

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #64 (1999-2000)

September 13, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: 1998-1999 MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAM REVIEW

PERTINENT FACTS:

Gail Opalinski, Executive Director of Middle Level Education, has prepared a report summarizing the 1998-99 Interscholastic and Intramural Activity Program in the middle schools. Also provided is information relative to how the middle school division will address activity issues in 1999-2000.

HISTORY:

In 1994-95, the previous athletic competition program was replaced with an intramural program that included a multi-school "jamboree" at the end of each intramural season. In 1996, a combination intramural/interscholastic program was implemented. This program combined a four-week intramural season with a three-to-four-week interscholastic competition. This approach was found to be unsatisfactory and during 1997-98, an athletic program was developed which included five interscholastic sports activities. Each activity had a seven to eight week season for which students paid a \$50 fee. In addition, a variety of intramural athletics and activities were made available at no charge.

1998-99 MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAM

During the 1998-99 school year, the intramural and interscholastic athletic programs remained separate. In addition, swimming was added as another interscholastic sport at the middle school level, which brought the number of interscholastic sports to six. The sports seasons were each seven to eight weeks in length. They began with a required ten days of practice for conditioning and culminated with a city championship. Coaches' addenda were paid at the appropriate negotiated level for each sport.

The dates for the 1998-99 seasons are shown below:

## Interscholastic Sports Activity

### Dates of Season

- Cross-Country Running (boys and girls)September 2--October 9
- Volleyball (girls)November 16--January 22
- Swimming (coed)November 16--January 22
- Cross-Country Skiing (boys and girls)January 4--February 24
- Wrestling (coed)January 11--March 5
- Track and Field (boys and girls)March 29--May 21

Each sport had a school assigned to coordinate the activity. The assistant principal at that school coordinated the season, schedule, transportation, and the final sports competition.

- Cross-Country Running, Central
- Volleyball, Hanshew
- Swimming, Mears
- Wrestling, Mirror Lake
- Cross-Country Skiing, Wendler
- Track and Field, Gruening

During the 1998-99 School Year, 3,270 students participated in interscholastic sports; 1,950 girls and 1,320 boys, an increase of 865 over the 1997-98 total of 2,405. School participation ranged from 188 to 540. Specific sports participation ranged from 671 to 301 with Cross-Country Skiing having the least participants and Volleyball the (Attachment A).

Of special note is the marked increase in participation by students at Clark Middle School. Their participation went from 89 to 188 students, more than double. This increase was a result of a school goal by the staff to get students more involved in all types of school activities. The swim team was popular at Clark. There were 43 participants in that program.

### SWIMMING

The Middle School Interscholastic Swimming Program began during the 1998-99 School Year; both swimming and diving competitions were included. The assistant principal of Mears Middle School was responsible for the coordination of the program.

A great effort was put into the planning necessary for the implementation of the program. The Anchorage School District middle schools, ASD Transportation Department, ASD high schools, Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, and the swimming clubs throughout Anchorage all worked closely together to guarantee the successful implementation of middle school swim teams. As a result, the program was a great success with 397 participants, 250 girls, and 117 boys, including 17 sixth grade students from Mirror Lake.

One unforeseen difficulty occurred when there were not enough qualified diving coaches available. As a result, two sets of schools shared the same diving coaches: Hanshew and Goldenview, and Central and Romig. The competition schedule was adjusted so that a diving coach was present at each meet. At the pre-season coaches meeting, the diving coaches agreed to assist all students at the meet, not just those on their team.

The middle schools do not have swimming pools on their campuses; therefore, the schools utilized pools housed at the high schools. Since there are nine middle schools and six high school swimming pools, middle schools shared practice facilities. Practice assignments were:

- Mears at Dimond
- Hanshew and Goldenview at Service
- Wendler and Clark at East
- Romig and Central at West
- Mirror Lake and Gruening at Chugiak

The final Championship event took place at the Bartlett pool.

Local swim clubs set up and officiated each of our meets. The following swim clubs were involved:

- Knik Swim Club 4 meets and the championship
- Alaska Pacific Swim Club 2 meets
- Anchorage Aquanaut Swim Club 6 meets
- Aurora Swim Team 1 meet
- Northern Lights Swim Club 5 meets

At the end of the season, it was suggested that the swimming season be adjusted so it does not overlap both the Thanksgiving and winter breaks. In the 1999-2000 season, that adjustment has been made.

#### Intramural Athletic Activities:

A total of 1,919 students participated in intramurals in 1998-99, 1,038 boys and 881 girls. This compares with the total of 1,883 students who participated in 1997-98. All middle schools offered intramural activities in Girl's Soccer, Boy's Soccer, Girl's Basketball, Boy's Basketball and Hockey (coed). In addition, as funds, student interest, and the availability of qualified coaches dictated, other intramural athletic activities were provided. Other sports offered included Native Youth Olympics, Tennis, Weight Training, and Gymnastics (see Attachment B).

#### Non-Athletic Activities:

In 1998-99, all nine middle schools offered academic competitions through the intramural program in the following areas:

- Battle of the Books or another competitive reading program
- Science Olympiad
- Spelling Bee
- Math Counts
- Geography Bee

#### 1998-99 Middle School Activity Budget

The budgeted amount anticipated from the middle school student activity fees was \$90,750. The total actual income realized from fees for 1998-99 was \$145, 721. This represents additional revenue of \$54,971.

#### 799-Middle School Unallocated

- (33) **\$75,000** -- These funds are for student support added-duty contracts for interscholastic, intramural addendum, and contract services related to the coordination of the competitive program. This is also held in reserve in case the student activity fee does not generate sufficient revenue to match the expenditure.
- (03) **\$21,500** --To pay for costs related to interscholastic competition and final tournament costs (referees, meet directors, scorekeepers, weigh-ins, etc.).
- (303) **\$136,590** --To distribute funds as needed to establish an interscholastic swim program.
- (313) **\$6,000** --To redistribute to the individual school sites where needed due to enrollment for student activity transportation costs.

#### Nine Middle Schools and Polaris K-12

- (133) **\$563,588** -- To pay for added duty interscholastic and intramural addendum: \$48,892 per middle school and \$21,560 for Polaris.
- (303) **\$3,600** --To pay for costs related to tournaments; \$800 per middle school.
- (313) **\$64,810** --To pay for interscholastic transportation costs; \$6,095 per middle school, except \$9,000 for Mirror Lake, and \$1,050 for Polaris.
- (602) **\$65,520** --To pay for pupil activity expenses (pennies, uniforms, athletic equipment, supplies, etc.) \$7,000 per middle school, and \$2,530 for Polaris.

#### 1998-99 Overall

The Interscholastic and Intramural Programs for 1998-99 were very successful. Participation by students increased. Schools had more flexibility in the selection and placement of intramural athletics and were better able to adjust to student needs. The Transportation Department and the individual assistant principals who coordinated each sport worked closely together to develop a schedule. As a result, most of the season competitions were moved to Wednesdays when buses were more available and championships were scheduled so that pick up did not conflict with the regular bus schedule.

Regular meets in all sports except cross-country skiing, where meets began earlier to enable students to finish before dark, were scheduled for after school hours to ensure that disruptions from classes were kept to a minimum. This was a change from past practice and reflects the focus on academic importance in our middle schools. We believe that parents and students are more likely to participate in athletics when the participation does not cause a disruption in the student's academic program.

The school athletic and administrative staff did a tremendous job in implementing the new swimming program. Potential difficulties due to shared facilities and the shortage of diving coaches never materialized because of the spirit of cooperation that existed between schools and coaches. Coaches provided the leadership for their teams by modeling appropriate behaviors and attitudes toward other teams and care for the facility in which they were guests.

It became apparent that a budget code will need to be set up to allow for centralized payment of bills for facilities and officiating where there is not a clear home team. Fees for pool time and officials should be centralized and monitored through the middle school division. To allow for appropriate accounting, an account code similar to that for high school activities should be set up. In this way, costs for centralized championship events as well as the swimming program can be more easily monitored.

Due to the no-cut policy, the track and field competitions still resulted in a large number of middle school students at the championships. Schools did a great job supervising the students when they were not participating, but several suggestions as to placement of preliminary events will be tried this year to see if we can improve the logistics of this championship.

#### 1999-2000 Middle School Athletic Program

The 1999-2000 school year will see an adjustment in the sports seasons to better utilize school facilities and provide for both male and female participation in interscholastic activities throughout the year.

#### Interscholastic Sports Activity Dates of Season

- Cross-Country Running (boys and girls) August 31--October 8
- Volleyball (girls) October 12--December 14
- Wrestling (coed) October 12--December 10
- Swimming (coed) January 3--February 25
- Cross-Country Skiing (boys and girls) January 10--March 3
- Track and Field (boys and girls) April 13--May 26

Individual schools responsible for the coordination of the competitions will be:

- Cross-Country Running (boys and girls), Central
- Volleyball (girls), Hanshew
- Swimming (coed), Mears
- Cross-Country Skiing (boys and girls), Wendler
- Wrestling (coed), Mirror Lake
- Track and Field (boys and girls), Gruening

#### Intramural Athletic Activities:

Intramural Athletic Activities will be offered using 40 hour intramural addenda. Each school will have their own program based upon the needs and interests of their students, their facilities and equipment, and the availability of coaches. Most of the middle schools will offer the following athletic intramurals:

- Soccer (boys)
- Soccer (girls)
- Basketball (girls)
- Basketball (boys)
- Hockey (coed)

Other intramural athletic activities which schools plan to offer on an interest basis are Native Youth Olympics, Gymnastics, Drill Team, Tennis, and Coed Volleyball. Most schools offer several seasons of Basketball depending upon gymnasium space. As funding allows, intramural addenda may be used for other programs within each school.

#### 1999-2000 Middle School Activity Budget

Beginning in fall 1999, the Anchorage School District has set a \$225 family cap on activities' fees for both middle and high school activities. Using input from the stock clerks, and assistant principals at both levels, a process was developed to help determine when a family has reached the limit. Each family will be given a card that will be stamped as they pay fees. When the \$225 limit is met, the family may present the card to the school to waive the fee for that sport.

#### 799--Middle School Unallocated

- (133) **\$75,000** -- These funds are for student support added duty contracts for interscholastic, intramural addendum, and contract services related to the coordination of the competitive program. This is also held in reserve in case the student activity fee does not generate sufficient revenue to match the expenditure.
- (303) **\$21,500** --To pay for costs related to interscholastic competition and final tournament costs (referees, meet directors, scorekeepers, weigh-ins, etc.).

- (303) **\$136,590** --To distribute funds as needed for the interscholastic swim program.
- (313) **\$6,000** --To redistribute to the individual school sites where needed due to enrollment for student activity transportation costs.

Nine Middle Schools and Polaris K-12

- (133) **\$461,680** -- To pay for added duty interscholastic and intramural addendum; \$48,892 per middle school and \$21,652 for Polaris.
- (303) **\$3,600** --To pay for costs related to tournaments; \$800 per middle school.
- (313) **\$56,175** -- To pay for interscholastic transportation costs; \$6,095 per middle school, \$1,320 Polaris.
- (602) **\$65,520** -- To pay for pupil activity expenses (pennies, uniforms, athletic equipment, supplies, etc.; \$7,000 per middle school, and \$2,530 for Polaris.

BC/CC/GO/ccs

Attachments [ A | B ]

Prepared by: Gail Opalinski, Executive Director, Middle School Education

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