

## MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

### REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 8, 2000

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, May 8, 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, Pat McDowell, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Steve Kalmes, Ed Blahous, Bill Mikawa, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Ellen Montague, Michelle Egan, Dolores Solano, Julie Ginder, Larry Wiget, Tom Bibeau, Jim Taylor, 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.

#### C. SUMMARY OF 1999-2000 SCHOOL YEAR – Peggy Robinson, President

Peggy Robinson presented a brief overview of the past year's many accomplishments and thanked the Board for all their support during a very busy year. Ms. Robinson also thanked the staff and the many volunteers who made the District work this year and in turn, helped kids to succeed.

On behalf of the School Board, Debbie Ossiander presented a bouquet of flowers to Peggy Robinson in appreciation for her service as President for the past year.

#### D. ADJOURNMENT OF 1999-2000—SINE DIE

Peggy Robinson adjourned the School Board of 1999-2000 sine die.

#### E. ORGANIZATION OF 2000-2001 SCHOOL BOARD

Superintendent Bob Christal presided as temporary chairman until a new president was elected. Peggy Robinson was elected as President. The election of officers follows:

- a. President – Peggy Robinson
- b. Vice President – Dave Werdal
- c. Clerk – Kathi Gillespie
- d. Treasurer – Rita Holthouse

F. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

G. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum #294 – Service High School Honored For Art

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, established in 1923, have grown into the largest and longest running recognition program for young people in the United States. Last year over \$1,000,000 in scholarships and prizes were granted through the program. Scholastic Art and Writing Award winners include some of the country's leading artists and writers.

Students submit work in 16 visual art categories and ten writing categories. Submissions nationwide number over 250,000; these are narrowed to 30,000 and forwarded to New York for the national judging. Ultimately 200 pieces are selected for a national exhibition from the top art award categories.

This year the artwork of Service High School's Robbie Gonzalez will be included in this high-profile national event. Robbie's creation, a fabricated sterling silver bracelet, will be on display in the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., in June. In addition to this prestigious honor, Robbie and Service High School art teacher Jeanne Ilgen will travel to a star-studded awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the artistic achievements of some of the nation's most talented students.

This honor caps off an award-filled year for Robbie. In addition to his regional Gold Award in the Scholastic Awards, he was named the national American Vision Awards winner, and captured the inaugural Manook Award for Student Excellence in the Arts.

The School Board recognized Robbie Gonzalez for his exceptional, award-winning talent.

ASD Memorandum #296 – Geography Bee Winners

The National Geographic Geography Bee was created in 1989 to spark student interest in geography. The competition is open to fourth-through eighth-grade students nationwide who want to test their geography skills and vie for a \$25,000 college scholarship.

Competitions begin at the school level in nearly 18,000 schools across the country. The schoolwide winners then take a written geography test provided by National Geographic. Students who score high enough on the exam advance to the state bees for the second level of competition.

The state competition was held in Anchorage on April 7. The top three finishers in the final round competition are eighth-graders in the Anchorage School District. They include first place winner Berney Richert, from Romig Middle School; second place winner Harmon Pollock, from Central Middle School of Science; and third-place winner Kento Azegami, from Mears Middle School.

As state winner, Berney received \$100, assorted gifts, and an expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C., to participate in the finals on May 23 - 24.

The School Board recognized these three outstanding geography students who are clearly headed in the right direction.

H. PRESENTATION

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Don Freese expressed concern about fund raising activities in the elementary schools noting that this type of activity puts undue pressure on students as well as parents. Also, students work on fundraisers to get out of school in order to participate in all the events associated with this type of activity.

Bob Christal noted that Patricia McRae will call Mr. Freese tomorrow to further discuss this issue.

Robert Hayes commented on a variety of issues.

Cathy Beattie commented that attendance at academic events should be included as part of the job description for principals. Ms. Beattie encouraged the Board to address this issue.

J. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's office.**

1. ASD Memorandum #287 - Hazardous Transportation Recommendation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through E for the 2000-2001 school year.

2. ASD Memorandum #288 - Grant Application: Alaska State School For The Deaf And Hard Of Hearing

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the Department of Education and Early Development contract for the instructional support component of the Alaska State School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ASSDHH) in the amount of \$323,000.

3. ASD Memorandum #289 - Grant Application: Alaska Early Intervention Hearing Resource

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the Alaska Early Intervention Hearing Resource grant application for FY2000-2001. The total budget amount for this grant application is \$166,734.

4. ASD Memorandum #280 - Grant Award: T3 - Teachers Teaching With Technology

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from Texas Instruments in the amount of \$6,000 to support a credit course for secondary science and mathematics teachers called: "T3 Chem/Bio Institute."

5. ASD Memorandum #281 - Grant Award: Elementary Science Teacher Leadership Cadre

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Science and Math Consortium for Northwest Schools in the amount of \$10,600 to support the Elementary Science Curriculum.

6. ASD Memorandum #295 – Award Of Contracts: Miscellaneous School Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of contracts to the bidders as shown on the Tabulation of Recommended Awards by Vendor for Miscellaneous School Supplies (Attachment A) in the total amount of \$252,434.01.

7. ASD Memorandum #307 – Renewal Of Contract: Professional Insurance Broker Service

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the renewal of the contract with Willis Corroon Corporation of Anchorage for professional insurance brokerage services for a one-year period in the amount of \$17,500.

8. ASD Memorandum #309 – Sale Of Surplus Property

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the listed surplus property by sealed bid sale. Prior to the sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

9. ASD Memorandum #311 – Approval Of Personal Services Contract For Peggy Robinson, Board Member

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Personal Services Contract between the Anchorage School District and School Board member Peggy Robinson.

10. ASD Memorandum #298 – Personnel Report

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

11. ASD Memorandum #274 – Approval Of Conceptual Master Plan And Supplement To Districtwide High School Educational Specifications For East High School (Revised)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Conceptual Master Plan and Supplement to the Districtwide High School Educational Specifications for East High School.

12. ASD Memorandum #297 – Klatt/Ocean View Boundary Study (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the following attendance boundary for the 2000-2001 school year for Klatt and Ocean View Elementary Schools (Attachment A).

13. ASD Memorandum #302 – Career Technology/Vocational Educational Plan 2000-2005

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the attached Career Technology/ Vocational Education Plan 2000-2005 to the State Department of Education and Early Development for review and approval.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #287, #281, #307, #311, #274, #297 and #302.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve Memorandum #288;  
Memorandum #289;  
Memorandum #280;  
Memorandum #295;  
Memorandum #309; and  
Memorandum #298 with  
Addendum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #287 – Hazardous Transportation Recommendation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through E for the 2000-2001 school year.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #287.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Steve Kalmes outlined the changes in the procedures and guidelines used in establishing hazardous routes.

Rita Holthouse explained that the revised procedures and guidelines have answered her questions and concerns.

Debbie Ossiander commented about the gravel trucks going to and from the gravel pit near Chugiak Elementary and inquired if this particular area was reviewed by the Hazardous Transportation Committee using the regular walking guidelines or the special conditions.

Steve Kalmes explained that the gravel trucks do not significantly increase the traffic volume on this particular route and when the on-site review was conducted last December, this area scored 31 points which does not meet the 45 points necessary to qualify as a hazardous route.

Kathi Gillespie inquired about the request for a bus stop for the Ridgewood Subdivision directly across from Hanshew Middle School on Lake Otis Parkway.

Steve Kalmes stated that a bus stop was added to that area due to the population growth and also because kids cross Lake Otis Parkway which has a very high volume of vehicles.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #281 – Grant Award: Elementary Science Teacher Leadership Cadre

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Science and Math Consortium for Northwest Schools in the amount of \$10,600 to support the Elementary Science Curriculum.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #281.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Rita Holthouse inquired about the number of teacher substitute days associated with this grant and would also like to know what "participant costs" involve. Dr. Holthouse again requested that the number of substitute days be delineated in all grants that come before the Board.

Donna York responded that there will be 28 teachers released for one day in association with this grant.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #307 - Renewal Of Contract: Professional Insurance Broker Service

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the renewal of the contract with Willis Corroon Corporation of Anchorage for professional insurance brokerage services for a one-year period in the amount of \$17,500.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #307.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Peggy Robinson commented on the growing competitive market for insurance statewide and inquired if the District is seeing the benefit in costs in this area.

Tom Bibeau, Director of Risk Management, responded that he has not seen the bids yet for insurance (which should be received by the District in the next few days) but the competition in this area should help in lowering the District's costs especially with specialty companies

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,

Robinson, Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis  
Nays: None  
MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #311 – Approval Of Personal Services Contract For Peggy Robinson, Board Member

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Personal Services Contract between the Anchorage School District and School Board member Peggy Robinson.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #311.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie that Peggy Robinson has a  
seconded by Debbie Ossiander conflict of interest with this  
Recommendation.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,  
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis  
Nays: None  
Abstain: Robinson  
MOTION PASSED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,  
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis  
Nays: None  
Abstain: Robinson  
MAIN MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #274 – Approval Of Conceptual Master Plan And Supplement To Districtwide High School Educational Specifications For East High School (Revised)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Conceptual Master Plan and Supplement to the Districtwide High School Educational Specifications for East High School.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #274.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Ray Amsden made a brief presentation highlighting the revisions to Table A. 1.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she appreciates the revisions to Table A. 1. and inquired about the increase in the square footage allocation for the JROTC program.

Ray Amsden explained that the JROTC program is housed in the basement. This is not necessarily additional space but is space that can be utilized by this program.

Debbie Ossiander commented that the intensive needs classroom located on the second floor is not meeting the guidelines for that program. Ms. Ossiander stated that it is very important to stay within the DEED space allocation requirements. The total figures need to be within the reimbursement guidelines.

Ray Amsden explained that the intent is to be as flexible as possible and there is no problem in combining the intensive needs classrooms in one location.

Kathi Gillespie inquired about the special education small group rooms.

Ray Amsden responded that this is flexible space that can be used by special education teachers as well as others.

Pat McDowell explained that one of the goals in the new school design was to have space that students and teachers could gather for small group meetings. The space for these small group rooms is totaled together but they will be scattered throughout the program.

ACTION:

Moved by Bettye Davis to call the question.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

VOTE:

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

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson that the four intensive needs  
seconded by Debbie Ossiander classrooms be located in a  
cluster, close to or incorporating a  
nurse's area, be located on the

first floor, and be located conveniently to a special education bus loading area.

Peggy Robinson stated that in looking at the original high school educational specifications from a year ago, the intensive needs areas need to be near a nurses office and also be located on the first floor. These classrooms should also be located near a special education bus loading area.

Rita Holthouse asked Cynthia McCray if there would be any objections to having the intensive needs classrooms in one location.

Ms. McCray responded that there would be no objection and this would be discussed further with the committee to see where these classrooms would be located. Ms. McCray noted that there are three different locations for the buses.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #297 – Klatt/Ocean View Boundary Study (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the following attendance boundary for the 2000-2001 school year for Klatt and Ocean View Elementary Schools (Attachment A).

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #297.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Dolores Solano gave a brief review of the task force's recommendation (Scenario #1) with a slight modification along Timberlane Drive which includes the eleven students living on the west side of Timberlane Drive who will be going to Ocean View instead of Klatt.

Dave Eckroth, Klatt Elementary parent, stated that he supports the committee's recommendation.

Pam Freeman, Klatt Elementary parent, urged the Board to support the committee's recommendation.

Andrea Hobbs, Klatt Elementary parent, commented that she is in favor of the committee's recommendation.

Tracy Rozell, Klatt Elementary parent, stated that she is in full support of Scenario #1 and encouraged the Board to approve the committee's recommendation.

Guy Lopez, Klatt Elementary parent, stated that he also supports the committee's recommendation and urged the Board to approve the recommendation.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #302 – Career Technology/Vocational Educational Plan 2000-2005

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the attached Career Technology/ Vocational Education Plan 2000-2005 to the State Department of Education and Early Development for review and approval.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #302.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Debbie Ossiander inquired about the availability of Carl Perkins funds for middle schools and how they would fit in with grant provisions.

Fred Stofflet explained that Carl Perkins funds are not available at the middle school level unless a full-blown career preparatory program is offered at the middle school level. Carl Perkins funds are only available for the 9-12 program.

Jerry Balistreri explained that Federal law does allow Carl Perkins funds to be spent in grades 7-12. However, the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has identified that

vocational education is offered only through grades 9-12 in Alaska so these funds cannot be utilized at the middle school level.

Debbie Ossiander stated that the State should be lobbied to have this changed so that these funds could be used at the middle school level.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

K. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #300 – Third 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 parent participation. 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.

ASD Memorandum #301 – Developmental Profile

The Alaska Kindergarten Developmental Profile is an assessment required by the State of Alaska in an effort to develop additional information about the status of students as they enter Alaska schools. Planning for the statewide assessment began in 1998. The planning resulted in a system where the state specifies the areas to be assessed and leaves it to local school districts to implement the assessment.

The purpose of the Alaska Kindergarten Developmental Profile is to:

- Assist schools with establishing an individual developmental baseline for each child as they enter school so teachers and schools can plan programs for individual students.
- Assist schools with looking at the combined range of developmental readiness of entering kindergartners in a given classroom, as well as across the school.
- Provide data to families, communities and schools to assist them in supporting learning opportunities in their communities for young children.
- Provide the state with an overview of what children are like as they enter school and how this profile compares to national data and future benchmark levels for children.

Julie Ginder noted that a notebook on this entire profile has been left in the School Board office for Board members to review. Ms. Ginder further noted that this has been a very exciting and very worthwhile project and it has been wonderful working with the teachers and principals.

Carol Comeau commented that Ms Ginder has been a leader in early childhood education in Alaska and the Commissioner of Education was very receptive to delaying the start of kindergarten in order to provide time for individual kindergarten student conferences. These conferences (held the first four days of school) provided an opportunity for individual parents, students and teachers to meet and begin the process of gathering information in order to support each child's success in school. Other school districts are following our lead in this endeavor.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if the kindergarten teachers will be contacted to see if this method made a difference. Ms. Gillespie noted that it would be interesting to see if any of the teachers changed their teaching methods because of this new method in the start of school for kindergarten students.

ASD Memorandum #299 – Third 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-H.

Overall suspensions increased at the elementary level when comparing incidents from the third quarter of the 1998-99 school year to 1999-2000. Elementary schools showed an increase in fighting and disobedience, but a decrease in harassment and drug/alcohol violations. Suspensions in middle schools have also decreased from last year in the areas of fighting, weapons, and disobedience, but showed an increase in drugs/alcohol/tobacco and harassment. Suspensions at the high school level have decreased in fighting/threats, assaults, and willful disobedience. There was a significant increase in drug/alcohol violations as well as smoking at the high school level. There were three firearm violations during the third quarter compared to zero during the third quarter of 1998-99.

Rita Holthouse inquired about the three special education middle school students who were not expelled due to casualty.

Robyn Rehmann explained that the three students did serve 45 days in an alternative setting and they are currently back in their home schools.

Rita Holthouse inquired about the special education high school students who were not expelled due to casualty.

Robyn Rehmann explained that all three were in an interim alternative setting and two of the students have issues with their evaluation due to their disability.

Rita Holthouse inquired about the location of the two special education students from the second quarter report who were not expelled due to casualty.

Robyn Rehmann explained that one has changed placement and attends Whaley and the other student was in an interim alternative setting and is currently back in his home school.

Kathi Gillespie inquired about the 54 suspensions at Walden Pond Charter School for the third quarter.

Carol Comeau explained that many students there have not been successful in regular schools and also, due to a drop in enrollment, Walden Pond has lost seven teachers. There is not a fulltime person in the office and any time students figure that out, they will test the limits. Teachers are doing the very best they can. This school takes a very strong stand in discipline.

Kathi Gillespie commented that this is a very high percentage of discipline problems and it is very important that they get someone in place to deal with this issue.

L. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

M. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Kathi Gillespie cautioned parents to talk to their senior students that if they want to walk across the stage and get their diploma, they need to observe the rules. Ms. Gillespie urged all parents to speak to their children so graduation is a very joyous occasion for the students and their families.

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

O. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 8, 2000 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:10 p.m.

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Peggy Robinson, President

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Kathi Gillespie, Clerk

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Date Minutes Approved