

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #80 (1999-2000)

September 30, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: DEDICATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CAREER CENTER
PLAYGROUND IN HONOR OF ESTHER J. COX

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the request of the principal and staff at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Center to dedicate the playground/garden area to their former principal, Esther J. Cox who was instrumental in its design and completion.

PERTINENT FACTS:

Esther J. Cox retired from the Anchorage School District as the principal at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Center at the end of the 1997-98 school year. Ms. Cox is one of the most widely respected educators in the nation and in the Anchorage School District. Ms. Cox was elected as the first female President of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, served as a key participant on the committee which wrote the acclaimed book, *Breaking Ranks*, which focused on the need for restructuring our high schools in order to meet the needs of 21st century students, and a Milken Award winner.

The Assistant Superintendent for Instruction received a letters from the current principal, Brad Snodgrass, and staff at the King Career Center requesting that "a special plaque be mounted above the garden area in the King Career Center-Early Childhood Education playground as a dedication to Esther Cox. This plaque and dedication would recognize Esther Cox's tireless efforts as the principal of the KCC in including the ECE playground in the school district's bond package in 1996. Ms. Cox was instrumental in the planning process of our playground's design that took over two years to develop and implement. She provided the critical support and inspiration that motivated us to "dream big" in planning a fun, learning outdoor environment for young children."

The staff request further stated, "because of Ms. Cox's support and pride in the finished product, the principal and staff want to leave a lasting testimonial for her work. The dedication plaque, made at the King Career Center, has the following message:

For all the lives that she has touched and the seeds of learning planted...
We dedicate this playground to Esther J. Cox.
"Take time to play...it's music for the soul. "

The Administration supports this request and would like the School Board to approve this request from the principal and staff at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Center.

BC/CC

Prepared by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction