie conflict of interest.

Peggy Robinson declared that she has a conflict of interest associated with this memorandum as she will be teaching a class and will receive a stipend of approximately \$800 from this grant.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Robinson

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #291 – Increase In Project Funding, Taku Elementary School Modifications

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize allocation of \$150,000 of Capital Projects Fund unrestricted interest earnings to increase the funding of the Taku Elementary School renovation project to a total of \$7,916,456. This will complete the renovation of Taku Elementary School.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal to approve Memorandum #291.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Dave Werdal explained that the questions he had pertaining to this memorandum were answered during the recess.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #286 – Project Approval – Bear Valley Elementary School Water System Repair And Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the establishment of a Major Maintenance project to replace defective water piping at Bear Valley Elementary School. The project budget is established at \$150,000, to be funded from a budget transfer from the teacher salary and benefit accounts. Further, it is recommended that due to the need to expedite the project the Superintendent be authorized to issue the contract without formal School Board approval.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal to approve Memorandum #286.
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Dave Werdal inquired as to the need of having to expedite this project.

Kathy Christy responded that the work needs to be accomplished before school resumes in the fall and time will become critical if there are limited meetings in July. Ms. Christy further explained that there is a very limited window to get all the work done.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None
MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #287 – Award Of Contract: Bartlett High School
Reroof And Structural Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Bartlett High School Reroof and Structural Renovations to the low bidder, Consolidated Enterprises Inc., in the amount of \$1,653,500.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal to approve Memorandum #287.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Dave Werdal explained that the questions he had pertaining to this memorandum were answered during the recess.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None
MOTION PASSED.

L. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #269 – Third 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 through F

Overall suspensions decreased at the elementary level. Drug/alcohol suspensions increased while weapons violations decreased from last year. Gang-related and racial incidents continue to be monitored carefully by principals, who have reported one racial offense during the third quarter of 1998-99. Middle school suspensions increased over last year in the areas of fighting, weapons, and profanity and decreased substantially in the area of drugs/alcohol. Suspensions at the high school level decreased in most categories during the third 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 and third quarters of 1998-99 at any level.

Rita Holthouse expressed concern about the dual discipline system regarding Special Education issues/expulsions and inquired if there were any instances that have not been brought to the Board's attention. Dr. Holthouse requested that a statement be added to this report to address this issue.

Carol Comeau noted that the records will be checked for the third quarter and will report back to the Board via the Weekly Report.

Kathi Gillespie suggested that a copy of this report be forwarded to area legislators.

ASD Memorandum #270 – Third Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

The elementary schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow 15 to 20 minute individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarter for many years. The middle schools and high schools began the practice of providing opportunities at the end of the first and third quarters for parents to pick-up their student's report cards and to confer briefly with the student's teacher(s) a few years ago.

These efforts have generally been well supported by parents and teachers over the years as can be seen in the information provided by each division. In cases where there has been a decrease in participation, the appropriate Instructional Division supervisor will be working with principals and their staffs and PTA or parent group to increase participation. The District will also attempt to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities so that parents can be released from work to attend these conferences. It is also important for parents to realize that they are always welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

Superintendent's Note:

I have discussed the significant drop in parent participation at two schools at the third quarter report card distribution period with the Middle School Executive Director. She indicated the principal at Clark indicated there was increased parental contact on a weekly basis and thus she thought this accounted for the decreased participation. I have asked to see a numerical accounting of the increased weekly contacts by mid-May. I also requested the Executive Director ask for a written response from the Romig principal to determine why the participation dropped one-third at Romig.

Rita Holthouse inquired as to the District's policy regarding release time for teachers to attend their children's parent/teacher conferences.

Carol Comeau noted that she will look into this issue and will report back to the Board.

M. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

N. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Board members suggested that the starting time for summer school sessions be changed from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

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

P. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 10, 1999 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:50 p.m.

Peggy Robinson, President

Rita Holthouse, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved