

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 10, 2000

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Wednesday, May 10, 2000 at 5:00 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, Kathi Gillespie, Rita Holthouse, Bettye Davis, Harriet Drummond 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, Teresa Johnson, Ellen Montague, Bob Price, Larry Wiget, Tom Bernard, Neal Black, Stan Syta, Heather Wagner, Betsy Nickels, Jim Taylor, Tom Bibeau, Dolores Solano, Julie Ginder, Alden Thern, 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. CONSENT AGENDA

ASD Memorandum #310 - FY 2000-2001 Potential Budget Reductions

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to reduce the Anchorage School District's FY 2000-2001 Financial Plan from \$418,505,754 to the reduced amount of \$413,230,474, as approved by the Anchorage Assembly. This includes individual fund budgets in the following amounts:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | \$334,202,954 |
| Food Service Fund | 10,650,000 |
| Debt Service Fund | 42,377,520 |
| Local/State/Federal Projects Fund | <u>26,000,000</u> |
| Total - All Funds | \$413,230,474 |

It is further recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the necessary revenue adjustments and expenditure reductions in the General Fund to bring the budget in balance.

Peggy Robinson announced that public testimony will be heard this evening and due to the potential action the Assembly will take at the May 16th Assembly Meeting in putting funds back into the District's budget, this evening's meeting will reconvene May 17th at 1:30 p.m. for Board deliberation on FY 2000-2001 budget reduction. There will be no public testimony at the continuation meeting on May 17th.

Bob Christal stated that one of the numbers in the budget reduction memorandum (third line of the recommendation) should read \$421,230,474.

Bob Christal gave a brief presentation explaining what has taken place in this year's budget process for FY 2000-2001, identifying the projected reductions. Mr. Christal also explained that the Assembly may take action at their May 16th meeting and return \$5 million to the District's operating budget. Should this action be realized, the District will then identify a \$6 million dollar reduction at the May 17th continuation of this evening's meeting.

Hans Bernard commented that a combination of factors is forcing the Administration to go through the proposed budget recommendations and in light of possible action by Assembly members to return part of the funding cut from the District's budget, Mr. Bernard encouraged everyone to contact Assembly members in support of restoring funds to the District's budget.

Kristen Gantt, member of the Service High School gymnastics team, commented on the importance of sports in high school noting that participation in sports motivates students to maintain a 2.0 grade point average as well as increases school spirit. Ms. Gantt suggested that an admission price could be charged for sporting events, activity fees could be increased and bus transportation could be used for city travel only to help defray some of the District's costs for sports.

Sara Gantt, Service High School PTSA, expressed concern with the purchase of textbooks being delayed and also questioned why just winter sports were targeted to be cut. Picking out a few sports at this time doesn't make a lot of sense noting that if the tax cap initiative passes, all sports may have to be cut. Ms. Gantt also pointed out that graduation requirements will need to be waived if sports are eliminated. Ms. Gantt suggested raising the student parking fees as well as sport activity fees and to eliminate after-school activities if they are not self-sufficient. Ms. Gantt urged the Board to equitably distribute the budget cuts.

Jan Edwards, Service High School Swim Team and Dive Club, commented that high school swimming is unique, allows all levels of

competition, builds character and is a lifelong sport which allows development of friendship and social skills.

Carlee Lindquist, Mirror Lake Middle School parent, commented that she was very disappointed to learn that the middle level sports may be dropped. Ms. Lindquist stated that she believes that all activities are learning experiences and offer incentives for students to do well in school.

Matt Moon, Dimond High School student, commented that cutting sports will have a detrimental affect on the participating students and will hurt many students who strive towards a higher education. Students with talents that have not been fully developed will be denied to grow. Mr. Moon further commented that there is a definite relationship between students' grades and their participation in athletics. It is extremely important to keep in mind the goal of educating students for success in life.

Todd Wallace stated that he is opposed to the cuts to high school hockey noting that this cut would have a dramatic affect on the education of kids. Mr. Wallace urged the Board to look at the entire situation objectively, be creative and explore all options before cutting sports activities. The user fee could be raised, the State Tournament could be relocated to Anchorage, and a TV contract could be negotiated for hockey like it was for basketball. Mr. Wallace explained that this could be turned into a revenue making opportunity.

Jane Quinn commented that she has three children in the School District and sports are very important to them. Sports provides the opportunity for them to meet new people and to become involved in healthy after-school activities. High school sports keep students interested in a healthy life style and gives kids an incentive to keep decent grades. Ms. Quinn encouraged the Board to reconsider the budget reductions in the area of sports programs.

Laura Risinger, Romig Middle School parent, commented that middle schools offer a gradual transition between life in elementary school and high school, and offers students a place to learn and grow and meet new academic challenges. Ms. Risinger urged the Board to keep the middle school program as it is without any reduction to its program.

John Jolly, Dimond High School parent, stated that junior high and senior high sports are very important in the lives of today's youth. These students maintain a specific grade point average and are engaged in a healthy lifestyle. Mr. Jolly encouraged everyone to contact their Assembly member to make sure they support the Mayor's plan to

return part of the money that was cut from the District's original budget.

Amanda Clark, Service High School student, expressed concern that loosing sports will lead to loosing scholarships for many students hoping to attend college on scholarships earned through participation in sports. Sports and activity programs do a lot to help students in their school years. In order to participate in sports, students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average and they must also have the determination to excel in their core classes. Sports are crucial to the healthy development of young adults.

Lynn Hammond, Chairman of the School Budget Advisory Commission, commented that these cuts are necessary as there will be bigger cuts that will need to be made next year. Employees deserve a raise but the entire budgeting process needs to be addressed to correct the problems that have existed and will continue to exist. A sound school system needs sound budgeting.

Bob Green, School Board Advisory Commission member, commented that the District's budget has significantly increased over the last six years and it was imperative that the District would learn to live within its means. Mr. Green explained that five years ago, the Commission pushed the District very hard to cut its expenses year by year instead of increasing it and now there is a crisis. By creating this crisis, children will be hurt. Mr. Green strongly encouraged the Board to take care of the District's funds.

Betty Davis commented that the State of Alaska gives less to education than any other state in the nation and as elected officials, it is this Board's desire and ability to ask for the money needed to educate kids successfully so they will have successful lives. All the District can do is ask for what is needed and what will educate kids successfully. The Anchorage Assembly is the only municipal assembly in the State of Alaska who has cut their budget because of the proposed tax cap initiative that might be passed in November.

Debbie Ossiander expressed frustration with the inability to do long-range planning because so much of the District's planning is dependent upon political will. The Board was told to hold salaries down and to make sure there is a comfortable amount of money in the undesignated fund balance and in doing so, the Board is criticized soundly to use that money which is very contradictory in terms.

Bob Christal commented that there has been an increase in student growth that automatically raises the District's costs. The Commission challenged the District to bring down employee costs over the years to

the District's detriment. The hold-the-line costs have created a very tense issue in this District. The District also provides a lower level of health support for employees than other city entity. No one comes to say to cut programs or reduce services. The District spent one-third the cost the Municipality of Anchorage spent on its IFAS and technology programs. The criticism from the Commission sounds like the District's employees don't matter -- they do. When the District has a cost saving, it's looked at negatively. When the Mayor announces a cost saving, it's celebrated. The Assembly wants to tell us how to manage our budget when in fact they may not understand how the District's budget works.

Harriet Drummond noted that the cost for the District's information system is one-third the cost the Municipality spent and the District is a much larger organization. The Municipality is severely overspent in this area.

Marsha Evans commented that on the surface it may seem like community schools do not affect students when in reality, they promote an attitude of life-long learning that's fun in after-school programs. The benefits of community schools are far reaching in that they offer critical healthy life styles and well being in the entire academic program.

Brook Hull commented that she attended a National Community School Convention in Florida and came away knowing that Anchorage is on the cutting edge of community schools in education. This program is extremely valuable to the entire community. Ms. Hull urged the Board not to cut the Community Schools Program by eight sites.

Rosalie Nadeau urged the Board to figure out a way to either maintain the sports programs or to eliminate them across the board. Charging admission fees could offset some of the expenses as well as negotiating an agreement with the Municipality for use of the facilities for practice ice. There has got to be a way to maintain these programs for kids.

Barbara Kovarik urged the Board to not cut back on teacher aides in the kindergarten classrooms. Children in kindergarten benefit tremendously from the work of teacher aides. These aides directly address the many needs of students.

Powell Gallego, Chugiak High School student, urged the Board to not cut the hockey program noting that being able to participate in hockey has changed his whole attitude towards education.

Hana Freymiller, Service High School student, commented that the Paideia Seminar Program has been extremely helpful to her and urged the Board to continue to support the Seminar Program.

Lee Van Ness, President of the East Anchorage High School Booster Club, stated that the reduction in sports is simply a political ploy to help citizens solicit funds for the District. Booster clubs do their share in helping to defer expenses for many sports. Mr. Van Ness suggested that ice be put out to a competitive bid process and to reduce practice ice to two or three days per week. Eliminating inter-conference travel for all sports teams and District paid bus transportation would also help in lowering expenses. There has to be a way to maintain the sports programs.

Matt McDaniel spoke on behalf of the swimming and diving program and commented that this program helped him tremendously in bringing up his grades. Mr. McDaniel urged the Board to maintain the swimming and diving program.

Carletta Gemmell from Soldotna, spoke on behalf of the sports programs recommended to be cut from the budget and noted that if sports aren't available, kids will suffer. Sports gives kids motivation and reasons to keep their grades up. Sports also gives kids a real sense of achievement and belonging. Ms. Gemmell reiterated the importance that sports plays in the lives of all students.

Marian Dale commented that the middle school years seem to be the most difficult school years and being able to participate in sports at this level is a very healthy avenue for kids. Life itself is very competitive and it's healthy for kids to learn how to compete. Ms. Dale stated that removing sports is not an answer to reducing the budget.

Justin Martin, Chugiak High School student, commented that it would be a mistake to cut any sport program. Sports instill many attributes for future years in young people. Mr. Martin encouraged the Board to maintain all sports programs.

Ryan Olier, Chugiak High School Assistant Varsity Coach, commented that participation in high school sports broadens young minds beyond the classroom. Cutting a sports program negatively impacts students. Mr. Olier encouraged the Board to retain the high school sports programs.

Blythe Campbell commented that Community Schools was prepared to shoulder its share of budget reductions but closing eight out of eighteen schools is too much of a cut. Ms. Campbell urged the Board to retain as many of the community schools as possible.

Janet Calkins expressed support for the Community School Program noting that this program is a very healthy, successful program that benefits the entire community.

Barbara Stek commented that she has worked with community schools for a number of years and noted that the activities of the community schools provide a very important service to the entire community. Utilizing the schools for the many classes offered also allows the adult community to feel ownership in their schools and they are able to see for themselves that their tax dollars are well spent. Ms. Stek encouraged the Board to not decimate a very good and wholesome community program.

Stephan Brower, Service High school student, commented on the many benefits of the Seminar Program and how it has impacted him in many positive ways. Mr. Brower asked the Board to please find a way to continue funding the Seminar Program.

Cindy Cox commented that academics are very important but what is learned in sports cannot be duplicated in the classroom. Students need to maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average and sports may be the main reason some students choose to stay in school. Ms. Cox stated that cutting sports would hurt too many kids and urged the Board to maintain all sports.

Colleen Patrick-Riley, Central Middle School parent, applauded the District for its foresight in developing the middle school concept. Parents are very impressed with the team concept and how it makes the transition from elementary to high school a lot easier for the kids. Cutting teachers in the middle schools would jeopardize the team concept. Many of the middle school parents are very much wanting to do whatever they can in seeking additional funding to make sure the program continues.

Colleen Patrick-Riley spoke on behalf of Steve Hill who could not be present at this evening's meeting. Steve Hill's narrative addressed the many fine programs that deserve to continue in the District and the Community School Program is just one of the many fine programs that needs to be preserved. This program helps to meet community needs across the entire Anchorage bowl. There is no substitute for the Community School Program. Mr. Hill asked that the Board continue funding the Community School Program.

Beth Sirles spoke on behalf of the Four Valleys Community School and brought to the Board's attention that this particular community school is really the focal point for the Girdwood, Portage, Indian and Bird

Creek communities. This program has sponsored many community events and more important is what the community school has given back to the school. This program has purchased many items for the school and the school is a very integral part of the entire community. Ms. Sirles strongly encouraged the Board to maintain the Four Valleys Community School Program.

Sam Daniel spoke on behalf of community schools noting that he witnessed the consolidation of community schools between the Municipality of Anchorage and the School District. This program didn't just survive -- it flourished. The District's program is a national award-winning program. The Four Valleys program especially adds to the overall well being of the community and it is definitely a center for neighbors to come together. People in the Four Valleys community feel good about their community and truly support this program. Mr. Daniel strongly encouraged the Board to keep the Community School Program intact if at all possible.

Rich Dowd spoke on behalf of Four Valleys Community School noting how vital this program has become to the entire community. Mr. Dowd urged the Board to consider the entire Girdwood, Portage, Indian and Bird Creek communities and preserve the Four Valleys program.

Peter Macksey commented that it is very important that the community address the Assembly in regards to the programs offered by the School District and the terrible impact any reduction to the District's budget will have on the entire community. All the programs are important. Mr. Macksey urged the Board that if cuts are necessary, they reduce the budget evenly across the board and to make sure the cuts do as little harm as possible to kids.

Paul Burns spoke on behalf of the swimming program and encouraged everyone present to challenge their energy towards the defeat of the tax cap initiative proposal in November.

Steve Cline, Service High School Principal, speaking on behalf of the high school principals, thanked the School Board for their tremendous effort to promote and protect the interest of the community. The budget reduction is so substantial that it will definitely impact the District's operation. In the recommended reduction, the Superintendent is attempting to protect the classroom as much as possible. Mr. Cline urged the Board to support the Superintendent's process to protect the classroom.

Cathy Lichner shared a story about an after-school activity where a group of fourth graders helped one of their peers complete an activity. Ms. Lichner noted that community schools offer a lot more than meets

the eye and urged the Board to maintain the program as much as possible and that an eight-school cut is too deep of a cut.

Karen Strobe, Community School volunteer for several years, expressed concern about the proposed cuts to community schools. These community school programs are touchstones that keep the entire community alive and vital.

Theresa Coleman commented that because of the sports programs and a very good teacher, her son has been able to overcome a lot of obstacles and now strives to succeed in all his endeavors and has been able to maintain a 3.0 grade point average. Her daughter has a 4.0 grade point average and sports have taught her that grades and activities do not necessarily come easy. If sports are taken out of school, there are a lot of kids who will be negatively impacted.

Matthew Hessler, Wendler Middle School student, commented that he believes that no sport program should be cut from school. Also, music programs should be left alone. Many parents cannot afford to participate in these activities at a private level. Mr. Hessler also pointed out that if middle school level sports are taken away, it will have a great impact on kids being interested in sports at the high school level.

Summer Stapleton, East High School swim team member, stated that this activity helped her overcome a health problem. Extracurricular activities teach how to compete in life and how to get along with peers. Ms. Stapleton urged the Board to maintain all sports programs and not cut them.

Anjali Wayman, Dimond High School student, commented that high school sports help fight youth crime. It gives kids something to do with their idle time and definitely encourages them to maintain their grade point average. Ms. Wayman encouraged the Board to continue the sports programs as they are now with no cuts.

Carrie Black, Service High School student, strongly encouraged the Board to continue the sports programs and not do any cuts to high school sports.

Jennifer Carter, Service High School student commented that sports allow kids to become better students and also helps them to keep their life on track. Sports help to keep kids out of trouble and also gives them an incentive to do well in their studies when they know they have to maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average. Ms. Carter suggested that cutting something from all sports would work better instead of just cutting out entire individual sports programs.

Kay Estes, East High School student, stated that if sports are taken away, many students will be put in the position of not having the chance for a sports scholarship.

Robyn Ortitelli commented that cutting the sports program is not a good thing. Sports allow kids the opportunity to participate in an activity they enjoy and at the same time it teaches them many worthwhile things they take with them for the rest of their lives.

Sherry Roach spoke on behalf of the kindergarten teacher aides and expressed concern as to how kindergarten classes will operate without them. Kindergarten is not a day care activity. It is a bridging point for kids who are almost but not quite old enough to be in school and teacher aides are an intricate part of the program.

Kathy Farley spoke on behalf of the Paideia Program and although the funding for this program is not a great deal of money, it is absolutely vital for the continuation of the program. Ms. Farley invited the Board to come and visit the seminar teachers to see for themselves how vital and alive the program is and how important it is for the students.

Kim Mazzolini, parent of three kids and a mental health practitioner, stated that the youth of the community is in a crisis and cutting the sports programs would definitely have a negative impact on the youth of the community. The Assembly would be wise to take a better notice of the long-range impact of the proposed cuts. Ms. Mazzolini suggested that there has to be an avenue to pursue to keep the sports programs and the Community School Program operating.

Carol Bonney, Eagle River Elementary kindergarten teacher, spoke on behalf of not cutting any teacher aides. These aides provide a great deal of help to the kindergarten kids that would not happen if they were not there. Kindergarten is such an important transition for kids that a cut in this area would have a very negative impact.

Janet Steinhauser thanked the Board for supporting the middle school concept and urged the Board to not make any cuts to this program.

Michael Hessler, parent and school volunteer, stated that some families cannot afford to send their kids to private sports clubs and suggested that if sports are reduced, they should be reduced across the board and not just a couple of pre-selected programs. Reduce a particular program if necessary but don't cut it completely.

Rich Likens, parent and concerned citizen stated that he is against the budget recommendations. The tax cap initiative is citizen anger and

this proposed reduction will further that anger. Part of the community schools program is funded by a national program. As more and more doors are closed to after-school activities, the less the community can see the positives that are happening in our schools. Community schools are a very good public relations tool for the District and should be allowed to continue.

Pat Garrett, clinical social worker, mother and grandmother, stated that some creative financing for sports is in order. Sports help kids think clearer and kids know they have to keep their grades up in order to participate. Ms. Garrett strongly urged the Board to maintain the sports programs without cuts.

Cheryl Guyett commented that she hopes the Board can continue to show leadership on the issue of the kindergarten program and keep the aides. Kindergarten has changed and the money at the beginning of the spectrum is well used. Kindergarten is no longer about taking naps and social preparation and parent volunteers are drying up. Teacher aides at this level are extremely vital to the success of the program.

Mary Rasmussen, President of Mears Middle School PTSA, thanked the Board for the middle schools noting that the decision to have middle schools was for academic reasons. Middle schools give kids a wonderful opportunity to grow and to be nurtured at the same time. Ms. Rasmussen stated that she hopes the middle school concept will be kept in place as middle school kids are so vulnerable and this concept really works for our kids.

Anna Fairclough, Assembly member, commented that she appreciated the Board staying to listen to everyone who wanted to comment on the budget reductions. Ms. Fairclough noted that there is a tax revolt going on in the community and the School Board and the Assembly need to become a team in addressing this issue. The city and the District could perhaps consolidate some activities in a cost-saving process. Ms. Fairclough noted that there is a bit of frustration in trying to understand the District's various funds and grants and it has to be very difficult to decide where to reduce the budget. It is important that parents and educators address the tax cap initiative proposal. The community needs to be educated in taking responsibility for what the community enjoys. The State of Alaska has a lot of money but has a very difficult time in flowing it through to those programs that need help. Public officials cannot continue to shift the responsibility of money in this community as it confuses the public enormously. It is imperative to bring value and integrity to our elected offices. Levels of service need to be set as well as markers for the public to see.

Peggy Brown commented on the outdated biology textbook her daughter uses and expressed concern about this issue and noted that a good part of education is coming from reprinted materials from all kinds of sources. Ms. Brown stated that it never occurred to her that this is what happens when textbook adoptions are delayed and that it is imperative to fully fund the basic information for the classrooms.

Jacqui Gorlick, Williwaw Elementary kindergarten teacher, expressed concern about the proposed cut to the kindergarten teacher aides. Kindergarten aides allow the program to be the success it is. Ms. Gorlick urged the Board to reconsider cutting the teacher aides and allow the kindergarten program to continue to be the successful program it is today.

Tim Roades, Scenic Park parent, stated that it is very upsetting to see where the District is going. Coming from a New York inner-city school district, budget cuts were pretty much unheard of. It's important to know the importance of education. The real issue is kids. Mr. Roades further stated that without teacher aides there is no way the teacher alone can handle the entire class especially with kids who have special needs. The wrong message is being sent in the way this budget is being reduced.

The Special Meeting of May 10, 2000 was recessed at 10:45 p.m.

The Special Meeting of May 10, 2000 was reconvened at 1:30 p.m., May 17, 2000.

Board Members Present: Peggy Robinson, Dave Werdal, Kathi Gillespie, Rita Holthouse, Bettye Davis, Harriet Drummond 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, Ed Blahous, Bill Mikawa, Teresa Johnson, Ellen Montague, Larry Wiget, Tom Bernard, Neal Black, Stan Syta, Heather Wagner, Betsy Nickels, Jim Taylor, Tom Bibeau, Dolores Solano, Julie Ginder, Alden Thern, Michelle Egan, Arge Jeffery, Brent Rock, John Alexander, Ray Fenton, Mary Lou Boughton, Marie Laule, Cindy Chase, Hans Bernard, Mary Tanghe, the press and other interested people.

The School Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ACTION:

Moved by Harriet Drummond to recess to executive session.

District's budget reduction. Ms. Gillespie stated that there has been a total lack of support for the School District from local government this year.

Hans Bernard commented that less than 24 hours ago, many people in this room were at the Assembly meeting hoping for reimbursement of funds to help lower the District's budget reduction. High School students know the proposed cuts have to be made and although they don't support these cuts, they do know there are no other options at this time.

Peggy Robinson thanked the staff for being at the Assembly meeting last night and then coming in to work on the proposed budget cuts. Ms. Robinson stated that contrary to popular belief, there is no "fat" to cut in the Administration Building; employees put in a tremendous amount of dedicated hours.

Bob Christal thanked Ms. Fairclough for her support for the students in the Anchorage School District. Mr. Christal explained that from the contacts with the Mayor last week, the District was hopeful that \$5 million dollars would be restored to the District's budget and today's reduction would be \$6 million instead of \$11 million. Last evening Mayor Mystrom and Assembly members stated that the Municipality has more money in its reserve than at any time in the history of the Municipality yet an agreement could not be reached to provide \$5 million dollars to the School District. Mr. Christal explained that the budget action in April resulted in no increase in taxes coming to the Anchorage School District except for taxes related to voter approved bonds. The increase in the budget is directly related to employee compensation increases and this was only possible by going into a portion of the District's fund balance. Mr. Christal further explained that for the last month, staff has been working on what it thought would be a \$6 million dollar reduction (not an \$11 million dollar reduction). The revised reduction list shown on the yellow handout is the original reduction list with recommended modifications to reach the \$11.2 million dollar reduction.

Bettye Davis stated that it's hard to believe the District needs to be going through this process again. Even in the '80s there were Assembly members and a Mayor who felt they needed to fund and support the School District. The District would be better off to take its case to the public rather than the Mayor and the Assembly. At this point it would be appropriate to push for an initiative for the District to have its own funding source. It's time to be involved in finding out what needs to be done to accomplish this type of action.

Rita Holthouse stated that she was very angry about the Assembly's action noting that it was an amazing display of gangmanship with the exception of Ms. Fairclough. No one was giving one iota of thought to students. These political games are damaging the education of students.

Bob Christal explained the Administration's revised recommended reductions.

Harriet Drummond stated that she reluctantly agrees with the Administration's recommended reductions and will be supportive of what has been recommended.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she has a series of amendments noting that she would like to retain some teaching positions as well as a variety of activities for students. Ms. Ossiander noted that it is very important for kids at the middle school level to have a variety of activities after and beyond the school day.

Dave Werdal stated that overall good judgement has been shown in the recommended reductions but he has no interest in cutting sports. There are alternatives to doing things a bit differently. Some students may not be able to afford the suggested fee increases and Mr. Werdal expressed concern about eliminating the middle school program for at-risk kids.

Peggy Robinson stated that she would like to see a way of providing activities for middle school and high school students. It is imperative to have the Assembly raise the upper lever of the District's budget. Ms. Robinson expressed concern to any cut to the School Business Partnership program because of their National Conference that will be held in Anchorage this fall. Ms. Robinson also expressed concern about eliminating the at-risk program at the middle school level.

Kathi Gillespie stated that along with this \$11 million dollar cut, the District is looking at a \$20 million dollar cut next year and if the tax cap initiative passes in November, an additional \$27 million will need to be cut. Ms. Gillespie noted that she values all the programs that were originally in the budget but because of the District's current financial situation, she supports the Superintendent's recommended reductions.

Rita Holthouse expressed concern about any cut to the School Business Partnership program noting that it will be difficult for them to host their National Conference if their current staffing is reduced. Dr. Holthouse stated that she would like to see the District fund this program for at least this coming year. Dr. Holthouse suggested that the

elimination of the District's courier service be discussed during Teamster negotiations. Dr. Holthouse further stated that she plans to eliminate three new vacant central administration positions noting that she would prefer those funds be directed to services for students. The procedure the Board is currently following is allowing the Superintendent to exceed his authority. Board policy does not give the Superintendent the authority to add or delete positions. School Board action is required for positions to be eliminated. In an attempt to respond to concerns of micro-managing, the Board sometimes gives up its own responsibility. Dr. Holthouse stated that she will not be supporting the overall recommendation if these three positions are left in the budget.

Bettye Davis stated that she agrees with what has been said particularly the impacts to middle level schools and the District's courier service position. Ms. Davis further stated that she thinks the Administration has done a fine job in putting this recommendation together.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Bettye Davis

to eliminate new, vacant positions of Assistant Superintendent for Support Services (\$175,708), that position's accompanying Executive Secretary (\$86,189), and, the Chief Information Officer (\$104,455), for a total of \$366,452.

Rita Holthouse stated that these positions were approved a year ago and are vacant but are in the budget. These positions can be eliminated without moving anyone out of their current position. The funds from these positions could be used for direct services to students. Also, with the \$20 million dollar reduction facing the District next year, these positions could very well be eliminated at that time. Dr. Holthouse further stated that if this amendment is not supported, the Board is saying that these three positions are more important than the kids of this District.

Bob Christal commented that the Board approved these positions a year ago and the need for these positions has not changed. These positions would help reduce the number of people who report directly to the Superintendent. Mr. Christal stated the he and Dr. Holthouse have a strong disagreement about the Superintendent's responsibility. The chief administrator of any organization has the flexibility to organize as they see fit. It has been suggested to the Administration that these positions will improve the coordination and delivery of the

operation of this system. Each and every reduction on the list could use the rationale Dr. Holthouse used relative to student services. There is a definite need for these positions.

Kathi Gillespie commented that the Board has had this discussion several times and noted that in the business world, a board of directors hires a superintendent or a manager or a CEO, and allows that person to put together his management team and then hold him accountable. It is important to allow the Superintendent to develop his management team. The suggestion to add these positions came directly from an independent audit as vital components to the sound management of this District.

Debbie Ossiander stated that both Board policy and the Superintendent's contract give him discretion to structure his management team. Ms. Ossiander reminded the maker of the motion that there are other new vacant positions there were not included in the motion.

Harriet Drummond stated that the Superintendent needs the right person with business management emphasis. The Chief Information Officer position is critical as technology is expanded into our schools. The District has the largest computer network in the state and it definitely needs this position.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to divide the question.
seconded by Rita Holthouse.

VOTE:

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

MOTION FAILED.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to delete the following
positions:
seconded by Kathi Gillespie Multicultural Specialist
(\$57,000),

Chief Information Officer
(\$82,000), and Risk Management
Safety Officer.

Debbie Ossiander asked if the Risk Management Safety Officer position has been filled.

Bob Christal responded that it has been filled.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal to divide the question.
seconded by Harriet Drummond

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,
Gillespie, Holthouse

Nays: Robinson, Davis

MOTION PASSED.

To delete the Multicultural Specialist position:

Bettye Davis stated that it would be foolish to eliminate this position noting it is a very beneficial position. Ms. Davis urged the Board to vote to retain this position.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson, Gillespie

Nays: Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT PASSED.

To delete the Chief Information Officer:

Dave Werdal reiterated that when a superintendent or any CEO is hired, he/she should be allowed to hire his/her management staff.

Peggy Robinson stated that the field of technology needs a lot of coordination and it is very important to have someone to focus on the entire technology picture.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Holthouse

Nays: Drummond, Werdal, Robinson,
Gillespie, Davis

AMENDMENT FAILED.

To delete the Risk Management Safety Officer position:

Kathi Gillespie stated that this position manages workman's compensation claims in trying to manage down some of the costs associated with these claims. This is a position that will pay for itself.

Debbie Ossiander stated that there are a variety of ways that can be used to decrease the District's workman's compensation dollars such as working more with employee groups for better ideas to lower the costs. Ms. Ossiander urged the elimination of this position.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander

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

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to reinstate \$24,000 to the
School Business Partnership
program.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
positions:
seconded by Harriet Drummond
time

to delete the following
Nurses/Increase to full-
(\$88,200), Polaris Library
Assistant (\$9,569), EEO/AA
Administrative Assistant
from five to eight hours
(\$5,293), and the Library
Resources Administrative
Assistant (\$44,2239).

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to divide the question.

VOTE:

Kathi Gillespie commented that there is a downside to fees in that some students can afford them and some can't (seventy-five dollars is going to be difficult for a lot of families).

Dave Werdal noted that even with an increase in fees, this is a tremendous investment return for parents noting how expensive it is to participate in private club sports.

Bettye Davis called the question.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson

Nays: Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to eliminate "on-site" technical support and have it contracted out including maintenance and curriculum support training.

Debbie suggested that these positions could be contracted out.

Bob Christal noted that these are teacher positions and they give daily on-site assistance. This is a valuable instructional component. Teachers need global training and on-site assistance has been a goal in this District for a very long time.

Norm Holthouse stated that to eliminate the instructional support of the training component of technology would be disastrous. There has been a lot of hard work put into this program and it is one of the District's success stories. Dr. Holthouse strongly recommended that the Board consider this amendment very carefully.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander

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

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to reinstate supply allocation cuts to \$7 instead of \$5 for a decrease of \$97,000 in

expenditures.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

that high school gymnastics, hockey and swimming be reinstated for a cost of \$308,000 by increasing the fees collected, an additional \$600,000. How those fees will be assessed, whether everyone to \$250 each or variable, depending on the sport, will be determined later.

Peggy Robinson explained that next year major drastic changes may need to be done to the entire high school activity program and that it is unfair to just pick on three individual sports to be eliminated. This would be a one-year reprieve to put people on notice of what may be coming in the very near future.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie
amended
and unanimously approved

to table the motion on the floor
in order to read today's
main motion.

MOTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond
negotiations

to amend the budget increase by
\$3,095,119 for AEA
and reductions be based on the
May 10, 2000 revised Reduction
Memorandum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie
seconded by Debbie Ossiander
and unanimously approved.

to bring back to the table the
previous amendment.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson
seconded by Debbie Ossiander
and unanimously approved
and

that high school gymnastics,
hockey and swimming be re-
instated for a cost of \$308,000

increase fees collected an
additional \$478,559. How those
fees will be assessed, whether
everyone to \$250 each or
variable, depending on the
sport, will be determined later.

Kathi Gillespie expressed concern that this will establish a two tier system for the kids in this district; the "haves" and the "have nots". The Assembly needs to fund sports for all kids. They have the money to support sports and they need to clearly understand the Board's position on this issue. The Board needs to ask the Assembly for their assistance so that all kids are able to participate in sports.

Bettye Davis stated that she agrees with the previous speaker.

Bob Christal noted that the reason the Board saw a significant increase in the fees is due to a discussion with the high school principals (the \$250 figure came collectively). If sports are to be reinstated, then the District needs to get authorization from the Assembly to raise the upper level of the District's budget and the District also needs to be prepared to tell the community what it is going to cost and how we will get to that point. There are some fairly expensive costs associated with sports and it ought not come out of the classroom.

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson
seconded by Harriet Drummond
re-

that high school gymnastics,
hockey and swimming be

instated for a cost of \$308,000

and

increase fees or cost avoidance techniques to offset these costs by an additional \$478,559.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Davis

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT PASSED.

Kathi Gillespie stated that it is important to remember that if this passes it will be a very short fix (a one-year stop gap measure).

Harriet Drummond stated that she agrees with the previous speaker and will not be supporting this.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT AS AMENDED:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal, Robinson

Nays: Drummond, Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT AS AMENDED FAILED.

ACTION:

Moved by Harriet Drummond to reconsider the previous vote.
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal, Robinson

Nays: Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson
seconded by Harriet Drummond
re-

that high school gymnastics
hockey and swimming be

instated for a cost of \$308,000

and

increase fees or cost avoidance techniques to offset these costs by an additional \$478,559.

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

that the high school sports Amendment does not go into effect unless the Assembly raises the upper limit of the budget at least enough to cover the increased revenue.

Peggy Robinson stated that it appears that there will not be enough pressure on the Mayor or the Assembly and they will ignore our request to increase the upper end of our budget (this action would not go into effect unless that happens).

Bettye Davis commented that this is a moot issue and she is not willing to support this.

Kathi Gillespie inquired as to what possible incentive would the Mayor or the Assembly have to reinstate \$5 million dollars for a sports allocation with all the other cuts on the table. This would be like saying all the District needs is a half million dollars. It is imperative to go back to the Assembly and request that \$5 million dollars out of their \$40 million dollar excess needs to go to the kids. They need to clearly understand what they are doing. The academic achievement of all the kids in the District is being prioritized on the altar of high school sports.

Debbie Ossiander stated that some Board members absolutely believe in sports. The Assembly has been asked multiple times for the \$5 million dollars and every time the answer is another flat no. Ms. Ossiander further stated that she is trying to keep something that helps kids achieve in their academic progress as well as enrichment programs. Kids need sports in the middle schools and the high schools. Ms. Ossiander urged support for this to avoid using a popular program as a political football.

Dave Werdal stated that he is unwilling to play chicken with the Assembly over this issue. Mr. Werdal further stated that advocating for additional money is still very important but he is unwilling to take a chance on this issue.

Rita Holthouse stated that although she supports sports at all levels, she does not value them more than all the other cuts that are being made in the budget. Dr. Holthouse further stated that her main parameter is to stay away from making cuts affecting the classroom.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal, Robinson

Nays: Drummond, Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT TO AMENDMENT FAILED.

Dave Werdal stated that he is optimistic that the upper limit of the budget will be raised and that this may be the last chance for these sports.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal, Robinson

Nays: Drummond, Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to eliminate the increased
technical support for Year II of
the Technology Plan.

Debbie Ossiander stated that it is the Administration's recommendation to not do Phase II of the Technology Plan so this would support that recommendation.

Bob Christal explained that one support position (the microcomputer specialist) would be retained.

Debbie Ossiander withdrew her amendment.

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to reconsider the vote on the
high school sports program.

VOTE:

Ayes: Werdal, Robinson

Nays: Drummond, Ossiander, Gillespie,
Holthouse, Davis

MOTION FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to eliminate the Great Body
Shop health material.

Fred Stofflet informed the Board that the Great Body Shop is not a textbook; it is a consumable which furnishes the health curriculum to approximately 49 of the elementary schools.

Patricia McRae explained that because this material is a consumable it is funded through the building supply allocation.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Gillespie

Nays: Werdal, Robinson, Holthouse, Davis

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie
seconded by Dave Werdal
position.

to eliminate the Pest
Management Technician

Kathi Gillespie stated that not having this position might put a burden on the custodial staff but since this position hasn't been hired yet, perhaps its functions can be accomplished through the staff already on board.

Debbie Ossiander stated that this position was discussed at great length during a policy revision process tied to this position. Ms. Ossiander further stated that although she would like to get rid of this position it is ethically not the right approach to say it is needed and then eliminate it before it has had a chance to function.

VOTE:

Ayes: Gillespie

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

AMENDMENT FAILED.

MOTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to reconsider the vote on
reinstatement of middle school
sports.

Peggy Robinson explained that since there has been the elimination of some high school sports, it is only fair to do the same to middle school sports.

VOTE:

Ayes: Robinson, Gillespie, Holthouse

Nays: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal, Davis

MOTION FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

that \$850,000 in kindergarten
aides be put into elementary
classroom teachers.

Debbie Ossiander stated that certificated teachers provide the biggest bang for the buck especially if aides are cut back and class size is reduced.

Marie Laule explained to the Board that if passed, 18 elementary teacher positions would be realized.

Patricia McRae stated that it is absolutely critical to have the assisted time in kindergarten that the aides provide.

Carol Comeau stated that kindergarten teachers place a very high value on teacher aides; they are a very important component to the kindergarten program.

VOTE:

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

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Dave Werdal to reduce the full-day kinder-
seconded by Kathi Gillespie garten aides by \$186,119.

Dave Werdal stated that there would still be \$663,881 left for kindergarten aides. Mr. Werdal further stated that this was one of the Administration's initial cuts.

VOTE:

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

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to postpone filing the now
vacant position of the Assistant
seconded by Bettye Davis Superintendent for Support
Services and that position's
Executive Secretary until the
2001-2002 School Year. The total
savings would be \$175,708

Dave Werdal commented that he feels this issue has already been discussed.

Rita Holthouse withdrew her amendment.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to approve the budget at
seconded by Rita Holthouse \$413,416,593 including a request
to the Assembly to increase the
budget by \$186,119. Balance

revenues with expenditures by using an additional \$220,559 of the fund balance as revenue source.

Bob Christal stated that if this Amendment is approved and the Assembly authorizes to raise the upper level of our budget, then the District will be fine; if not, it will be necessary to address this issue in June as a reduction to the budget of \$186,119.

VOTE:

Ayes: Gillespie

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

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Rita Holthouse
recommendation

that the Administration come forward with a

of \$186,119 to balance the budget at the June 12th School Board meeting after asking the Assembly to raise the upper

limit

of the budget by \$5 million dollars.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Gillespie

AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson, Gillespie

Nays: Holthouse, Davis

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

C. SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

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

E. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of May 10, 2000 was recessed at 10:45 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. on May 17, 2000. The Special Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on May 17, 2000.

Peggy Robinson, President

Kathi Gillespie, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved