

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 1999

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, December 13, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Peggy Robinson presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present: Peggy Robinson, Dave Werdal, Rita Holthouse, Bettye Davis, Harriet Drummond, Kathi Gillespie and Debbie Ossiander.

Others Present: Bob Christal, Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Carolyn Buckley, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Pat McDowell, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Ed Blahous, Bill Mikawa, Tom Bibeau, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Ellen Montague, Larry Wiget, Michelle Egan, Marie Laule, Stan Syta, Bob Price, Ray Amsden, 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

Peggy Robinson announced the scheduled up-coming meetings.

Bob Christal announced that a brief update will be added to the Superintendent's Report relative to Y2K compliance.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #140 – Teacher Receives Milken Award

East High School physics teacher Bill Ennis arrived at school on Tuesday, October 26, prepared to teach. But, he wasn't at all prepared for what he was about to learn.

Ennis' morning class was interrupted by a call from the Governor delivering the news that he had been chosen by the

Milken Family Foundation in California for a 1999 National Educator Award.

This national award recognizes teachers who demonstrate expertise in subject matter, distinguished achievement in developing innovative curricula; outstanding ability to instill students with sound values and commitment to professional development and excellence. This award identifies some of our nation's best educators and seals that distinction with a \$25,000 cash award.

The School Board recognized Bill Ennis for receiving the prestigious 1999 Milken National Educator Award.

2. ASD Memorandum #151 - Safe And Drug-Free Schools Receives National Acknowledgment

The Search Institute is an independent, nonprofit, organization whose mission is to advance the well-being of children through knowledge and application. In their latest book, *Great Places to Learn*, the authors cite examples of schools that are rich in "developmental assets." This term characterizes schools that have strong adult-student relationships, an environment that provides opportunities for students to excel, and programs that help students grow up healthy, caring and responsible.

Michael Kerosky and the District's Safe and Drug-Free Schools program was featured in *Great Places to Learn* for generating awareness of the asset framework in Anchorage schools. Several key areas were recognized including the implementation of teacher-training, bus-driver training, District improvement plans, and grants and classes which focus on developing assets.

The jacket of the book states, "Students need schools where people care about them, listen to them, guide them. They need schools that are safe places for new and challenging ideas, questions, thoughts and doubts. They need opportunities to explore, to lead, to be responsible, to try, to act independently, to teach. They need -- great places to learn." Congratulations to Safe and Drug-Free Schools for being part of the effort to help make all Anchorage schools great places to learn.

The School Board recognized Michael Kerosky and the staff of Safe and Drug-Free Schools for their commitment to students which led to this national acknowledgement.

3. ASD Memorandum #152 – Dream-Makers Western Regional Awards

The Crayola Dream-Makers competition was introduced in 1984 to encourage creative and conceptual development in children in kindergarten through sixth-grade, while providing a national forum to exhibit student work.

The program emphasizes visual learning in all curricular areas based on an annual theme. Art teachers use resource guides, which include ideas and art techniques linked to the theme, to assist students through the exhibition process. This year's theme, Millennium Traveler, was selected to help students preserve their past and learn from their individual and collective histories to better envision the future.

Eight of the 75 artworks selected for the 1999 Western Regional Dream-Makers exhibition were created by talented Anchorage School District students under the leadership of District art teachers. The names of the winning students, art teachers, and schools attended at the time of the competition include:

Brittany Barkshire, Kerri Smith and art teacher Hollis Mitchell, from Abbott Loop Elementary; Clare Keller, Laiken Lopez, Paul Bezousek, led by art teacher Sylve Montalbo, from Bayshore Elementary; Zachary Melms, led by art teacher, and mom, Diane Melms, from Huffman Elementary; and Alexis Wright and Kevin Arnold, led by art teacher Hollis Mitchell, from Rabbit Creek Elementary.

The School Board recognized these students and art teachers whose creativity led to this national recognition.

E. PRESENTATION

1. Anchorage Economic Development Corporation Presentation

Mel Nichols, chairperson of the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, presented the Anchorage School District an Expansion Management Gold Medal Distinction Award. This award is given to outstanding school districts throughout the United States. Expansion Management evaluates school districts throughout the nation as a way of helping their readers compare the type of work force they are likely to encounter should they decide to expand or relocate their companies to a particular location. The Anchorage School

District ranks in the top 15 percent of the more than 1500 school districts evaluated across the United States.

2. Web Site Presentation

District Web Master, David McCreath, gave a brief presentation about the District's web site explaining what is presently available on the site and the features that will be available in the near future.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Katie Barnett, Service High School student, commented about her personal attachment to the performing arts and explained how difficult it is to pursue this discipline when the theater used for this class cannot be used. Ms. Barnett urged the Board to approve funding to restore the Little Theater at Service High School so that students are able to continue their studies in the performing arts.

Mary Ross, Service High School student, explained to the Board how vital being able to perform on-stage is to performing arts students and urged the Board to do whatever they can to restore the Little Theater at Service High School to operable condition.

Peggy Brown, Service High School PTSA President, urged the Board to take whatever steps are necessary to restore the Little Theater at Service High School so that it can be used for theatrical purposes. The Little Theater has been on the retrofit list for a number of years and it is now time to do the necessary electrical upgrades so the performing arts students can once again utilize their theater. Ms. Brown explained that approximately \$46,000 would be needed to address the safety issues, the electrical repairs, and to provide adequate sound and light systems. This would allow the performing arts program to continue at Service High School until completion of Phase V of the school's renovation in 2007. Ms. Brown urged the Board to allocate the necessary funds to restore the Little Theater for performing arts activities.

Sharon Long commented that the Little Theater at Service High School is shabby, embarrassing, unsafe and inadequate for the drama performances that take place at Service High School. Ms. Long encouraged the Board to do whatever is necessary to address the many concerns relative to the Little Theater.

Bob Christal explained that staff will look at the projected figures to restore the Little Theater and noted that although a major renovation will not be accomplished, hopefully some of the issues can be addressed to get the theater up and running.

Lee Smith, Creekside Park teacher, commented that as far as the health insurance issue is concerned with the new contract offer, she would be loosing money. Ms. Smith further commented that she would like to be given a fair contract.

Jody Notoey, Birchwood ABC teacher, stated that she was disappointed in the District's contract offer. The so-called raise is only a smoke screen to deceive new-to-the-District teachers. Ms. Notoey noted that she will need to make a hard decision as to whether or not she will stay in the District with the dwindling pay and benefits for teachers.

Rich Kronberg, AEA President, noted that many members of AEA are attending the meeting this evening to let the Board know that the initial contract offer is absolutely unacceptable. Mr. Kronberg further stated that students need and deserve quality teachers as educators and urged the Board to bargain fairly at the table – not only for the teachers but also for the 50,000 students in the District.

Ann Wilkas, Service High School teacher, expressed concern that health care will not be provided in the new contract which is unacceptable. Ms. Wilkas urged the Board to consider what is best for the students of the District as well as the teachers who are valuable resources in this community.

Ann Bryson, Bowman Elementary teacher, commented that her compensation was less last year than the year before and would like to see the District reward teachers they say they value. Ms. Bryson further commented that hundreds of teachers spend their lunch hours working on classroom-related activities as well as many nights and weekends. Ms. Bryson stated that she would like to see something positive done that will draw quality teachers to the District.

Robert Hayes commented that teachers are the first lines of safety in the schools and it is important to take care of them and their freedom of speech. Mr. Hayes stated that the smoke detectors need to be put back in College Gate Elementary and that he is certified to work on and inspect fire alarm systems.

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 – November 4, 1999

2. ASD Memorandum #148 – Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Fiscal Year 1998-99

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999 and authorize the Superintendent to forward this report to the Commissioner of Education, State of Alaska, and the Anchorage Assembly.

3. ASD Memorandum #147 – Ft. Richardson School Options

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to operate Ursa Major and Ursa Minor Elementary Schools on Fort Richardson for the 2000-2001 school year. It is further recommended that students who currently attend John F. Kennedy Elementary School attend Ursa Major Elementary School and that John F. Kennedy Elementary School be closed.

4. ASD Memorandum #129 – Anchorage School District Goals: 1999-2000

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and 1999-2000 Goals as shown on Attachment A.

5. ASD Memorandum #158 – Appointment Of Minority Education Concerns Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint Rev. William Greene to the Minority Education Concerns Committee for a one year term.

6. ASD Memorandum #155 – MECC Goals 1999-2000

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Minority Education Concerns Committee's goals and objectives for the 1999-2000 school year. The proposed goals and objectives are shown on Attachment A.

7. ASD Memorandum #157 – Contract Adjustment: Family Partnership Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the contract adjustment to the contract of the Family Partnership Charter School to allow for an enrollment of 726 students for the 2000-2001 school year.

8. ASD Memorandum #156 - Acceptance Of grant Award: Balanced Reading Program Grants

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept six school-based Balanced Reading Program grants from the University of Alaska Southeast for a total of \$30,000.

9. ASD Memorandum #136 - Award Of Contract: Library Printers

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to award Bid "A" and Bid "C" for Library Printers to the lowest responsive bidder, Dell Computer Corporation, in the total amount of \$64,987.44. The final cost to the District after the \$1,400.00 rebate will be \$63,587.44.

10. ASD Memorandum #153 - Award Of Contract: Library Furnishings, Russian Jack, Southeast Elementary, Muldoon Elementary School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to furnish and install Library Furnishings, at Russian Jack, Southeast Anchorage and Muldoon Elementary Schools to Pac-West, Inc. in the amount of \$152,340.

11. ASD Memorandum #154 - Professional Services Selection: Girdwood School Upgrades 2000 - Design Services

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of Krochina Architects as designer for the Girdwood School Upgrades, Phase 2 work to be done in year 2000, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with Krochina Architects, for consultant services as addressed in the Request for Proposals dated October 20, 1999.

12. ASD Memorandum #137 - Amendment To Dimond High School Design Services Contract

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the amendment to the design services contract with USKH for the Dimond High School Replacement in the amount of \$3,177,867, for a total adjusted contract of \$3,859,544.

13. ASD Memorandum #138 – Personnel Report

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

14. ASD Memorandum #139 – 2000 General Obligation Bond Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a bond proposal for capital construction totaling \$57,091,500. This incorporates the following projects:

Bartlett High School Phase 1 Site	\$ 5,000,000
Denali Replacement Elementary School	11,730,000
Districtwide Renewal and <u>Replacement/ADA/Code Requirements</u>	5,352,000
Districtwide Roof Replacement and Repairs	3,437,000
East High School Phase 1	10,422,000
Electrical Upgrades in Support of Computers	5,865,500
Girdwood K-8 School Roof Replacement	1,500,000
Service High School Phase 1	7,140,000
Traffic Safety Upgrades	600,000
Wendler Middle School Design and Site Work	<u>6,045,000</u>
Total Bond Package	\$57,091,500

15. ASD Memorandum #110 – Anchorage School District Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Anchorage School District's Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests. The information will be made available to Legislators and other interested groups for funding consideration.

This memorandum was moved to the January 10, 2000 Board Meeting.

16. ASD Memorandum #134 – FY 2000 – 2001 Financial Planning

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage Schools District's FY 2000-01 Preliminary Budget in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specially, the budget for FY 2000-01 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenue not-to-exceed \$414,807,131. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

	<u>FY 2000-01 Budget</u>
General Fund	\$340,504,331
Food Service Fund	10,650,000
Debt Service Fund	39,652,800
Local/State/Federal Projects Fund	<u>24,000,000</u>
	<u>\$414,807,131</u>

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated costs increases, School Board requests and Administration recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility must be allowed for adjustments based on the most recent demographic and/or economic information, as well as status of the Alaska Mandarin Immersion Charter School application scheduled for School Board approval in January 2000 or staffing based on review of student enrollment projections.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #147, #129, #137, #139, #110, and #134.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve the Minutes of the
Special Meeting of November 4,
1999; Memorandum #148;
Memorandum #158;
Memorandum #155;
Memorandum #157;
Memorandum #156;
Memorandum #136;

Memorandum #153;
Memorandum #154 and
Memorandum #138 with
addenda.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #147 – Ft. Richardson School Options

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to operate Ursa Major and Ursa Minor Elementary Schools on Fort Richardson for the 2000-2001 school year. It is further recommended that students who currently attend John F. Kennedy Elementary School attend Ursa Major Elementary School and that John F. Kennedy Elementary School be closed.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #147.
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Patricia McRae gave a brief presentation of this recommendation noting that staff reviewed many options for the Fort Richardson schools. Ms. McRae explained that John F. Kennedy Elementary is being recommended for closure because it is the smallest school facility on Fort Richardson noting that the Ursa Major facility has more to offer in the over-all physical plant. Ms. McRae stated that the District will continue to work with the Department of Defense should future growth warrant classroom use of this facility.

Thomas Lacy, Fort Richardson parent, commented that he would like to see Kennedy Elementary be used as a middle school (as he proposed at the November 30, 1999 informational meeting).

Carol Comeau commented that staff did look at the middle school alternative and noted that the military community has expressed great satisfaction with the Central School of Science program.

Debbie Ossiander inquired about the title transfer of schools on both Elmendorf and Fort Richardson.

Bob Christal explained that the District has acquired ownership of Ursa Major and other schools on Elmendorf. The District and the

Department of Defense will continue to work through all the necessary paperwork. A memorandum of agreement will be drafted so that the District will have access to Kennedy Elementary if the need should arise in the future. Mr. Christal further explained that the District will not continue to assume the utility or maintenance costs of the building if the District is not physically using the facility.

Kathi Gillespie inquired as to what the closure of Kennedy Elementary will do to the District's square footage allocation for elementary schools as far as the Department of Education and Early Development is concerned.

Bob Christal responded that the District will be requesting to not have that square footage added to the District's total elementary square footage. The District will be communicating with the Department of Education and Early Development to make sure that this square footage is not counted against the District's overall square footage allocation for elementary schools.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #129 – Anchorage School District Goals: 1999-2000

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and 1999-2000 Goals as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #129.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Susan Johnson, teacher at Sand Lake Elementary, commented that she has seen many budgets and goals come and go and noted that it is time to seriously address the teacher mentor program in the District. One-third of the District's teachers are brand new teachers and these new teachers deserve a trained mentor who can give them the guidance and attention they need to become successful teachers. Currently the teacher mentor program is provided through grant money with no guarantee that the funds will be available year after year. Ms. Johnson urged the Board to fully fund a mentor program.

Debbie Ossiander asked the Administration to find out the status of Title VI money in order to see if funds will continue to be available for a teacher mentor program.

Rick Kronberg, AEA President, commented that the Association would like to see that a coherent teacher mentor plan is implemented for new teachers. Quality teachers are imperative to meeting the School Board's goals. Mr. Kronberg urged the Board to focus on the success of students by making sure that every student has access to high quality teachers.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Dave Werdal
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to add (under Goal #4) a third sub-point to read: • increasing student achievement in spelling by three percentile points as measured by the national standardized test at each grade level while maintaining or improving in all other areas.

Dave Werdal commented that he would like to see this spelling goal put back in the Board's goals because spelling is still very important. The low scores (which are barely above average) are a lot lower than they should be for Anchorage students. Mr. Werdal further commented that by putting this back in the goals it will show that the Board still thinks this is a recognized problem that will hopefully be addressed and will improve in the next few years.

Bob Christal explained that student scores are at or above the 50 percentile in all areas; some grade levels have gone up – some have not. Mr. Christal noted that there is a lot of misunderstanding about how the District teaches spelling. The Administration is suggesting that some pre-and-post testing be done and to continue with some of the Norm reference testing.

Rita Holthouse expressed concern about the CAT method of evaluation and stated that she is not convinced that the CAT is the correct tool to measure the type of spelling she believes students should have.

Friendly amendment by Rita Holthouse and agreed to by the maker of the motion: Remove the following words from the amendment: "...while maintaining or improving in all other areas." The amendment would read: •increasing student achievement in spelling by three percentile points as measured by the national standardized test at each grade level.

Rita Holthouse inquired as to where the figure of the three percentile points came from noting that three percentile points can be extremely difficult to achieve.

Dave Werdal responded that schools were barely above 50 percentile points and that three percentile points are achievable and would like to keep the three percentile points in the amendment.

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Bettye Davis

that the third sub-point under Goal #4 read: •increasing student achievement in spelling as measured by the national standardized test at each grade level.

Hans Bernard commented that he supports this amendment noting that for the past four or five years his English papers have come back with fewer misspelled words.

Peggy Robinson stated that she will support this amendment noting that this is a work-in-progress goal that is going to be reasonable, achievable and one that the Board will feel comfortable with in what it is suppose to be measuring.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Robinson,
Holthouse Gillespie

Nays: Werdal, Gillespie

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: Ossiander

AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

ASD Memorandum #137 - Amendment To Dimond High School Design Services Contract

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the amendment to the design services contract with USKH for the Dimond High School Replacement in the amount of \$3,177,867, for a total adjusted contract of \$3,859,544.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #137.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Debbie Ossiander noted that the questions she had regarding this memorandum have been answered.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #139 – 2000 General Obligation Bond Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a bond proposal for capital construction totaling \$57,091,500. This incorporates the following projects:

Bartlett High School Phase 1 Site	\$ 5,000,000
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Service High School Phase 1	7,140,000
Traffic Safety Upgrades	600,000
Wendler Middle School Design and Site Work	<u>6,045,000</u>
Total Bond Package	\$57,091,500

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #139.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Bob Christal commented that this bond recommendation reflects the District's highest needs as well as the work of the Bond Committee. Mr. Christal noted that since there is no matching State money, it would be prudent to recommend a moderate bond proposal.

Karen Rigg, Principal of Denali Montessori, stated that the Denali community supports the recommended bond proposal which includes a Denali replacement school and urged the Board to support the proposed recommendation as well.

Margie MacNeille, Denali parent, noted that the affect the deteriorating building has on the students is very substantial and urged the Board to support the proposed bond recommendation.

LouAnn Balensiefer, East High teacher, spoke in favor of the bond proposal noting that the plan for East High School would permit the school to utilize cluster classrooms and urged the Board to support the bond recommendation.

Sara Gantt spoke on behalf of Service High School's bond proposal which is included in the bond recommendation. Ms. Gantt stated that this proposal will address the needs of the students at Service High which is the largest high school in the entire State of Alaska. Ms. Gantt asked the Board to fully support the Administration's recommendation.

Ann Brooks commented that her children have gone through the Anchorage school system and that this bond recommendation is very much needed. Ms. Brooks urged the Board to support the recommendation as presented by the Administration.

Alex Monterrosa commented that it will be difficult to vote to approve school bonds if the District does not bargain in good faith with the teachers in the upcoming contract negotiations.

John Smithhisler, Service High and Hanshew Middle School parent, spoke in favor of the Service High School portion of the bond recommendation and urged the Board to fully support the bond proposal.

Crystal Kennedy, Chugiak/Eagle River parent, noted that the bond recommendation fails to address the ongoing needs in the Chugiak/Eagle River area, specifically the need for another high school in that area. Ms. Kennedy further noted that it will be difficult for the Chugiak/Eagle River area to vote in favor of the bond proposal as it now stands.

Debbie Ossiander questioned if this is a good time to undertake a number of construction projects and suggested that the bond proposal recommendation be downsized. Ms. Ossiander explained that there have been significant cost increases with plans that have had to sit for a

number of years as well as significant cost overruns in renovation projects.

Dave Werdal expressed concern about the number of designs and the number of projects that haven't been brought forward yet. Mr. Werdal noted that he has some reservations that the community may not be willing to bond for a specific amount for a particular school year after year to address the number of phases some projects will realize before completion. Mr. Werdal stated that he would also like to see a smaller bond proposal.

Rita Holthouse stated that the recommended bond proposal would bring improvements to 45 individual schools and noted that she supports the bond proposal which addresses needs in many schools across the entire community.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond
East

to delete: Bartlett High Phase
1, Denali Replacement,

High Phase 1, Service Phase 1,
and Wendler design and site
work from the bond proposal.

Debbie Ossiander stated that being good stewards means that Board members must use public money in a wise fashion and having too many projects stretched out over a number of years may not be the best avenue to follow. Ms. Ossiander further stated that as projects pass, they will have a dramatic affect on the District's total budget which may create a great impact in the years ahead.

Kathi Gillespie stated that she believes the people who voted for the bond proposal last year did so with the understanding that Eagle River would come to the aid of other portions of the city. Ms. Gillespie noted that she would not support this amendment.

Hans Bernard stated that students from all of the high schools have been waiting for a number of years for renovations to their schools and noted that he cannot support this amendment, as it would have dramatic implications for high school kids across the entire District.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander

Nays: Drummond, Werdal, Robinson,
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis
AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to delete: Bartlett Phase 1, East
Phase 1, Wendler design and
site work from the bond
proposal, and to add Chugiak
Phase 2 for \$15 million to the
bond proposal.

Debbie Ossiander explained that the Board made a strong statement when it stated that the District needed to look at smaller high schools. Leaving Phase 1 at Chugiak High School absolutely sends a totally wrong message to that community. The Chugiak/Eagle River community stated they wanted another high school – a smaller high school. In Phase 1, eight classrooms are added which will definitely make Chugiak High School the District's largest high school. Phase 1 adds immeasurable difficulty to an already overcrowded site. Ms. Ossiander noted that there is an expectation that subsequent phases will follow after the initial phase. Ms. Ossiander urged the Board to follow through on their commitment and to address Phase 2 at Chugiak High School.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie

to remove Wendler from the
deleted projects.

DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Peggy Robinson stated that high school projects are huge and phases are necessary to the system. Ms. Robinson further stated that money needs to be spread out among the older schools and it is very important to make sure that the District does not create schools that are major haves or have-nots.

Hans Bernard commented that he would like to see Phase 2 in the bond proposal but believes it is irresponsible to not begin the first phases at the other high schools.

Rita Holthouse stated that she will not support this amendment and further stated that she is confident the voters in Chugiak/Eagle River will support this bond proposal even if Phase 2 for Chugiak is not in the proposal. There are many projects in the proposal for the Chugiak/Eagle River area.

Debbie Ossiander explained that the majority of the Chugiak/Eagle River community would like to see a new secondary school. The prime argument is not where are the projects for the Chugiak/Eagle River area, but where is the new high school. At this point, it is important to continue with what has already been started which is to continue on with Phase 2.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Gillespie
 Nays: Drummond, Werdal, Robinson,
 Holthouse, Davis
 AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
 seconded by Harriet Drummond
 first

to split this bond proposal into
 two bond packages. The
 containing the Districtwide
 projects and the Girdwood
 roof and the second would
 contain all the other projects
 listed.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander
 Nays: Werdal, Robinson, Gillespie,
 Holthouse, Davis
 AMENDMENT FAILED.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
 seconded by Bettye Davis

to call the question.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Robinson,
 Holthouse, Davis
 Nays: Werdal, Gillespie
 MOTION PASSED.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Werdal, Robinson,
 Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis
 Nays: Ossiander
 MAIN MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #110 - Anchorage School District Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Anchorage School District's Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests. The information will be made available to Legislators and other interested groups for funding consideration.

Bob Christal announced that this memorandum will be postponed to the January 10, 2000 Board Meeting due to an error that needs to be corrected.

Debbie Ossiander requested that all of the four-year bond projects be included in the legislative requests.

ASD Memorandum #134 - FY 2000 - 2001 Financial Planning

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage Schools District's FY 2000-01 Preliminary Budget in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specially, the budget for FY 2000-01 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenue not-to-exceed \$414,807,131. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

	<u>FY 2000-01 Budget</u>
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	<u>\$414,807,131</u>

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated costs increases, School Board requests and Administration recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility must be allowed for adjustments based on the most recent demographic and/or economic information, as well as status of the Alaska Mandarin Immersion Charter School application scheduled for School Board approval in January 2000 or staffing based on review of student enrollment projections.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #134.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Bob Christal gave a brief presentation of the FY 2000 – 2001 Financial Plan noting that student enrollment numbers will be refined in the next few weeks to try to reflect the student enrollment fluctuations.

Kathi Gillespie commented that some Assembly members do not plan to fully fund the District's budget and inquired as to what the District is basing full funding on under the tax cap.

Bob Christal explained that some Assembly members are saying they will be looking at the District to make a reduction. Mr. Christal further explained that it will be important to spend a considerable amount of time explaining to the community what the District's needs are and it will also be necessary to look at using some of the District's fund balance.

Peggy Robinson stated that the District will need to plan its budget up to the tax cap. Board members are elected to these positions as advocates and it is the Board's responsibility to show how the funds are needed and how they will be used.

Dave Werdal commented that he is optimistic that the District will get the full budget approved up to the tax cap.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Y2K Compliance Audit Update

Bob Price gave a brief report on the heating and ventilation control system in the District and stated that the system is Y2K compliant. Mr. Price stated that he anticipates no problems with District equipment when the calendar turns to 2000.

Bob Christal stated that by noon on January 1st, the heating and lighting system in each school in the District will be checked out to make sure each school is in normal operating condition.

Bob Price noted that additional staff will be on standby for any unforeseen problems.

Norm Holthouse gave a brief library automation update and stated that the data center is up and running and the library collection has been placed on the new central server. The estimated completion date for all projects is December 31st and there will be a back-up in every school.

ASD Memorandum #150 – Student Gold Cards 1999

In the fall of each school year, juniors and seniors are recognized for consistent outstanding academic achievement with Gold Card recognitions. This awards program, coordinated through the Anchorage School Business Partnership Program, identifies juniors and seniors who have consistently achieved a 3.5 or higher GPA since their freshman year. Recipients are chosen based on their previous year's cumulative academic record. In support of their achievement, students receive a discount card for services and businesses throughout Anchorage, good for the 1999-2000 school year. This year, 1018 cards were awarded.

ASD Memorandum #133 – Substitute Teacher Report

Recently the Anchorage School District has had difficulty on certain days meeting the demand for substitute teachers. This problem is not unique to Anchorage, many districts across the country are experiencing substitute problems. Many of the reasons for shortages in Anchorage and across the country are the same. A strong local and national economy with low unemployment rates has reduced the pool of substitutes. In addition, hiring initiatives (such as efforts to lower class size) have drawn people from the substitute pool into employment. Since 1997 the Anchorage School District has hired more than 875 teachers who are currently employed. This significantly impacts the pool of available certificated subs. Nevertheless, we do not expect staff to come to work when they are sick.

The ASD pool of substitutes is adequate to meet District needs on most days. The pool is stressed during times of high demand, such as when extensive illness occurs at the same time as trainings during the workday. During one week this month, the sub-pool filled over 320 positions per day for two days. A large percentage of placements on those days were training related.

Russ Ament and Heather Wagner gave a brief substitute teacher status report noting that the substitute pool meets the majority of the District's needs. The substitute pool does become stressed when extensive illness occurs at the same time as scheduled trainings. Also, many substitutes limit their content area, grade level, or regions of town. The District has dramatically increased its advertising arena.

There has also been a pay increase for substitute teachers who are employed as substitutes and have worked for more than 20 days during the current school year. All days worked during the school year count towards the 20 days (on the 21st day substitutes will begin to receive the \$120 per day compensation).

ASD Memorandum #132 – Technology Plan Implementation Update

On January 29, 1999, the Anchorage School District School Board approved the ASD Instructional Technology Plan. The key components for Year One implementation of the plan are:

- the acquisition of 2,500 computers through a lease or service type contract to be allocated according to established priorities;
- the allocation plan was to prioritize senior high schools first, middle schools second, and high need elementary schools third;
- the allocation plan was to bring senior high schools up to a 8:1 ratio of students to computer; the middle schools to a 10:1 ratio, and elementary schools to a 12:1 ratio.
- the addition of a building level technology coordinator (.5) FTE for all middle schools;
- the addition of six building level technology coordinators to be shared by all of the elementary schools;
- the addition of one building technology coordinator to be shared among the alternative schools and programs;
- the addition of two microcomputer specialists for Districtwide support;
- and, the addition of one network support specialist.

Norm Holthouse gave a brief presentation of the technology plan implementation update noting that 2,500 computers have been installed. These computers are in the schools and most are on the network. When the additional wiring is completed, the computers will then be spread out throughout the individual schools for a much broader use.

Debbie Ossiander requested a copy of the spreadsheet for each high school showing the break down of the \$5.8 million allocated for wiring upgrades for computer technology.

ASD Memorandum #144 - First Quarter
Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report - 1999-2000

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-F.

Overall suspensions decreased at the elementary level when comparing incidents from the first quarter of the 1998-99 school year. Elementary schools did show an increase in the areas of fighting and disobedience. Suspensions in middle schools have also decreased from last year in the areas of fighting, and profanity, but increased in the categories of harassment and drug/alcohol and tobacco violations. Suspensions at the high school level have increased in the areas of harassment, weapons, and firearms, but have decreased in the categories of fighting/threats, assault, drugs/alcohol/smoking, and disobedience.

ASD Memorandum #145 - First 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 during the third quarter of the school year. 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.

Rita Holthouse inquired as to what the policy is for teachers to attend their own child's parent/teacher conference.

Carol Comeau responded that neither teachers nor any other staff members have ever been told that they cannot attend their child's parent/teacher conference. The Administration has been very consistent in telling folks that it is important for them to attend their parent/teacher conferences.

ASD Memorandum #143 – 1999 Summer School Report

Summer School 1999 operated on an expanded scale, with multiple sites and a format that emphasized increased student contact time and direct instruction. Due to the academic needs of students facing the new Benchmark and High School Graduation Qualifying Examination, increasing accessibility, requiring attendance five days per week, and providing a sound instructional base were especially important.

Summer School ran from June 21 to July 23, with morning and/or afternoon sessions of approximately 3.5 hours each for students in grades 7-12. Three school sites (Romig, Hanshew and Gruening) were available. Course fees ran \$50 each, with waivers available for those in need. Students were held accountable for their attendance and were counseled and placed on probation at three absences. At mid-session, parental contact was attempted for students who were doing poorly. Consistent with normal ASD protocol, emergency plans were developed and practiced at each site.

Registrants were offered a broad spectrum of core and enrichment courses (Attachment A). If the site had enrollment, core classes were offered; enrichment classes were cancelled due to low number of requests. Summer School's first priority, combined with student requests, made remediation the emphasis.

Additional programs involved in Summer School (serving 359 students not otherwise counted) included Job Co-op/Work Experience, Secondary Homeless/Transition Program, Cook Inlet Tribal Council's Summer Youth Enrichment Camp and continuation of both AVAIL and McLaughlin's academic programs.

Enrollment for Summer School 1999 was at an all-time high of 1,424 registrants with 1,296 students receiving final grades, a 91 percent completion rate. This compares to an 80.4 percent completion rate last year, when 1,094 students began the program and 880 received final

grades. At the program's conclusion, 1,864 final course grades were recorded.

Kathi Gillespie expressed concern that enrichment classes were cancelled and suggested that if planned right, these classes could be advertised in advance and the enrichment classes could be held next year.

Rita Holthouse commented that she would like to see summer school expanded as much as possible.

Peggy Robinson requested that summer school not start before 8 a.m.

ASD Memorandum #101 – Discussion Options For Planning Of The Chugiak/Eagle River Secondary School (Revised)

The General Obligation Bond proposition approved by Anchorage voters on April 20, 1999, included \$3,000,000 for a new Chugiak/Eagle River Area Secondary School design.

The School Board was provided with ASD Memorandum #101 at the October 25, 1999, Board meeting. At that time, the School Board directed the Superintendent to refine the parameters of a limited number of program concepts before going to the public. What follows is the revised planning process.

The District will implement a process for gaining public input and consensus about the preferred facility concept and plan prior to initiating detailed design of a new facility. This will be done concurrently with the site identification and selection.

As a starting place, three options present themselves for the instructional program of the new Chugiak/Eagle River Area Secondary School:

- **Small High School:** This could be designed as an 800 student version of a comprehensive high school with the ability to grow as the student population increased. Core areas would be planned to accommodate a commons, administrative offices, library, cafeteria, and gymnasium with adjacent classroom wing(s) that could be replicated as required. Since specialized courses become more difficult to offer in such a small population, the program would have to be carefully crafted to avoid overloading Chugiak High School with single period

enrollments. The nature and affiliation of the activity program would also need to be determined.

- **Magnet School:** One or more themes could be developed within the secondary school which could serve 800 students, possibly in a 9-12 configuration. Magnet school programs might include one or more of the following:

Environmental Studies/Land Use Planning: With a unique geographical setting in the Chugach/Eagle River valley, the school could work with the nature center, the state park or other state agencies to enhance environmental studies and natural resource development, both from a scientific and a public policy perspective.

World Languages: Proficiency in multiple world languages could be the emphasis of a magnet program designed to equip students to be competitive in the academic or business arena.

Early Childhood Development: A lab school partnership could be linked to public and private agencies, as well as to the local universities. This program could parallel that offered at King Career Center and explore parenting and studies leading to career fields in education, psychology, counseling and recreation.

International Baccalaureate Program: This rigorous curriculum provides an alternative diploma for highly motivated juniors and seniors. The question of a compatible program for freshmen and sophomores would need to be addressed.

- **Alternative School:** Options in educational delivery systems are also possible. The SAVE (Specialized Academic Vocational Education) model has been successful in the Anchorage bowl and could be updated to include a technology preparation emphasis. Elements of a King Career Center program which might have special appeal to an adjacent magnet school could also be included. Suggested programs would be Natural Resources Management, Early Childhood Education, Computer Science, etc.

Other optional deliveries could include self-directed learning (a Steller model) or a high school extension of the ABC program. (The General Obligation Bond proposition approved by Anchorage voters on April 20, 1999, included \$3,000,000 for a new Chugiak/Eagle River Area Secondary School design.)

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Rolland Shanks expressed support for the teachers in the up-coming contract negotiations noting that teachers are fundamental to the education of students. Mr. Shanks further noted that the current political campaign in the newspaper is out of line. It is important to quiet down the political elements and to come to the table.

Susan Sandlin, teacher at Willow Crest Elementary, commented that the District's offer to the teachers is not an increase in wages or benefits. Ms. Sandlin further commented that many teachers put in an extra 15 to 20 hours per week because they care about their students. Ms. Sandlin stated that it is time for the District to stand up for their teachers and bargain a fair contract.

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of December 13, 1999 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:25 a.m., December 14, 1999.

Peggy Robinson, President

Rita Holthouse, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved