

## MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

### SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 31, 2000

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 31, 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, Ed Blahous, Bill Mikawa, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Michelle Egan, Tom Bibeau, Bob Price, Ray Amsden, 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 the Girdwood School will be closed tomorrow due to an avalanche on the Seward Highway that has not been cleared.

#### 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 #176 - Anchorage Fire Department And Fire Marshal Appreciation

Our community is fortunate to have individuals who willingly share their time, talent, and expertise to benefit the Anchorage School District. Fire Inspector John Peck and Fire Marshal Robert Taylor are among this group.

These men have worked tirelessly, often past the traditional work day, to help ensure our facilities are safe for students, staff and the general public. They have made themselves available to answer questions and provide recommendations to keep the District on a course of continuous improvement in the area of fire safety. In all these endeavors, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Peck have performed their duties with a high degree of professionalism and enthusiasm.

The School Board recognized John Peck and Robert Taylor for their tremendous support to the Anchorage School District, its students and facilities. Their exemplary efforts help ensure our schools are safe places to study and work.

Robert Taylor, who has just retired after 25 years with the Anchorage Fire Department, thanked the District for the recognition stating that it has been a real pleasure working with the School District.

Bob Price, Director of Maintenance, thanked John Peck and Robert Taylor for all their efforts stating that both of them have gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that all District schools are safe.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory
2. Military Delegate
3. M.E.C.C.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mary Jones, custodial grandparent of four Russian Jack Elementary students, expressed concern that some of the library books from the Russian Jack Elementary fire that went through an unsuccessful cleaning process have been recycled. Ms. Jones explained that the cleaning residue left on these books, as well as furniture and supplies, could be dangerous to those individuals suffering from respiratory problems who may come in contact with these items.

Rita Holthouse asked for an administrative response to the Russian Jack issue regarding the use of the library books, furniture and supplies that were chemically cleaned after the fire and may still be in use.

Johnny Grames expressed concern about community use of the gymnasiums in the District explaining that last Saturday was last day the elementary basketball program he is involved in could use a school gym for their program. Mr. Grames explained that a volunteer

program such as this is undermined because of the way the various school facilities are released for use.

Bob Christal stated that a copy of the criteria for community use of District facilities will be provided to Mr. Grames.

Robert Hayes commented about school safety and the fire alarm systems in the District schools and noted that he plans to run for the School Board in the up-coming election.

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 - December 13, 1999
- b. Regular Meeting - December 13, 1999

2. ASD Memorandum #141 - Health Curriculum Committee Appointments

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the following appointments to the Health Curriculum Committee:

- 1) Nancy Shaw as the elementary parent representative from the East High School attendance area, with her term expiring at the end of the 2000-01 school year;
- 2) Les Nyman, MD as an elementary representative from the Service High School attendance area, with his term expiring at the end of the 2000-01 school year;
- 3) Pam Kyzer as a Districtwide middle school representative with her term expiring at the end of the 2000-01 school year;
- 4) Martha Lubke as a Districtwide senior high representative with her term expiring at the end of the 2000-01 school year; and
- 5) George Conway, MD as the physician representative with his term expiring at the end of the 2000-01 school year.

3. ASD Memorandum #165 - 2000 Bond Information Campaign

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$39,000 for the 2000 Bond Information Campaign.

4. ASD Memorandum #178 – World Languages Curriculum Framework

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Curriculum Framework, presented in Attachment A, for secondary World Language courses.

5. ASD Memorandum #171 – Award Of Contract: Furnish And Install COMPAQ/DEC Alpha Server For Library Catalog And Circulation System

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to furnish and install a centralized enterprise server for the Library Catalog & Circulation System to the low bidder, Applied Microsystems, Inc., in the amount of \$125,407.97.

6. ASD Memorandum #181 – Personnel Report

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #178.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 13, 1999; the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 1999; Memorandum #141; Memorandum #165; Memorandum #171; and Memorandum #181 with addendum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #178 – World Languages Curriculum Framework

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Curriculum Framework, presented in Attachment A, for secondary World Language courses.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #178.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Janice Gullickson, World Language Coordinator, stated that the District is heading in the direction of having more students speaking foreign languages and there has been a surge of students wanting to speak a foreign language.

Debbie Ossiander stated that the report is an excellent document and it is her desire to ensure that every secondary student has the opportunity to take multiple years of a foreign language. Ms. Ossiander commented that there has been some dissatisfaction with the fact that the middle school electives at some schools currently include just one semester of a foreign language and inquired as to what has happened with this course as an elective. Ms. Ossiander stated that she feels it is very important that middle school students have the opportunity to take an entire year of a foreign language.

Janice Gullickson explained that the middle level explorative classes fall into the category of alternative electives. This course offers an awareness or an overview of what a foreign language course is all about.

Peggy Robinson inquired if all middle schools offer a foreign language.

Gail Opalinski responded that each of the middle schools has a different configuration on foreign languages. Each school makes sure there are offerings in foreign languages to at least allow the students to get a glimpse of this area to see if they are interested in pursuing the course.

Rita Holthouse stated that she would like to see what foreign language programs are offered at each middle school. Dr. Holthouse inquired if the District has ever considered doing long distance learning in this area where the central location could be in a television studio and electronically connected to other schools.

Fred Stofflet explained that this is an area that was discussed during the budget hearings. This could be a combination of utilizing the Internet and television as well as other avenues that could be tapped into for long distance learning in this area.

Rita Holthouse commented that she would like to see this avenue pursued in the Latin language area.

Kathi Gillespie commented that she would like to see the District work toward a credit of choice for those middle level students who are able to go into the second level of a language course.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she would like to have a discussion on middle school students being able to receive credit by choice in the foreign language area.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Norm Holthouse gave a brief verbal report on Internet filter blocks. The District is testing an Internet filtering program (X-Stop). The primary purpose of this filter is to block pornographic sites on the District's network. There are still a few issues that need to be resolved at the sites and if there are concerns about this program and the specific sites being blocked, staff is encouraged to contact Dr. Holthouse.

ASD Memorandum #182 – Baxter Elementary School Renovation And Addition One Percent For Art

Chapter 7.40 of the Anchorage Municipal Code has established a program for the acquisition of art to be displayed in public places, including public school buildings. The process provides for limited consultation with the organization operating the facility and for appeal procedures in cases of disagreement. It should be noted that Municipal Code 7.40 gives the Municipality the authority to select the artist and the artwork. The School District reviews the selected work as to safety and maintenance factors.

Mauricio Robalino, Seattle, Washington, has been chosen to do the artwork for the exterior plaza. The artwork consists of three, brightly painted, angled steel moose, nine feet high on an 18" concrete bench/foundation set between two parking areas. The bench will give students a place to sit, as well as provide allowances for snow plowing. The contract award amount is \$55,000.

Tom Stewart, Anchorage, Alaska, has been chosen to do the artwork for the interior corridor wall. The artwork consists of a mural, four feet

high by sixteen feet wide on medium density overlay board and fastened to the wall with a cleat system. The mural will illustrate the flora and fauna of the Baxter bog. There will be some low relief on the sides and top of the mural. The piece will have many layers of durable varnish the artist has found which works well with these types of murals. The contract award amount is \$17,000.

ASD Memorandum #183 – Facility Project Report And Change Order Report For The Months Of November And December 1999

The monthly Facility Project Report Update and Change Order Report for the months of November and December, 1999 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

Kathi Gillespie expressed concern about the amounts of the change orders for Creekside Park and Baxter Elementary schools.

Ed Conyers responded that staff is currently reviewing the change orders for both Creekside Park and Baxter schools.

Bob Christal stated that an external architect is currently reviewing these projects and an update will be prepared for the Board's review.

Rita Holthouse requested that each specific school be indicated in each specific change order in future reports.

Debbie Ossiander inquired as to whom the "Director" is that will be making the decision on the installation of an aluminum door or a steel door at the northwest entrance as referenced in the Taku Elementary description in Attachment F.

Peggy Robinson noted that there is still a large contingency fund for Ursa Minor and inquired that since Ursa Minor had a lot of items on their CIP list if those items will be considered to be funded.

Ray Amsden replied that yes, they would be considered to be funded.

ASD Memorandum #184 – End-Of-Month Membership Summary For December 1999

The end-of-month membership report for December 21, 1999 is attached. The total active enrollment at the end of December was 48,675, a decrease of 277 students from the December 22, 1998 total of 48,952. Table 1 compares the membership on December 21, 1999 with the totals from December 22, 1998.

Rita Holthouse questioned the 132% capacity at Muldoon Elementary and inquired if that figure is based on the old building.

Peggy Robinson stated that the students didn't move into the new building until this month and this report is through December of 1999.

Rita Holthouse commented that in looking at the enrollment since late September that the elementary program has gone down a considerable number of students but three schools in Northeast Anchorage have double-digit increases. Dr. Holthouse inquired if that area of town (Ptarmigan, Baxter and Fairview) is experiencing a different growth pattern.

Carol Comeau explained that many of the Title I schools in this area have more affordable housing which in turn increases a school's population. Boundaries in this area will be looked at again.

ASD Memorandum #185 – Conflict Of Interest – Second Quarter Report FY 1999-2000

The attached listing of employee Conflict of Interest Waiver and Disclosure actions is forwarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.22. This information is provided as the second quarter report for the FY 1999-2000 school year.

Attachment A lists, by employee, Requests for Waiver received between October 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999. Attachment B lists employees who submitted Disclosure statements between October 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999. All current, Disclosure statements and Requests for Waiver expire on June 30, 2000.

ASD Memorandum #187 – Status Report: Submission Of Discretionary Grants, Second Quarter

The purpose of this report is to inform the School Board on a quarterly basis of new grants that have been submitted for funding. The following grants are included in this report.

K-12 Balanced Reading Grants  
Environmental Science Torch 1999  
Civitas International Exchange Program Grant  
Alaska Reading Connections: Integrating Standards and Technology (ARC)

Alaska School-to-Work Building Career Pathways Grant  
Anchorage GEAR UP  
Partnership Grant: Positive Video Strategies to Support Classrooms  
that Include Students with Challenging Behaviors;

Kathi Gillespie expressed concern about the Partnership Grant and inquired what the District hopes to accomplish by this.

Robyn Rehmann explained that this is a highly researched-based grant where students with challenging behaviors are taped in a positive situation so they can watch the videos at home and during the summer months to see themselves being successful. This reinforcement has been very successful with many students. Ms. Rehmann stated that parental permission will definitely be required (parents are involved in the entire process).

ASD Memorandum #180 – Preliminary Plans East/Bartlett/Wendler

Voters approved the bond funding in the spring of 1997 to perform preliminary planning work in anticipation of renovations to three high schools. These schools included Dimond, Chugiak and Service High Schools. This task was completed last fall with sufficient funds remaining to allow similar planning efforts to be performed at Bartlett and East High Schools. Wendler Middle School preliminary planning work was funded with the 1997 bond.

The School Board awarded professional services contracts to Kumin Associates, Inc. for Bartlett High School and to Winchester Alaska for East High School on June 14, 1999. The Board further awarded a similar contract to Bezek Durst Seiser for Wendler Middle School on July 1, 1999. A series of design meetings with each school Building Design Committee were held this past summer and fall working on the concept design for the building and site. The focus of these efforts was similar to the Dimond, Chugiak and Service High Schools in looking at how to practically bring the facility into conformity to the District's Educational Specifications and to rejuvenate the physical plant to add additional years of service. This work effort has resulted in concept plans, proposed implementation phasing plans and the associated project costs, which have been the basis of our school construction bonding discussions this winter.

Debbie Ossiander requested that this memorandum come before the Board for approval under the Consent Agenda at a future School Board Meeting. Ms. Ossiander explained that some fundamental decisions are being made on the different phases prior to the Board having the opportunity to discuss the recommendations. The Board needs to have some general discussion before these phases are presented to the public.

Peggy Robinson ruled that since the Board approved the agenda at the beginning of the meeting, this memorandum would remain under the Superintendent's Report for discussion. Ms. Robinson stated that a work session will be scheduled to discuss the process of planning and renewal for the future.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

seconded by Harriet Drummond

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal, Gillespie

Nays: Drummond, Robinson, Holthouse, Davis

MOTION FAILED.

Ray Amsden gave a brief overview of the preliminary renovation plans for East, Bartlett and Wendler.

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL:

Jon Kumin of Kumin Associates, Inc. gave a brief presentation of the projected Bartlett High School proposed renovation. Mr. Kumin explained that there are some real issues with the Bartlett site. The southeast parking lot is very separated from the playing fields in the back of the school and the school and the pool are also very much separated. As far as the main building is concerned, a new entry will be developed which will go directly into the main area of the school. The core academic area would have four core levels. Staff has indicated a fair amount of interest to continue with the grouping of the core courses. There is very strong interest in moving the renovation of the Little Theatre up to Phase II.

Susan Wingrove, Bartlett teacher, stated that moving the Little Theatre renovation up to Phase II was a unanimous priority with the students, teachers and parents of Bartlett. Ms. Wingrove explained that currently, the school is extremely limited in doing anything at all in the Little Theatre and urged the Board to do whatever they could to move the Little Theatre up to Phase II. Ms. Wingrove further noted that when completed, the Little Theatre would be an auditorium for multiple uses.

Kerry Boness, Bartlett parent, commented that the community's priority is to move the Little Theatre up to Phase II of the renovation and urged the Board to consider this change in the current plans.

Lew Sears, Bartlett principal, stated that the entire school concept is a major problem at Bartlett. Many of the classrooms are very small and over time, staff has come to live with that hoping something better will occur. There are some teachers who do not have assigned classrooms and are roving teachers with the promise that more classrooms are on the way.

Jon Kumin noted that Bartlett is currently at 312,000 square feet and would grow to 318,000 square feet after the demolition of the Little Theatre. The key is that the space would be utilized in a more efficient manner. Many of the little spaces/rooms will be replaced with appropriate teaching stations.

Rita Holthouse asked who made the decision to put the Little Theatre in the final phase in the first place.

Bob Christal explained that administrators and architects decided the positioning of the various phases.

Jon Kumin stated that at the time, the natural flow of the building was looked at. There is a strong need to do something about the Little Theatre but something also needs to be done with all those little classrooms.

Peggy Robinson reminded the Board that after Phase I is completed, decisions can then be made as to what order the remainder of the renovation should be completed. There is plenty of time to decide what will be included in Phase II.

#### EAST HIGH SCHOOL:

Jerry Winchester of Winchester Alaska, Inc. gave a brief presentation of the East High School proposed renovation. Mr. Winchester highlighted the life safety issues noting that two-thirds of the facility is not sprinklered, the courtyards and auditorium do not meet exiting requirements and the occupancy separations do not meet code. In the area of building and construction issues, the following areas were addressed: The ventilation is less than 20 percent of code requirement in most of the building. There are inappropriate controls and systems with poor heating or cooling. The electrical system is insufficient for school needs. The exterior wall system is very poorly insulated with an inefficient heating system. In the area of program issues, more than 90 percent of the classrooms are undersized for program use and standards. There are eight undersized science classrooms of 1,100 square feet with a requirement for 13 classrooms of 1,250 square feet. More than 35 percent of the classrooms are designed for a middle high school and do not meet standards, size or systems. The library is located

in the old gymnasium that is 6000 square feet too large which depletes other programs like science. There are only two technology labs with a requirement of four, and there are only two business and marketing rooms with the requirement of four to meet program needs. In the area of site issues, the following areas were discussed: The site is 13 acres smaller than program requirement. The site has one-half the number of play fields required to meet standards. There is poor site access that is complicated with only one stoplight and four lane roads that have been built over the years. The bus drop-off and student parking is in the same area which creates a major conflict. The parent drop-off is only half of the requirement and there are only 20 spaces for parent and visitor parking. Mr. Winchester also went through the various phase plans and the project cost summary of each phase. Mr. Winchester explained that the cost estimates are based on 2001 costs and noted that these are preliminary master plans that can be adjusted should the need arise.

#### WENDLER MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Bob Bezek of Bezek, Durst & Seiser Architects, gave a brief presentation of the Wendler Middle School proposed renovation. Mr. Bezek explained that Wendler Middle School is in dire need of renovation. Wendler is located at the intersection of two major road arterials which creates a considerable safety hazard. The proposed plans would create a new site access in the middle of the block on the Lake Otis side. This new access would also solve access problems to Lake Otis Elementary directly south of Wendler Middle School. The school itself will be organized into a system of "houses" for the core curriculum and the school will end up with a cafetorium. The space for physical education will also be redone. The buses will be reorganized in the back of the school. Phase I is design and site work and Phase II is the building renewal itself. If approved, Phase I construction would begin in June of 2001 and Phase II construction would begin in 2003 with completion in 2005.

#### ASD Memorandum #167 – Report On Math Issues K-12

The School Board and administrative staff have discussed several issues related to the K-12 Mathematics Program over the past several years. Most recently, the discussion centered on increasing the number of students taking Algebra prior to exiting middle school. Administrative staff have attempted to identify the various issues that seem relevant to the K-12 program and present a consolidated report discussing those issues. That compilation follows.

The report is presented as a series of questions and answers. In aggregate, they cover the issues the staff have identified as being

pertinent. The report is attached for Board members' information. Pat McDowell, Executive Director for High Schools, Gail Opalinski, Executive Director for Middle Schools, and Patricia McRae, Executive Director for Elementary Education, have reviewed and approved this document.

Rita Holthouse requested that discussion on this report be postponed to a later meeting since it is so late in the evening and several Board members have questions regarding this memorandum.

Hearing no objection to postponing this memorandum, Peggy Robinson stated that this report will be rescheduled and moved to a future Board meeting.

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

The Special Meeting of January 31, 2000 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:10 p.m.

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Peggy Robinson, President

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Rita Holthouse, Clerk

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Date Minutes Approved