

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2000

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 10, 2000 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, Steve Kalmes, Bill Mikawa, Teresa Johnson, Larry Wiget, Michelle Egan, Dolores Solano, Julie Ginder, Bill Mikawa, Tom Bibeau, Bob Price, Hans Bernard, Patrick Butler, 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.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent noting that an addendum has been added to the Personnel Report.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum #149 – Community Education State And National Recognitions

The National Community Education Association presents an awards ceremony at their annual conference each year, conducted in December. This year, Sherrie Hunt from Rabbit Creek Community School was recognized for her Outstanding Work as a Community Member with the Citizen Leadership Award. Sherrie has been the treasurer at Rabbit Creek Community School for the past 25 years; quite a significant accomplishment considering that Anchorage Community Schools is celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary this year!

Cindy Devlin, Coordinator at Fire Lake Community School in Eagle River, received the Outstanding Community School Personnel Award for 1999. Cindy is dedicated to her job and brings the highest professional standards to everything she does. One of the special tasks she takes on is the coordination of the Alyeska Ski program for our department. She works closely with the staff at Alyeska, communicates effectively with all coordinators to pull together details of registration, transportation, selection of team leaders and fiscal management.

The award for Outstanding Work by a Community Member (Urban) is presented to a person involved in the development of a total Community Education philosophy on a volunteer basis.

Over the past five years, with Peggy Hayashi's valuable help, Lake Otis Community School has organized a Bike Safety Rodeo. The Rodeo program grew out of the unfortunate accidental death of a Lake Otis student. The community joined forces to see that such an event never happened again. This year over 300 people attended this annual event. In addition to all the organizing that she did, Peggy managed to acquire donated bike helmets and other equipment which were distributed to the students in need. As a health care practitioner, Peggy knows the importance of safety. As a dedicated volunteer, she demonstrates her commitment to safety each year. Peggy Hayashi is truly committed to Alaska's children, and to community education.

ANCHORAGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA DONATION

Renee Werner, Anchorage Symphony Active Professionals, presented the School District Music Department with a donation of five new flutes and a new cello. These instruments were purchased with funds collected by the Anchorage Symphony through a fun run held during the summer. This donation will allow dozens of young musicians to pursue their ambitions in music.

The Anchorage Symphony has a record of exceptional concern and generosity for education. This year the Symphony will perform four concerts for fifth graders at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. They will also perform educational and entertaining concerts in elementary schools throughout the School District.

E. PRESENTATION

(No scheduled presentation.)

Hans Bernard, student representative, reminded parents to fill out and return the permission form for the up-coming Assets Survey and the Youth Tobacco Survey.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Julie Dodds, Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau, announced that Anchorage will bid for the 2001 National Council of Partners in Education Convention and asked that the School Board provide a letter of support for Anchorage to host this convention.

Rita Holthouse requested that the School Board provide a letter of support to the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau for the up-coming bid for the 2001 National Council of Partners in Education Convention.

Greg Miller and Cindy Stiegle of Aquarian Charter School thanked the Superintendent, the Administration and the School Board for allowing them to use the old Northern Lights ABC school to house their charter school.

Ken Hilfiker, Health and Safety Chairperson of the O'Malley PTA, explained that Rockridge Road (the street used to get to O'Malley Elementary) is very dangerous during the winter months. Mr. Hilfiker invited the Board to attend a meeting at O'Malley Elementary on January 14th to discuss the safety issues surrounding Rockridge Road.

Misty Ranger, O'Malley Elementary PTA Safety Committee member, expressed concern about the hazardous conditions of Rockridge Road and the safety of the children attending O'Malley Elementary. Ms. Ranger urged the Board to do whatever they can to resolve the safety issues associated with Rockridge Road.

Peggy Robinson explained that the Administration will look into the Rockridge Road safety issue and will report back to the Board in the next couple of weeks.

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 22, 1999
- b. Regular Meeting – November 22, 1999
- c. Special Meeting – December 14, 1999

2. ASD Memorandum #124 – Appeal Of Hazardous Transportation Committee Decision – Kasuun Elementary

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board uphold the Hazardous Transportation Committee's denial of the appeal of Doris L. Edwards for transportation to and from Kasuun Elementary School.

3. ASD Memorandum #142 – Controversial Issues Review Committee Appointments

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board reappoint:

Bill Boyle, Minority Community Representative,
Sandra O'Brien, Member at Large,
Jim Hughes, Secondary Principal,
Linda Masterson, Elementary Librarian, and
Margaret Spencer, Elementary Teacher

and appoint

LaTanya Williams, Member at Large,
Sue Ellen Racicot, PTA Representative, and
Shana Holthaus, Student Representative

to fill two-year terms, expiring June 30, 2001, on the Controversial Issues Review Committee. It is further recommended that

James Wright, Member at Large, and
Marissa Coughlin, Student Representative

be appointed to terms which expire on June 30, 2000.

4. ASD Memorandum #163 – Naming Of New Southeast Anchorage Elementary School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with the designation of the new Southeast Elementary School as Trailside Elementary School.

5. ASD Memorandum #159 – Prior Approval Of Discretionary Grants: Title VII Bilingual Education Grants

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for two program grants from the U. S. Department of Education's Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA).

6. ASD Memorandum #173 - Acceptance Of 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$685,585 for the first year of a three-year project. This grant will fund after school academic and enrichment programs for youth in five middle schools.

7. ASD Memorandum #169 - High School Social Studies "Area Studies" Credit

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board affirm that the third year of study of a World Language may be used to meet the "Area Studies" requirement within the Social Studies portion of the High School Graduation Requirements. This option would be available for students graduating in 2003 or later. For students graduating in 2000, 2001, or 2002 the second year of study of a World Language could be used to meet the "Area Studies" requirement.

8. ASD Memorandum #172 - Award Of Contract: Furnish And Deliver One (1) New, 2000, Tandem Axle Delivery Truck With Air Ride Suspension

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to the low bidder, Alaska Truck Center, as shown on the Recommended Award by Vendor to Furnish & Deliver One (1) New, 2000, Tandem Axle Delivery Truck With Air Ride Suspension in the total amount of \$79,275.

9. ASD Memorandum #160 - Personnel Report

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

10. ASD Memorandum #110 - Anchorage School District 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.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #124 and #110.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie
22,

to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 1999; the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 22, 1999; the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 14, 1999; Memorandum #142; Memorandum #163; Memorandum #159; Memorandum #173; Memorandum #169; Memorandum #172; and Memorandum #160 with Addendum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #124 – Appeal Of Hazardous Transportation Committee Decision – Kasuun Elementary

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board uphold the Hazardous Transportation Committee's denial of the appeal of Doris L. Edwards for transportation to and from Kasuun Elementary School.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve Memorandum #124.

Rita Holthouse requested information on the Hazardous Transportation Committee's guidelines/criteria regarding the appeal process for establishing new hazardous designated routes and if these guidelines are based on local conditions.

Steve Kalmes explained that the hazardous transportation guidelines were developed in the mid-80's through a community process which involved a number of public hearings across the entire community. Mr. Kalmes further explained that the guidelines are based on local conditions and will be reviewed again in the very near future. A report will be submitted to the Superintendent.

Bob Christal stated that after the guidelines have been reviewed, the report will be shared with the Board as well as the community.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #110 – Anchorage School District 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.

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to approve Memorandum #110.
seconded by Bettye Davis

Bob Christal explained that this document was developed by staff, principals and parents. Section I is an introduction and overview of the legislative requests. Section II outlines the bond package and the need for at least 50 percent debt reimbursement from the State. Section III describes the projects in the bond package. Section IV is a listing of all projects not included in the District's Six-Year CIP document (this list represents the Facilities database of identified needs for elementary schools, middle level schools and high schools).

Kathi Gillespie expressed concern that some of the items listed in Section IV may seem frivolous to legislators and questioned whether these items should be requested for funding at this time.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to delete Section IV from the
seconded by Debbie Ossiander legislative requests document.

Debbie Ossiander stated that at a time when everyone is being asked to filter their requests, that it would be appropriate to delete this section.

This package could be approached in a way to filter these types of requests out of this document which in turn would place the School District in good standing showing that what the District is asking for is really necessary.

Bettye Davis commented that Section IV is coming from the schools as their list of needs. Legislators can look at this list and see that these items are things that schools in their district could use if funds become available.

Kathi Gillespie noted that some of these requests are maintenance projects which muddies up the message the District is trying to get to legislators. Ms. Gillespie urged the Board to delete this section from the document this year.

Peggy Robinson recalled that in past years when there was capital discretionary money available, legislators would talk directly to the schools in their district to see what their list would include. If this list is not included in this document it doesn't mean that it doesn't exist.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Robinson,
Gillespie, Holthouse

Nays: Werdal, Davis

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to amend the Capital
Improvement Program 99-00
Legislative Requests
(Section I - III) to substitute
last year's four-year bond
projects for the currently
included Year 2000 Bond
Proposal.

Debbie Ossiander explained that if there is a G.O. bond proposal it will have to be large enough and contain enough large areas in the Anchorage area. It would be wiser to indicate where the District is heading in the next few years instead of doing a separate list each year. This would give the legislators a look at the up-coming four years. This would also serve the District better in the long run in giving legislators a more complete picture of where the District is heading in the next few years.

Ms. Ossiander explained that the projects do not necessarily need to be in sequential order. The legislators do need to know however, that there is more ahead particularly in the phasing projects. Legislators need to know the District's needs.

Bob Christal stated that if this memorandum passes this evening, staff would then make the necessary changes as suggested by the Board noting that the District does share the Six-Year CIP with legislators. Mr. Christal further stated that it is very important to communicate to everyone that one phase of a school does not fix the problem.

Kathi Gillespie commented that if there is a large G.O. bond, it is important to give the legislators as much flexibility as possible; what is left of the four-year bond is not adequate. Ms. Gillespie further noted that it is imperative to make sure that the information going to Juneau is correct and that there is backup for that information. Information from the Six-Year CIP document should be incorporated into the Legislative Requests document so that legislators have a more complete overall picture of the District's needs.

MOTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to table Memorandum #110
for an Administrative review to
be brought back to the Board
before the February 28th
fly-in to Juneau.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Drummond

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #162 – End-Of-Month Membership Summary For November 30, 1999

The end-of-month membership report for November 30, 1999 is attached. The total active enrollment at the end of November was 48,988, a decrease of 382 students from the November 30, 1998 total of 49,270. Table 1 compares the membership on November 30, 1999 with the totals from November 30, 1998.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she has received calls from community members requesting that a boundary study be conducted for the Alpenglow/Ravenwood elementary schools.

Carol Comeau responded that this issue has been discussed and staff will continue to look at the enrollment numbers for these schools.

Rita Holthouse noted that it is very important to pay attention to the wait list for Benson/Search as the wait list is almost the same as the students being served. Dr. Holthouse reminded the Board that there was unanimous consensus that a stand-alone separate program would be the best program for these students.

ASD Memorandum #166 – New South Anchorage Area High School Site Update

The School Board awarded the design contract for the new South Anchorage High School to ECI/Hyer on June 14, 1999. A series of design meetings with the advisory Building Design Committee have been held this fall and winter working on the concept design for the building and site. As the design has progressed, members of the community have come forward indicating a desire to incorporate a swimming pool on the site.

The Districtwide High School Educational Specifications approved in June of 1998 do not include a pool as a required or standard item. The Educational Specifications refer to a pool as an optional item which would be built with other community funding.

The project funding approved by the voters for this project does not include funding for a pool. If the community were to approve the funding for a future pool, the District would request that it be built as a stand-alone building, similar to those at Service and Bartlett High Schools. The cost to construct a separate pool on this site is estimated in the range of \$6-7,000,000. This estimate is very rough owing to the fact that the size and full features of any future pool is not defined at this point in time, but is based on a building of approximately 20,000 square feet.

The District's planning efforts will include the consideration of a future pool facility. These efforts will include the identification of an optimal location on site considering items such as shared parking, topography and its relationship to the new school building. We will also look at the most cost effective solutions to provide utility connections. These findings may show possible solutions as follows: a) it is more economical to bring in new services from the street at the time of pool construction; b) provide tees and up-size the piping; or c) install the utilities to the proposed future location. The budget constraints in this project will limit the level of what utility connections, if any, can be constructed now. Careful consideration must also be given to the predictability of what those requirements might be. Providing utility stub outs now for future construction will be of no benefit if they prove to be inadequate when the actual needs are determined and the previous work must be redone.

Debbie Ossiander questioned the wisdom of continuing to add to the larger (2000 student) schools in light of Board discussions about the merits of smaller (1200 – 1600 student) schools. Ms. Ossiander noted that she would like to see the Board take a position of publicly stating that smaller high schools are better and that it is in the District's best interest to work to make the four larger high schools smaller schools. Ms. Ossiander further stated that phases are being added to bond proposals and presented to the community before the Board has had a chance to look at and approve the various phases. It is very important that the Board is brought in early on these decisions of phasing. There is a real need to work for smaller high schools across the entire District. Ms. Ossiander commented that the District needs to be cognizant in setting the precedence as to what is being presented to the community.

Kathi Gillespie suggested that a copy of this memorandum be sent to the HALO community group in south Anchorage.

- I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
- J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS
- K. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)
- L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of January 10, 2000 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:50 p.m.

Peggy Robinson, President

Rita Holthouse, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved