

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2000

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, March 13, 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, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Ed Blahous, Bill Mikawa, Lee Wilson, Ellen Montague, Marie Laule, Larry Wiget, Ray Amsden, Michelle Egan, 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.

In honor of National Middle School Month and National Music Month, band students from Wendler Middle School performed musical selections prior to the beginning of the meeting. Heather Sandhofer, Goldenview Middle School student, sang the National Anthem.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Robinson announced the scheduled up-coming meetings.

Bob Christal thanked the elementary, middle school, and high school teachers for the outstanding job they did in helping with all the exams that took place throughout the District this past week.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum #237 – Prudential Spirit Of Community Award Honoree

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards were created to encourage young people to become involved in community service and to honor their outstanding acts of volunteerism. This year more than 20,000 high school and middle school students were considered for awards.

For the past four years a student from Central Middle School of Science has been chosen as one of Alaska's top two volunteers. This year the winning tradition continued with the selection of Chavis Newman-Keane as a 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Award honoree.

This eighth-grader was recognized for creating an entertainment program called "Musical Smiles," designed to cheer up elderly residents of two assisted-living facilities. The idea for this program began when Chavis started playing piano for his grandfather, who was placed in a nursing home while recovering from a stroke. As the audience grew, an idea emerged. Chavis secured permission from an administrator and began conducting weekly recitals for the residents. The program was such a success that Chavis arranged a second gig at another nursing home. No doubt these weekly performances are music to the ears of the residents.

For his selection as a Prudential Spirit of Community Award winner, Chavis received \$1,000, a silver medallion, and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for several days of national recognition events.

The School Board recognized Chavis Newman-Keane whose creativity and dedication led to this prestigious award.

ASD Memorandum #238 – MATHCOUNTS Regional Winners

MATHCOUNTS is a math coaching and competition program designed to promote interest in mathematics for seventh and eighth-grade students. This national competition attracts nearly 7,000 schools each year by structuring the event to be as exciting and challenging as a sporting event.

Beginning each fall and continuing throughout the year, teachers and volunteers coach student "mathletes" to improve their problem-solving skills. Then, after months of intense brain-power training, participating schools select four students to compete, both individually and as a team, in written and oral competitions.

In the recent Anchorage chapter competition, which includes homeschoolers as well as students from the Mat-Su Valley to Homer, the MATHCOUNTS team from Central Middle School of Science took first place honors. All four members of Central's team placed individually in the top ten. Their performance entitles team members

Dana Bailey, Nick Sandar, Zack Kemplen, and Chris Ragland to represent the chapter in the state competition.

Recognition also belongs to coaches Tina Keller and Karen McGrew, who spent countless hours after school working with the students. It's clear that four talented students, plus two dedicated teachers, equals one winning team!

The School Board recognized these calculating MATHCOUNTS competitors for earning a spot in the state competition.

Music Presentation

Barbie Snell, music teacher at Lake Hood Elementary School, presented an award to Ed Clark, thanking him for the donation of his son's musical instrument collection to the Anchorage School District in memory of his son, Steven Clark. Steven Clark graduated from East High School in 1973 and studied and traveled extensively in his music pursuits. Steven's memory lives on through his massive collection of musical instruments, many of which were hand made by Steven. Ed Clark graciously donated his son's instrument collection to the District's music department to enhance the art of music for all students. Mr. Clark was unable to attend this presentation but hopes that his son's love for music will be relayed to all students throughout the District.

E. PRESENTATION

Hans Bernard, student representative, stated that the Student Advisory Board will be bringing forth a resolution regarding the ban on wearing bandannas in school.

Boy School Troop 116 was in attendance as part of their effort to earn a Merit Badge

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Amy DeWall, Turnagain Elementary teacher, expressed concern for the proposed construction of a cellular tower adjacent to the Turnagain Elementary School site. Ms. DeWall commented on the potential health risks associated with long-term exposure to microwaves and urged the Board to look into this potentially dangerous situation.

Steve Ortland, Coalition of Responsible Tower Placement, expressed concern of the installation of a cellular tower in a residential neighborhood and is very opposed to this installation. Mr. Ortland

urged the Board to remove the cellular towers located at West High School and Chugiak High School.

Kathy Powell, Coalition of Responsible Tower Placement, expressed concern that a cellular tower is going up in a residential zone and noted that the District should support and protect the students and staff in the tower zone who will be subject to the microwaves emitting from the tower. Ms. Powell encouraged the Board to attend a meeting to discuss this issue at Turnagain Elementary on March 16th.

Robert Hayes commented on his fire alarm system whistle-blowing issue and noted that all persons should be able to address Board members at Board meetings.

Tom Obermeyer asked for a public accounting of the unnecessary litigation of the alleged Internet misuse by a student. Mr. Obermeyer requested reimbursement for being forced into litigation to remedy something that was totally unnecessary.

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 – February 14, 2000
 - b. Regular Meeting – February 14, 2000
 - c. Special Meeting – February 18, 2000

2. ASD Memorandum #218 – A Resolution In Support Of National Middle School Month

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution recognizing March as Middle Level Education Month.

3. ASD Memorandum #245 – A Resolution In Support Of Safe Schools For All Students And Employees

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution in support of safe schools for all students and employees in the Anchorage School District.

4. ASD Memorandum #222 – Renewal Of Contract: Zero Balance Banking Services

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with the First National Bank of Anchorage for a one-year period, May 1, 2000 through April 30, 2001 and that the Non-Interest Bearing Certificate of Deposit be authorized at \$985,000 for Zero Balance Banking Services.

5. ASD Memorandum # 230 – Conflict Of Interest – Theisha L. Burke

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a waiver from potential conflict of interest for Teisha L. Burke in accordance with School Board Policy, section 540.

6. ASD Memorandum #231 – Award Of Contract: Central Middle School Of Science Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Central Middle School of Science Renovation to the low bidder, Gamble Construction, in the amount of \$2,316,000.

7. ASD Memorandum #232 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Compu-Teach Partnership Grant Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a partnership grant award for educational software from Compu-Teach, in the amount of \$5,625.

8. ASD Memorandum #233 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Toyota TIME Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Toyota's Investment in Mathematics Excellence (TIME) program, in the amount of \$9,998 for a two-year project.

9. ASD Memorandum #234 – Award Of Contract: Back Office Software Solution System

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Horizon Software International Inc., in the amount of

\$133,902.25, for implementation of Phase I of Back Office Software Solution (BOSS) system.

Further, it is recommended the School Board approve in concept, Phase II and Phase III of the BOSS system for fiscal years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. Phase II and Phase III are contingent upon availability of funds.

10. ASD Memorandum #235 – Approval Of Conceptual Design For South Anchorage High School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Conceptual Design for the South Anchorage Area High School.

11. ASD Memorandum #220 – Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan Analysis And Recommendations: July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Anchorage School District *Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan Analysis and Recommendations: July 1, 2000 – June 30, 2006*.

12. ASD Memorandum #221 – 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 #245, #231, #234, #235, and #220.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 14, 2000; the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 14, 2000; the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 18, 2000; Memorandum #218; Memorandum #222; Memorandum #230; Memorandum #232; Memorandum #233; and Memorandum #221.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #218 – A Resolution In Support Of National Middle School Month

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution recognizing March as Middle Level Education Month.

On behalf of the students and staff of the middle schools in the District, Gail Opalinski thanked the Board for bringing this resolution forward.

ASD Memorandum #245 – A Resolution In Support Of Safe Schools For All Students And Employees

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution in support of safe schools for all students and employees in the Anchorage School District.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal to approve Memorandum #245.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Bob Christal commented that the Board first adopted this resolution a few years ago and that a few modifications have been made.

Robert Hayes commented that it is very important that rules and regulations be fully enforced and acted on for the safety of all students and staff.

Debbie Ossiander stated that this resolution is a reminder that the Board still has a zero tolerance commitment towards weapons and violence in the schools.

The School Board read the resolution.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #231 – Award Of Contract: Central Middle School Of Science Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Central Middle School of Science Renovation to the low bidder, Gamble Construction, in the amount of \$2,316,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #231.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Rita Holthouse inquired if there will be any unexpended funds associated with this contract.

Ray Amsden responded that the construction budget was allocated very close to the contract amount; however, if there are any funds left over, they will be dedicated to Central Middle School of Science.

Rita Holthouse asked if the phone system at Central will be updated during this renovation.

Ray Amsden explained that there is a contract to replace the intercom system at the school; however, phone updates are done through the E-Rate. There is nothing in the renovation plans to do anything with the phones at Central at this time.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #234 – Award Of Contract: Back Office Software Solution System

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Horizon Software International Inc., in the amount of \$133,902.25, for implementation of Phase I of Back Office Software Solution (BOSS) system.

Further, it is recommended the School Board approve in concept, Phase II and Phase III of the BOSS system for fiscal years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. Phase II and Phase III are contingent upon availability of funds.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal to approve Memorandum #234.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Dave Werdal asked for an explanation as to how this software will make the Student Nutrition Department more efficient.

Brent Rock explained that this will not only make the department more efficient, but it will also become a money-saver for the District. A district in Texas was able to reduce their food cost by a considerable percentage. The Back Office Software Solution is a fully integrated food center cost system designed for school food service management. This system captures food cost information to provide total per meal costs. Dr. Rock further explained that Horizon Software International is the only company currently that meets all the qualifications the Student Nutrition Department needs. Dr. Rock noted that the department will be able to operate very efficiently with Phase I until such a time that Phase II and Phase III can be implemented. When funding becomes available, Phase II and Phase III will be brought forward. Dr. Rock stated that he was very confident that Phase I will be able to pay for itself.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #235 – Approval Of Conceptual Design For South Anchorage High School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Conceptual Design for the South Anchorage Area High School.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #235.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Bob Christal stated that the School Board indicated in the Work Session held on February 10, 2000, their desire to have greater involvement in the planning of high school projects. This conceptual design approval is a departure from previous procedures. The Schematic Design is underway and scheduled to be presented for School Board approval in June.

Terry Hyer and Jonathan Steele of ECI Hyer, Inc gave a brief summary and presentation of the basic program areas included in the design and the basic concept of each of the academic houses.

Angela Kuentzel, Huffman and O'Malley Planning and Design Committee, commented that the conceptual site plan is not in accordance with the original site (the school should be accessed by two roads). This is not in compliance with Municipal law or the educational specifications. By approving this conceptual design, the Board will be approving a design that is not in accordance with the law. Ms. Kuentzel noted that three subdivisions will be held hostage to just the one road into the school. Ms. Kuentzel pointed out that under State statute, the Assembly needs to approve all design plans (the memorandum should state "pending Assembly approval").

Jesse Martin, member of Anchorage Citizens For Responsible Government, commented that the Design Committee was dismayed at the access route to the school and the very real possibility of major hidden costs in this project. Mr. Martin noted that a road is now being proposed to be upgraded from Lake Otis to Elmore (formerly known as Bragaw Street).

Kathi Gillespie expressed concern about the timeline of this project.

Terry Hyer explained that everything is still on-line with respect to the original timeline of opening the school in 2004. There is still ample time to meet the final deadline. The schematic design will be brought to the Board for approval in June. Mr. Hyer further explained that there will be special teams assisting in the theater design and the acoustics.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if there will be adequate space for snow storage without impacting parking spaces.

Jonathon Steele responded that there is space adjacent to parking areas in buffer zones where snow can be stored. There shouldn't be a problem in having sufficient snow storage space. Mr. Steele further explained that an application for rezoning will be submitted for an additional site access. If the rezoning application is denied, a single divided access point will be used with a very defined separation between the coming-in and going-out access.

Debbie Ossiander inquired that if there is a conflict with Municipal law and if the Assembly was somehow required to approve the District's design, are there any issues with the current law regarding this design that should be addressed at this time.

Ray Amsden assured the Board that if there were any questionable issues, this project would not be proceeding.

Terry Hyer commented that this is the very first design step and that as the committee moves closer to the final design, it will be coming back to the Board. Mr. Hyer invited Board members to attend the building design meetings with the community, staff and students.

Bettye Davis asked the Administration to address Mr. Martin's concern about the road access to the site and the possible hidden costs he alluded to.

Bob Christal explained that the District believes it has ownership of this site along with management responsibilities. The Anchorage community owns this site and it was dedicated long ago as a high school site with District management responsibilities. It has been a known factor that in building this school that road upgrades will need to be done. These road upgrades are not part of a school site construction cost; that is the responsibility of the community. The District should not be held accountable for building roads. The Mayor was very willing to get a group together to make sure this is all worked through. Mr. Christal further explained that the District's standard school site is for 50 acres for 2,000 students. This is going to be a school for 1,600 students. There is adequate space on this site for this facility. There is also space for a future potential pool placement if it is funded by the Municipality. As far as needing Assembly approval for the conceptual design, the District has not gone to the Municipality for design approvals. If the District finds out that there is an issue in this area, it will be brought to the Board's attention. It is important that the community supports this project. This is the community's school and should not be viewed as dragging down a particular neighborhood. Mr. Christal further noted that the original site was larger and was for a potential placement of both a middle school and a high school. The owner did not want to sell all the property so the available land for the high school is 50 acres which is more than adequate for this facility.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #220 - Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan
Analysis And Recommendations: July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Anchorage School District *Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan Analysis and Recommendations: July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2006*.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #220.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Bob Christal informed the Board and the community that minor revisions have been made to Tables 38 and 39, and page 9 of the memo itself. Mr. Christal explained that this document meets the District's legal requirement under the Municipal Charter. This document will be used as a guiding document for the District for the next six years.

Norm Holthouse and Tom Ely gave the Board a brief, condensed presentation of the CIP as well as an historical profile of the enrollment of the District.

James Patlan, Chairman of the Mt. View Elementary PTA, commented that Mt. View is listed as #39 on Table 39 and expressed concern that if enrollment is in a downward trend, it will be extremely difficult to prove that the needs of Mt. View Elementary are urgent. Mr. Patlan explained that one of the safety issues at Mt. View is the issue of lunch tables falling on students that need to be addressed in the very near future.

Bob Christal commented that it is important to deal with safety issues and that the lunch tables will be looked at as soon as possible.

Debbie Ossiander expressed concern that historically, the school-by-school tables show the actuals year-by-year and suggested that it might be more productive to look at the actuals at semester time and to project that information into the student enrollment projections.

Norm Holthouse noted that the spring student enrollment projection will be revised to reflect the semester enrollment numbers.

Dave Werdal inquired about the middle school capacity study.

Norm Holthouse explained that there was concern by some middle school folks that the current capacity formula for the middle schools does not reflect the accurate space model (this will be reviewed).

Dave Werdal noted that there is an error on page 86. On the first line, Ursa Minor should read 1999-00.

Kathi Gillespie asked if the Board could get a percentage of capacity based on DOE qualifications as listed on Table 21.

Kathi Gillespie questioned the number of classrooms listed on page 118 for Ocean View Elementary.

Carol Comeau explained that the number of classrooms listed is an error. Ocean View Elementary will end up having 26 classrooms.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to move the New Anchorage
seconded by Harriet Drummond ABC School from priority
#18 (2001-2002) to: Projects Having
No Assigned Priority.

Kathi Gillespie explained that given the information that has been tracked over the past year, there is no justification of building a new ABC School in the Anchorage bowl in the next two years. Ms. Gillespie noted that it is important to keep in mind that this would also keep it in line with the site selection timeframe. This would also allow other projects to move forward.

Dave Werdal stated that he opposes this amendment and that it would cause him to vote against the entire document. Three years ago this school was #18. No other school has dropped in the ranking. Two-thirds of the District's wait-list is in this school. The District is losing kids to other schools outside of the District. This school is at the very top end of performance and replicating success makes very good sense. Mr. Werdal urged the Board to reject this amendment.

Rita Holthouse asked the Administration for their reaction to a need for a new ABC School.

Bob Christal explained that because the District will have excess capacity in the very near future, it will be difficult to get approval and authorization to build another school. The needs and the desires are definitely out there but the District would have a very hard time to convince voters and the State to agree that the District needs more space with a projected decline in enrollment. Mr. Christal stated that it is necessary to be very cautious to try to convert a neighborhood school into an ABC School.

Rita Holthouse asked if there has ever been any interest expressed in a charter school based on an ABC curriculum.

Carol Comeau stated that the main interest is in the program at Northern Lights.

Bob Christal noted that there has been no interest in a school-within-a-school model for an ABC School (the supporters of the ABC curriculum want their own school).

Debbie Ossiander stated that she is not in favor of this amendment and reminded the Board that this document does not commit the District to anything in regards to next year's bond.

Peggy Robinson noted that the District won't be getting State reimbursement with the way enrollment looks. During the recent Work Session on construction issues, the Board discussed how to make the CIP the primary focus and guideline of what the District does throughout the year. Ms. Robinson stated that she did agree with the maker of the motion to move it to the "no assigned priority" category. If there is going to be available space in the elementary schools, there is no reason why an ABC program could not operate as a school-within-a-school or a charter school with this philosophy. Ms. Robinson reminded the Board that Planning and Zoning approved the document with the only exception of moving the ABC School in the list of priorities.

Harriet Drummond suggested that as a friendly amendment, the New Anchorage ABC School could be moved to #27 or #28 rather than at the end of the list and reserve the discussion for next year.

Dave Werdal stated that this type of friendly amendment would not satisfy his concerns.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Robinson, Gillespie,
Holthouse, Davis

Nays: Ossiander, Werdal

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Kathi Gillespie stated that it will be disastrous for the District if the tax cap initiative passes and suggested that a paragraph be added to the document on the effects the tax cap will have on capital funding.

Bob Christal responded that wording about the impact of the potential tax cap initiative can be incorporated into the document. Mr. Christal stated that the District needs to look at the whole issue of the community level of involvement in the entire process. Also, the expectation is to have further discussion with parents and staff prior to moving forward on the phasing of the projects.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: Werdal

MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #207 – Operating Budget Transfers – January Monthly Report FY 1999-2000

The attached report of budget transfers for January that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000—
Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000, which includes summarized justifications.

Attachment B: Schedule of the budget transfers for January 2000 and the budget transfer adjustments processed for August 1999 through January 2000. Abbreviations in titles represent how data is stored in IFAS; continuity in the abbreviations within IFAS is an on-going process. In addition, adjustments to the appropriate counters are continually being made to provide more information by program, as well as reporting to the state.

ASD Memorandum #214 – Response To Management Letter: Deloitte & Touche LLP

The District awarded a contract to the firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP to complete an examination of the District's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999.

During the course of its examination, Deloitte & Touche LLP is required to bring any audit findings to the attention of the School Board and the Superintendent in the form of a letter of recommendations. The Administration has prepared a response to the independent accountants' recommendation.

ASD Memorandum #248 – Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: February 29, 2000

The attached report consists of three parts: the Graphic Overview, the Treasurer's Report, and the Financial Recap. The School Board previously requested the Graphic Overview be submitted on a quarterly basis and the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap be submitted on a monthly basis. The Graphic Overview is for the quarter ending December 31, 1999 and the Treasurer's Report and Financial Recap are year-to-date, as of February 29, 2000.

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 March 13, 2000 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:45 p.m.

Peggy Robinson, President

Rita Holthouse, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved