

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #94 (1999-2000)

November 22, 1999

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPEAL OF HAZARDOUS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
DECISION — KASUUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board consider the appeal by the Essex Homeowners Association for transportation to and from Kasuun Elementary School, which was denied by the Hazardous Transportation Committee.

PERTINENT FACTS

Glenn Starr, President of the Essex Square Homeowners Association, and Tom Covington, a parent who has children attending Kasuun Elementary, addressed the School Board on August 23, 1999. Mr. Starr suggested that Mr. Starr contact Steven Kalmes, Director of Transportation, to schedule a review by the HTC. Mr. Kalmes explained the process for identification of hazardous areas to Mr. Starr during a telephone conversation on, August 24, 1999. Mr. Starr drafted a letter (Attachment A) on, August 25, 1999, outlining the concerns of parents of Kasuun Elementary students who live in Essex Square.

Essex Square subdivision is located south of 64th Avenue just east of Laurel Street (Laurel Street is the roadway on the West Side of Northern Lights ABC). The distance from Kasuun Elementary to the farthest residence in Essex Square is 1.13 miles.

Four members of the HTC, Tom Bibeau, ASD Risk Manager; Steve Kalmes, ASD Director of Transportation; Ron Martindale, DOT&PF Traffic Operations Engineer; and Kathy Tharaldson, MOA Traffic Engineering, Engineering Technician III, conducted an on-site review of the walking route to Kasuun Elementary on September 9, 1999. Mr. Starr and Mr. Covington accompanied the HTC members on the walk to and from school in the morning.

HTC representatives and community members took the following route to Kasuun Elementary from the corner of 64th and Desiree Loop, east to Carriage Lane, Carriage

Lane south and east to Spruce Lane, Spruce Street south to 68th Avenue, 68th Avenue east to the crosswalk in front of Kasuun Elementary

School. On the return route to Essex Square, the group walked west from the crosswalk to Winchester Street, North on Winchester Street to 66th Avenue, 66th Avenue west to Spruce Street, Spruce Street north to Carriage Lane, Carriage Lane west and north to 64th Avenue, and 64th Avenue west to Desiree Loop.

The second route was also walked in the afternoon of September 9, 1999 at 3:30 pm, Kasuun Elementary dismissal. The recommended walking route is displayed on the attached map (Attachment B).

The request for transportation for students who reside in Essex Square was discussed at the September 23, 1999 HTC meeting. Committee members were provided a copy of the letter from Essex Square Homeowners Association and Mr. Starr referred committee members to his letter dated August 25, 1999. He outlined the concerns of the residents of his neighborhood and indicated that sidewalks in the area are not cleared of snow during the winter months.

Pictures that were taken at the time of the on-site review were shown to the HTC members.

MOA Traffic Engineering reviewed the walking route for Essex Square students to determine if lighting could be improved. Kathy Tharaldson distributed maps (Attachment C) to HTC members and Mr. Starr showing the existing and proposed lighting in this area. New lights on poles are proposed for the corners of Norm Drive and Carriage Lane and E. 66th Avenue and Spruce Street. Ms. Tharaldson informed the committee that the installation of this new lighting could take one to two years for installation. Lights placed on existing poles are proposed between 64th and 65th Avenues, 65th and 66th Avenues, and 66th and 67th Avenues on Winchester Street. An additional light is to be installed between 67th and 68th Avenues on Spruce Street. These lights may be installed in the next one to four months.

Ron Martindale stated that this area is not any different from other areas as far as the distance and conditions of the walking area to school. Kay Pederson also stated that there is some parent responsibility to make sure that students get to school safely.

Kathy Tharaldson made a motion that school bus service be provided for the students of Essex Square Subdivision. Dolores Solano seconded the motion. The motion failed nine to one.

BC/CC/SK

Attachments

Prepared by: Steve Kalmes, Director of Transportation

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction