

## MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

### REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2000

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, June 12, 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, Kathi Gillespie, Rita Holthouse, Bettye Davis, Harriet Drummond and Debbie Ossiander.

Excused Absence: Dave Werdal

Others Present: Bob Christal, Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Carolyn Buckley, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Pat McDowell, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Lee Wilson, Ellen Montague, Pam Chenier, Karen Moore, Michelle Egan, Stan Syta, Heather Wagner, Bob Price, Mike Price, Patrick Butler, Mary Tanghe, the press and other interested people.

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

#### B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Robinson announced the scheduled up-coming meetings.

Kathi Gillespie announced that she will be resigning from the School Board effective July 18, 2000. Ms. Gillespie and her family will be moving to Houston, Texas.

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent noting that due to a bid appeal, Memorandum #361 (Professional Services Selection: Dimond High School Commissioning Services) has been removed from the agenda. Memorandum #358 (Acceptance of Grant Award: 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant) has been moved from Item #17 to Item #3 under the Consent Agenda.

Rita Holthouse stated that Memorandum #371 (Community School Closures) should be under the Consent Agenda as a Board action item instead of being under the Superintendent's Report as a discussion item.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse

to move Memorandum #371 –  
Community School Closures, to  
the Consent Agenda.

Motion died for lack of second.

Peggy Robinson noted that the Board has discussed this issue and that through the budget process, the decision of community schools closures was left to the Administration.

ACTION:

Moved by Bettye Davis  
seconded by Rita Holthouse  
and unanimously approved

to move Memorandum #371 –  
Community School Closures  
from Item #8 to Item #1 under  
the Superintendent's Report.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum #363 – Wal-Mart Teachers Of The Year

The Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award honors the creativity and dedication of America's teachers. Each year Wal-Mart stores nationwide recognize one outstanding teacher to represent each store in the local community.

Winners are awarded a \$500 education grant made payable to the teacher's school to be used at the discretion of the teacher. In addition to the grant, the teachers also receive Wal-Mart's Teacher of the Year vest which symbolizes the teacher's commitment to serving his or her students.

This year's winners are Judy Svec from Orion Elementary School and Dave Avery from Goldenview Middle School.

The School Board recognized these outstanding teachers as Wal-Mart's 2000 Teachers of the Year.

ASD Memorandum #364 – Presidential Award Winner Douglas Heetderks

The Presidential Award is our nation's highest honor for science and math teachers in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Each year a national panel of distinguished scientists, educators, and mathematicians recommends teachers to receive this prestigious award. This honor is

given to one elementary and one secondary math and science teacher from each state and four designated jurisdictions.

This year's award-winning list includes Susitna Elementary School science teacher Douglas Heetderks whose gift for teaching is characterized by imagination, creativity and dedication.

As an awardee, Heetderks will receive a \$7,500 educational grant to be used at Susitna Elementary, a Presidential citation, and a trip to Washington, D.C., for a series of recognition events, information exchange programs and an awards ceremony.

The School Board recognized Douglas Heetderks as one of 200 teachers nationwide selected for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

ASD Memorandum #365 – RespecTeen Speak For Yourself Winner

The RespecTeen Speak for Yourself letter-writing contest encourages students to learn about and participate in the American political process. Each year seventh-and eighth-graders nationwide are encouraged to write letters to their U.S. representatives about national issues that are important to them. The letters are judged by a panel of educators based on quality and clarity of thought, argument, supporting data, expression, sincerity and originality.

A winning student from each state is selected to participate in the RespecTeen National Youth Forum held in Washington D.C. in early May. At the forum students are given the opportunity to learn about the legislative process first-hand and share their ideas with influential decision-makers in government.

This year Alexander Dynan from Goldenview Middle School was selected as Alaska's representative for the youth forum. Alexander's letter, chosen from more than 10,000 entries nationwide, addressed the issue of aviation safety. It said in part, "As a resident, I am very concerned about the state of aviation safety in Alaska. I am requesting your help to propose legislation and set aside funding to provide pilots in Alaska with safety-critical infrastructure...Please insure Alaskan pilots are provided safety margins similar to other aviators. Only then will the fatality rate drop."

The School Board recognized Alexander Dynan for letting his voice be heard as Alaska's 2000 RespecTeen Speak for Yourself representative.

ASD Memorandum #366 – Denali Award Winners

To Alaskans, Denali means "great one," and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service and dedication. Once each quarter, a committee of Anchorage School District employees will select six co-workers and one team of colleagues that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to our mission of educating students for success in life.

The certificated Denali award winners for June 2000 are Carol Miernyk of Kasuun Elementary, Michael Webb of Baxter Elementary and Patricia Stirling of Fairview Elementary.

Carol Miernyk teaches kindergarten at Kasuun Elementary and has worked in the District for fourteen years. Principal Colleen Stevens says "her classroom abounds with a spirit of enthusiasm, friendliness and cooperation," and she is "continually searching for ways to stimulate and open minds to meaningful learning."

At Baxter Elementary teacher Michael Webb is known as "Mr. Network" because of his ability to connect with students staff and the community. Earlier this year Webb received a Quynh award that was jointly submitted by over 20 people including teachers, administrators, PTA members and students.

Principal Barry Geller calls Patricia Stirling "a Fairview Elementary School dynamo!" Stirling has been teaching in the District for five years and heads up numerous committees and projects that encourage student success. Just a few of these commitments include being a First Steps trainer, science curriculum coordinator, grade level chairperson, discipline committee member, emergency preparedness planner, technology teacher expert and PTA vice president.

The two classified staff members receiving Denali awards are Camellia Buschman of O'Malley Elementary and Kevin Martin of Kasuun Elementary.

Camelia Buschman has worked at O'Malley Elementary over the past 21 years as a parent volunteer, a noon-duty supervisor and as administrative assistant. Principal Maria Kreta-Dillon says Buschman is invaluable to the O'Malley community and puts in many extra hours working with PTA and other outside activities. Kreta-Dillon says, "She is the reason so many parents and children see O'Malley as a second home."

Kevin Martin is the BPO at Kasuun Elementary. According to Stan Syta, Operations Director, Martin "possesses great drive, initiative, caring and ownership; he truly bettered the learning environment."

Martin works with the staff, students and night custodians to improve communication and create a better school for all.

This year students and staff around Alaska faced the first-ever Alaska Benchmark and High School Graduation Qualifying Examinations. Thanks to Tom Straugh, winner of the Denali Award for administrators, the experience for Anchorage participants was as painless as test taking can be.

Straugh, the Coordinator for Districtwide Testing, was nominated independently by both Ray Fenton, Supervisor for Assessment and Evaluation, and Fred Stofflet, Executive Director of Curriculum and Evaluation.

According to Stofflet, "Dr. Straugh was tireless in working with District and school level administrators to provide the training and consultation necessary to guarantee the quality of our first Alaska high-stakes examinations. He took pains to respond to every question from a teacher or test administrator."

Members of the Clark Middle School staff are the recipients of the first Denali "team" award. Principal Sheri Stears nominated the Clark staff and said the following:

"The entire Clark Middle School Staff has been incredible this year. A new reading program was developed . . . reading levels improved . . . and seventh grade writing assessments improved. The suspension rate has dropped every quarter and parent involvement at meetings has improved 200 percent."

The School Board recognized the first Denali Award recipients, and all of the nominees, for the example of excellence that they set for the entire Anchorage School District community.

#### ASD Memorandum #368 – Service High School Choir Honored

It's been a noteworthy year for Anchorage School District choirs and the Service High School choir is no exception. This year they were awarded the title of Grammy Signature School, an honor given to only 100 out of 18,000 schools nationwide.

The Grammy Signature Schools program was established by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences to honor music students, teachers, principals and school districts that promote and preserve music education as a key part of their curriculum.

In addition to the Grammy Signature School honor, the Service High School choir was invited to attend the Festival of Gold in Washington, D.C. Participation at this prestigious event is by invitation only, with only 25 choirs nationwide on the guest list. In addition to performing at superior level during the festival, the choir members were recognized as noteworthy District ambassadors for their professional behavior throughout the trip.

The School Board recognized the Service High School music program for making such beautiful, award-winning music all year long.

E. PRESENTATION

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Alice Stevens, Vice-President of the Student Advisory Board, commented that she would like to see the current assistant principal of SWS (School-Within-A -School) at East High School remain for the next year instead of being transferred to another school.

Martha Beard, speaking on behalf of Matt Iverson, urged the Board to allow the assistant principal of SWS to remain at East High School for the next school year noting that being in charge of an alternative program demands that this position be treated differently. Mr. Iverson's comments further noted that he fears that switching the leader of this alternative program will disestablish this program.

Marguerite Iverson, SWS parent, commented that SWS has a very active, involved group of parents who feel they have not been in the loop in the decision of transferring the current Assistant Principal of SWS to another school. Ms. Iverson asked for a little more time for this transition to take place hoping that that the current Assistant Principal can remain at SWS for the next school year.

Bob Humphrey, SWS parent, commented that he agrees with the previous comments and added that the net gain of moving the current assistant principal for SWS will not offset or justify the damage this move will cause this program at East High School.

Georgia Lynch, SWS parent, commented that the SWS program at East High School is a great program for kids who might not work out well in the regular high school program and urged the Board to wait for one more year before this transition is made.

Robert Hayes commented that it is the Board's responsibility to balance the budget and that kids and teachers should not have to suffer because of the current money shortage.

Dave Patterson, SWS parent, commented that it would be appropriate to put a moratorium on the transfer of the current assistant principal at SWS until a review of this decision has been made. Mr. Patterson suggested that this type of decision making process be reviewed and that hopefully a reasonable compromise can be realized.

Kay Pederson, Eagle River parent, expressed concern about the cuts being made to busing athletes to varsity sports events noting that not all varsity students are old enough to drive or even have a car to get to their events. Ms. Pederson further noted that other problems associated with this decision will only add more undo pressure to our teens.

Vic Fischer commented that there is a phenomenal group of students and parents involved with SWS and urged the Board to relieve their concerns by waiting for one more year before transferring the current assistant principal from SWS.

Sharon Froeschele, SWS parent, requested that the Board reconsider the transfer of the current assistant principal from SWS noting that removing the strong leadership enjoyed by this program could jeopardize the entire program at East High School.

Dawn Mendias commented on the inability of many primary students not being able to read proficiently and suggested that a survey be sent to primary level teachers for their input and suggestions in how to remedy this problem.

Joe Patterson, former SWS student, commented that her success in college can be directly attributed to her education she received at SWS. Ms. Patterson reiterated that it is imperative to have an administrator who is familiar with the SWS program for its continued success. Ms. Patterson urged the Board to allow the current assistant principal to remain at SWS for at least one more year.

Bob Christal commented that the entire District is very proud of the SWS program at East High School and that it is very rewarding to hear all the positive comments. Mr. Christal further commented that he appreciated the approach taken by the speakers in bringing this to the attention of the Administration and the School Board. The Administration is always willing to take another look at controversial issues even though it may not be as simple as what has been portrayed.

Pat McDowell commented that the principal of East High School will be involving the community in the selection of the new assistant principal at SWS and input from the SWS community will be greatly

appreciated. Ms. McDowell further noted that the SWS community's input from last week's meeting on this issue will also be reviewed.

In the area of the reading program in primary grades, Mr. Christal commented that there has been a great investment in the District in its reading program in the elementary, middle and high school levels. Three years ago discussions took place with reading teachers about the kinds of things that could be done to strengthen this program and that input has been incorporated into the reading program.

In the area of busing students to varsity sports events, Mr. Christal noted that this issue will be looked at very carefully; however, parent responsibility to deliver students to their events could be increased to offset the tremendous amount of money being spent in this area. The District is being forced to look at different ways to deliver some services and as the next school year progresses, if some issues need to be modified or changed, the Administration will look at what can be accomplished.

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 – May 8, 2000
- b. Regular Meeting – May 8, 2000
- c. Special Meeting – May 10, 2000 4:00 p.m.
- d. Special Meeting – May 10, 2000 5:00 p.m.
- e. Special Meeting – May 15, 2000

2. ASD Memorandum #369 – A Resolution In Opposition To The 10-Mill Property Tax Cap Initiative

It is recommended that the School Board approve a resolution in opposition to the 10-mill Tax Cap Initiative.

3. ASD Memorandum #358 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the U. S. Department of Education in the amount of \$1,617,378. This grant will fund after school academic and enrichment programs for youth in 12 elementary schools.

4. ASD Memorandum #333 – Revision To School Board Policy 343.41 – Graduation Requirements (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the deletion of section 343.41: Graduation Requirements for those students (Prior to the Class of 2000) as shown on Attachment A from School Board Policy on First Reading. It is further recommended that the changes to School Board Policy 343.41 for those students in the Class of 2000 and beyond as shown on Attachment B be approved on First Reading.

5. ASD Memorandum #312 – Award Of Contract: Computer Power Upgrades Bid Group 1 At Abbott Loop, Bayshore, O'Malley, Rabbit Creek, Rogers Park, Tudor And Sand Lake Elementary Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Computer Power Upgrades Bid Group 1 at Abbott Loop, Bayshore, O'Malley, Rabbit Creek, Rogers Park, Tudor and Sand Lake Elementary Schools to the low responsive bidder, Aurora Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$547,500.

6. ASD Memorandum #313 – Award Of Contract: Computer Power Upgrades Bid Group 2 At Airport Heights, Chugiak, Gladys Wood, Lake Otis, Turnagain, Eagle River And Homestead Elementary Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Computer Power Upgrades Bid Group 2 at Airport Heights, Chugiak, Gladys Wood, Lake Otis, Turnagain, Eagle River and Homestead Elementary Schools to Aurora Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$613,200.

7. ASD Memorandum #337 – Award Of Contract: Northern Lights ABC School Traffic Safety Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Northern Lights ABC Traffic Safety Upgrades to the low bidder, SeaCoast Construction Co., Inc., in the amount of \$126,899.

8. ASD Memorandum #356 – Award Of Contract: Chugach Optional School Reroof And Structural Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Chugach Optional School Reroof and Structural Upgrades to the low responsive bidder, Consolidated Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$506,000.

9. ASD Memorandum #362 – Award Of Contract: Site Preparation At Dimond High School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Site Preparation for Relocatables at Dimond High School to the low bidder, Isabelle Construction and Excavating, in the amount of \$540,000.

10. ASD Memorandum #352 – Award Of Contracts: Expendable Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of contracts to the low responsive bidders as shown on the Recommended Awards by Vendor for Expendable Supplies (Attachment B) in the total estimated amount of \$424,236.32.

11. ASD Memorandum #353 – Award Of Contracts: Food Staples

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of contracts to the low responsive bidders as shown on the Recommended Awards by Vendor for Food Staples (Attachment B) in the estimated total amount of \$575,897.35.

12. ASD Memorandum #354 – Award Of Contracts: Frozen Food Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of contracts to the low responsive bidders as shown on the Recommended Awards by Vendor for Frozen Food Products (Attachment B) in the estimated total amount of \$945,995.95.

13. ASD Memorandum #355 – Award Of Contract: Automotive Diesel Fuel

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to the low bidder,

Suburban Propane (PetroStar) as shown on the attached Tabulation of Recommended Awards for Automotive Diesel Fuel (Attachment A), in an amount not-to-exceed \$134,110.

14. ASD Memorandum #325 – Renewal Of Contract: Group Medical Insurance

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew the contract for the 2000-2001 fiscal year with Blue Cross of Washington and Alaska for Group Medical, Dental and Vision Care Insurance.

15. ASD Memorandum #367 – Survey Of Algebra Textbook Adoption

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of the following math textbook and materials for "Survey of Algebra:"

ALGEBRA I, Concepts and Skills. Larson, et al. McDougal Littell. 2001.

16. ASD Memorandum #290 – Grant Applications: Title VI-B Individuals With Disabilities Education Entitlement And Preschool Disabled Incentive Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the Title IV-B Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Entitlement Grant and the Preschool Disabled Incentive for fiscal year 2000-2001. The total amount for both budgets combined is \$4,890,924.

17. ASD Memorandum #357 – Prior Approval Of Carl Perkins Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to submit an application to the State Department of Education and Early Development for school year 2000-2001 Carl Perkins funds in the amount of \$959,481.

18. ASD Memorandum #275 – Approval Of Conceptual Master Plan And Supplement To Districtwide High School Educational Specifications For Chugiak High School

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 Chugiak High School.

19. ASD Memorandum #277 – Approval Of Conceptual Master Plan And Supplement To Districtwide High School Educational Specifications For Bartlett High School

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

20. ASD Memorandum #339 – Denali Elementary School Replacement Site Adaptability Study

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with a new school design for the Denali Replacement Elementary School.

21. ASD Memorandum #394 – Adjustment In Medical Insurance Contribution For Exempt Employees

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize an increase in the District's monthly contribution for health insurance premiums for Exempt employees from \$417.50 to \$427.50 per employee, effective July 1, 2000.

22. ASD Memorandum #372 – 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 #369, #358, #333, #275, #277, #339 and #394.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve the Minutes of the  
Special Meeting of May 8, 2000;  
the Minutes of the Regular  
Meeting of May 8, 2000; the  
Minutes of the Special Meeting

of

May 10, 2000 (4:00 p.m.); the  
Minutes of the Special Meeting

of

May 10, 2000 (5:00 p.m.); the  
Minutes of the Special Meeting

of

May 15, 2000;  
Memorandum #312;  
Memorandum #313;  
Memorandum #337;  
Memorandum #356;  
Memorandum #362;  
Memorandum #352;  
Memorandum #353;  
Memorandum #354;  
Memorandum #355;  
Memorandum #325;  
Memorandum #367;  
Memorandum #290;  
Memorandum #357 and  
Memorandum #372.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Robinson,  
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None  
Absent: Drummond, Werdal  
MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #369 – A Resolution In Opposition To The 10-Mill Property Tax Cap Initiative

It is recommended that the School Board approve a resolution in opposition to the 10-mill Tax Cap Initiative.

ACTION:

Moved by Kathi Gillespie to approve Memorandum #369.  
seconded by Bettye Davis

Kathi Gillespie commented that it's important to give serious consideration to do an informational campaign for the community to outline just exactly what the tax cap initiative will do to this entire community if it is passed in November.

Harriet Drummond noted that if passed, the tax cap initiative will also seriously impact the future phases of the school bonds.

VOTE:

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

ASD Memorandum #358 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the U. S. Department of Education in the amount of \$1,617,378. This grant will fund after school academic and enrichment programs for youth in 12 elementary schools.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #358.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

Bob Christal explained that earlier this year, the Board accepted a grant for the middle school activities and this is the elementary part of that grant. Some existing issues and programs will be incorporated in these schools.

Ellen Montague noted that this grant outlines 12 elementary schools which were selected based on the criteria that met the grant requirements.

Debbie Ossiander expressed concern about the rationale for the District's acceptance of this grant, particularly in the area of support the District has been able to give to its community schools in light of some of the recent action taken concerning community schools. Another area of concern is that four of the sites are current community schools that will provide half an FTE to mentor the other more recent sites included with this grant to make sure they can generate the community's infrastructure for community schools. The most successful community school program has the broadest-based infrastructure on site with a good group of community volunteers to build and grow with the program.

Ms. Ossiander noted that another concern is that the memorandum states that eight new community schools will be developed. That statement should cause the District to sit and think for a moment that some community schools are being cut that have been in place with strong infrastructures. That's a difficult message to send to folks who have already put in a lot of man-hours in the community school program. Community schools are designed to serve a broad spectrum of the community and this recommendation will be specifically targeting a specific discipline. This should be talked about before it is implicitly received. The District will end up with eight new community schools in addition to the ones that will remain after the elimination of some of the schools due to budget cuts. Ms. Ossiander also expressed concern about the geographic balance of the schools noting that all community schools (with the exception of three) will be in mid-town. Ms. Ossiander stated that she is not ready to say the community school program is going to be the infrastructure that will be supporting those needs and she will not be supporting this recommendation.

Bob Christal explained that over the next few years, services provided to the community will be different. If this grant were turned down, then four of the District's community schools would not close but don't assume that by not accepting this grant that more community schools will remain open in the near future. Business will definitely be different over the next year in community education whether or not the District accepts this grant.

Ellen Montague explained that both the middle school model and the elementary school model are very similar. Both models ask for teacher assistance after school to help kids learn in different ways. The middle school grant actually has a team of teachers, counselors and support folks to help identify students and encourage them to become a part of the program.

Kathi Gillespie commented that the District is looking at potentially cutting the budget by \$20 million dollars next year plus another \$33 million dollars if the tax cap initiative passes. Ms. Gillespie further commented that she shares Ms. Ossiander's concerns about the inequity of this program in benefiting a particular part of town. Ms. Gillespie questioned the wisdom of allowing a federal grant decide how community education is funded.

Rita Holthouse commented that the District cannot afford to turn down \$1.6 million dollars which will bring needed services to many students. Dr. Holthouse suggested that the District pursue other grants that would provide services in those areas that would not be provided services by this grant.

Harriet Drummond commented that this grant will put programs in schools for kids who need them, deserve them and who haven't been able to get them in any other way. It is very important that the District take advantage of this grant.

Bettye Davis stated that she also supports this grant.

Peggy Robinson reminded the Board that it is imperative to look at the core mission which is to provide support for students. Some low-income schools don't have the services other schools have and many kids will benefit directly from this grant.

Bob Christal encouraged the Board to support this recommendation noting that the Administration will contact the federal government to explain the financial dilemma facing the District so they will know that all the specific requirements of the grant may not be met. There are not a lot of other opportunities out there to acquire this amount of money from other sources.

ACTION:

Moved by Bettye Davis to call the question.  
seconded by Rita Holthouse

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: Ossiander, Robinson, Gillespie

Absent: Werdal

MOTION FAILED.

Kathi Gillespie inquired as to what other business would take the services provided now (that meets the needs of customers) and throw it away to accept something else that may not be funded later on. Ms.

Gillespie stated that it's imperative to provide a quality product and then be consistent with it year after year. In the long-term best interest of the District, it is important to rethink how programs are being funded and how they are being prioritized.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Robinson, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: Ossiander, Gillespie

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED.

Due to her airline schedule, Kathi Gillespie had to leave the meeting.

ASD Memorandum #333 – Revision To School Board Policy 343.41 –  
Graduation Requirements (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the deletion of section 343.41: Graduation Requirements for those students (Prior to the Class of 2000) as shown on Attachment A from School Board Policy on First Reading. It is further recommended that the changes to School Board Policy 343.41 for those students in the Class of 2000 and beyond as shown on Attachment B be approved on First Reading.

MOTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #333.  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Debbie Ossiander referred to the new PE class called Healthy Life Skills noting that students are not allowed to waive out of it by participating in other extracurricular activities. Ms. Ossiander noted that a lot of students have talked to her about their frustration with this requirement explaining that some kids want to take four years of music, art or a foreign language and are in a dilemma when having to take this course. Students would no longer be able to waive out of PE with this requirement.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander Section 343.41.a(5): To delete  
the the  
seconded by Harriet Drummond last sentence which reads:  
~~For~~

~~the class of 2003 and beyond, the  
course Lifetime Personal Fitness  
is required; it may be waived  
only through testing out of the  
course.~~ And, Section 343.41.c:

Delete the sentence which reads:  
~~The athletic waiver does not apply to the Lifetime Personal Fitness requirement cited in (5) above which may be waived only by testing out of the course.~~

Rita Holthouse noted that students are required to take 1.5 units of PE and inquired if students can waive the other 1.0 PE credits through athletics (this particular course is .5 credit).

Fred Stofflet responded that yes, they can waive the other 1.0 PE credits.

Rita Holthouse stated that she would rather see the District be more flexible and creative in scheduling in order to allow students to take more than six subjects and to encourage them to concentrate on physical fitness.

Debbie Ossiander explained that right now students can waive out of this class by taking a written test and noted that she would like them to be able to waive out by taking another activity.

Debbie Ossiander, along with the acceptance of the second, changed the wording of the amendment to read: Section 343.41.a(5): ~~For the class of 2003 and beyond, the course Lifetime Personal Fitness is required;~~ It may be waived only through testing out of the course.

Fred Stofflet commented that the District is trying to get kids to continue a healthy lifestyle as they leave high school. This course gives students some cognitive knowledge and some activities for a healthy lifestyle.

Pat McDowell explained that staff has been working with PE and curriculum folks to work another waiver through the community service credit by choice where students could get credit but could not get a PE credit. It will take some time to verify that the course will meet the requirement of a PE course but that would not pertain to this particular course.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Davis

Nays: Robinson, Holthouse

Absent: Werdal, Gillespie

AMENDMENT FAILED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

Ayes: Drummond, Robinson, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: Ossiander

Absent: Werdal, Gillespie

MAIN MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #275 – Approval Of Conceptual Master Plan And Supplement To Districtwide High School Educational Specifications For Chugiak High School

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 Chugiak High School.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #275.  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Rita Holthouse inquired as to where the District is in the matter of the Municipality taking over the swimming pools.

Bob Christal explained that the District is at the very beginning of the process in discussions with the Municipality about the swimming pool issue.

Debbie Ossiander congratulated the Facilities Department in putting together this document noting that it is very easy to read and the tables are very clear and easy to follow. Ms. Ossiander thanked the staff for their continued effort and work but that she still has concerns about the assumption that the District will get waivers from DEED on the square footage issue and that she will not be supporting this recommendation.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Robinson, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: Ossiander

Absent: Werdal, Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #277 – Approval Of Conceptual Master Plan And Supplement To Districtwide High School Educational Specifications For Bartlett High School

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

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #277.  
seconded by Bettye Davis

Ray Amsden explained that the Little Theatre construction has been moved ahead and that this is a revised plan showing the auditorium being in Phase II and the parking lot in Phase IV. Funding for Phase II will need to be increased and funding for Phase IV will need to be reduced by the same amount.

Kathleen Stevenson, Bartlett parent, commented that the committee's hard work has been well worth the effort which the Bartlett community will benefit from for many years. Ms. Stevenson urged the Board to approve the Administration's recommendation.

Harriet Drummond noted that she appreciates all the hard work done by the committee and that it is important that everyone involved works to defeat the up-coming tax cap initiative. Even though the Little Theater is in the second phase, it may not be realized for a period of time if the tax cap initiative is approved.

Debbie Ossiander thanked the staff for a very user-friendly document and expressed concern about the square footage overage and getting DEED to accept the overage. Ms. Ossiander explained her concerns about getting a waiver for the square footage issue and noted that she will not be supporting this recommendation.

Peggy Robinson expressed concern about the Bartlett building being half on military property and half on city property and inquired if the District is working towards getting municipal control of this parcel.

Bob Christal explained that this has not caused a problem in the past and that there have been no recent discussions regarding this issue.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Robinson, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: Ossiander

Absent: Werdal, Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #339 – Denali Elementary School Replacement Site Adaptability Study

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with a new school design for the Denali Replacement Elementary School.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #339.  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Ray Amsden noted that there are three options available for the Denali Elementary replacement: (1) duplicate the Fairview model the way it is; (2) use only part of the Fairview model; or (3) start over and use a different design. Mr. Amsden stated that there has been a high level of success in using the prototypical design but noted that the best solution for the Denali site is to go with a new design site specifically for Denali because of the shape of the site.

Jerry Winchester, Winchester of Alaska, gave a brief overview of the existing site and pointed out that after putting together many configurations, the Fairview model just does not work on the Denali Site.

Margie MacNeille commented that the Denali community has had a lot of discussion on the entire site/replacement school issue and agreed with Mr. Winchester that the Fairview model will not work on the Denali site. The consensus of the parents is that a new design will need to be reconfigured for Denali. Ms. MacNeille stated that the Denali community agrees with the Administration's recommendation and urged the Board to support this recommendation as well.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Robinson,  
Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal, Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #394 - Adjustment In Medical Insurance Contribution For Exempt Employees

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize an increase in the District's monthly contribution for health insurance premiums for Exempt employees from \$417.50 to \$427.50 per employee, effective July 1, 2000.

ACTION:

Moved by Harriet Drummond to approve Memorandum #394.  
seconded by Bettye Davis

Bob Christal explained that this recommendation is in line with contracts that the Board settled this year with other bargaining groups.

Harriet Drummond inquired if the option mentioned in the last paragraph of the memorandum is similar to what the District offered to the AEA in their negotiation process. (The exempt employees having access to three different benefit plans or having the option to waive coverage and receive cash back, subject to regulations under both the appropriate retirement system and the Internal Revenue Service.)

Bob Christal responded that yes, this would be a direct benefit to employees if they want to pursue this avenue.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Robinson,  
Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal, Gillespie

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #371 – Community School Closures

On April 4, 2000 the Anchorage Assembly voted to reduce the requested 2000-2001 Anchorage School District financial plan by \$8,000,000 and to reduce the requested local tax contributions by \$5,074,774. As a result of that Assembly action and subsequent approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Anchorage Education Association, the District was required to reduce the proposed budget by \$11.2 million. A portion of that reduction was identified as \$436,000 in the Community Education budget. This reduction equated to eight community schools. Subsequent efforts to restore the funding failed to get Assembly approval.

Eighteen volunteers and three District staff representing Community Schools, Community School Coordinators and Principals formed a Task Force to determine recommendations for making the Community School reductions. A list of these participants is shown on Attachment A. On May 17 and May 24, 2000 the Task Force met in deliberation to accomplish this goal.

The Task Force was charged with bringing forward a recommendation based on geographic location in high school regions in the Anchorage bowl area. It was recognized that the reduction in funds would effect a severe change in the operation of Community Education in Anchorage. The Task Force chose to maintain as fully as possible the

integrity, strength, viability and potential sustainability of the program by recommending full staffing of 1.0 FTE at the remaining sites.

Four of the 10 sites were chosen by virtue of their positions in the newly awarded 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. The federal grant provides for after school programs at Creekside Park, Chester Valley, Tudor and Fairview Community Schools, in addition to eight other sites. The School District's contribution to the grant includes the salaries of the four Community School Coordinators at those sites.

The following recommendation for Community School site designation was derived through group consensus and brought forward to the regular meeting of the Anchorage Community Education Advisory Board on June 7, 2000. Community School sites recommended by the Task Force to be closed are identified by underlines at:

**Bartlett Region**

Chester Valley/Susitna\*  
Creekside Park\*  
Nunaka Valley

**Dimond Region**

Sand Lake  
Four Valleys in Girdwood  
Campbell

**East Region**

Baxter  
Tudor\*  
Rogers Park/Lake Otis

**Service Region**

Rabbit Creek  
Bear Valley  
Service/Hanshew

**West Region**

Fairview\*  
Inlet View  
Turnagain

**Chugiak Region**

Gruening  
Fire Lake  
Chugiak /Mirror Lake

Bob Christal gave a brief review of what has taken place in the reduction of community schools explaining that the final selection of schools to remain open follows the high school boundary distributions. Mr. Christal further explained that the District does not have the option to ignore the limited funding situation it is currently experiencing.

Ellen Montague explained that the Community School Advisory Board and principals met and designed the criteria as to which schools would remain open.

Virginia McDonald asked the Board and the Superintendent to reconsider the closure of Campbell Community School noting that this community school is what keeps the neighborhood together since the boundary changes made a few years ago divided the neighborhood in half. In closing Campbell Community School, South Anchorage is left with only two open community schools.

Cindy Klinger commented that Campbell Community School covers a much bigger area than other schools, has more programs and has done an excellent job for the entire community. Ms. Klinger urged the Board to keep the community school program at Campbell Elementary.

Patty Marcum commented that the Campbell Community School covers almost one-fourth of the Anchorage bowl. Ms. Marcum further commented that having the community school at Campbell allows after-school programs at the school noting that Campbell does not have YMCA or Camp Fire for after-school programs. Campbell does not have optional programs and the community school program holds the community together. Ms. Marcum encourage the Board to retain the community school at Campbell Elementary noting the many positives associated with this particular program.

Lindy Breest reiterated what the previous speakers said and challenged the Board to speak to the issues and to retain the community school program at Campbell Elementary.

Pamela Michaels suggested that the District look at what is successful for the kids and the community and to take advantage of that knowledge by retaining the community school program at Campbell Elementary.

Ellen Montague commented that Campbell Community School represents the articulate and the strong community school program the District enjoys. The Task Force determined that they wanted to maintain the strength of the community school across the board and came up with a list of criteria to use in the selection process. The information pulled together in each category, along with the 21st Century Grant award, determined which schools would be closed. There was a lot of deliberation and in the end, the geographic boundaries were used as part of the selection criteria. It was very difficult to determine which schools would be closed and the committee voted on the final decision.

Rita Holthouse commented that it is unfortunate that this item is not on the Consent Agenda as an action item and expressed concern that the Chugiak area will only have one program noting how isolated that area is from the rest of the Anchorage bowl.

Debbie Ossiander commented that with the acceptance of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, there will be a total of 17 community schools which will cause the District some real concern down the road. Ms. Ossiander inquired if the Advisory Board considered making the Girdwood position halftime due to the population consideration.

Ellen Montague responded that the Task Force chose to maintain the strength of the Girdwood Community School by maintaining the full-time FTE support in that program.

Debbie Ossiander noted that the four community schools exempt from the evaluation process will be splitting into half-time mentorship positions and inquired how they will provide oversight to the new community schools.

Ellen Montague explained that the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant does indicate that the four community schools will receive a half-time coordinator. The coordinator at those schools will be responsible to maintain the community school as it stands today as well as be a mentor to other sites listed in the grant. (For example, Creekside Park has a community school coordinator and the grant will bring another half-time position.) The current existing coordinator will provide outreach similar to the way the program is at the satellite schools. Once the grant is implemented, those schools will have 1.5 FTE.

ASD Memorandum #359 – Government Hill Elementary School Renovation And Addition One Percent For Art

Chapter 7.40 of the Anchorage Municipal Code defines the process for selection and acquisition of art to be displayed in public places, including public school buildings. This code authorizes the Municipality to select the artist and the artwork, with a review of the proposed artwork by the School District only as to its safety and maintenance factors.

The Jury established for the Government Hill Elementary School Renovation and Addition has chosen the following artists to create the artwork for the school: David Govedare, Juan and Patricia Navarrete, Vivienne McConnell and Linda Infante.

ASD Memorandum #360 – Russian Jack Elementary School Replacement One Percent For Art

Chapter 7.40 of the Anchorage Municipal Code defines the process for selection and acquisition of art to be displayed in public places, including public school buildings. This code authorizes the Municipality to select the artist and the artwork, with a review of the proposed artwork by the School District only as to its safety and maintenance factors.

The Jury established for the Russian Jack Replacement Elementary School has chosen the following artists to create the artwork for the school: Cork Marcheschi, Linda Infante and Gale McCall.

ASD Memorandum #351 – Elementary Space Analysis

The CIP document listed a variety of studies regarding elementary school space issues; this study reports on the various school studies undertaken by Elementary Education, the Demographics Department, Transportation Services, and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction during the 1999-2000 school year.

In addition, three reviews (Orion/Aurora; Ravenwood/Alpenglow and Government Hill) were added to the group of studies as circumstances changed since the CIP was adopted by the School Board in March of 1999.

The Instructional Division believes that no changes are warranted for the next school year. A commitment has been made to each community this year that these studies and analyses would continue into the 2000-2001 school year with recommendations for boundary changes and other solutions as justified.

ASD Memorandum #347 – Annual Review/End-Of-Year Report For FY 1999-2000 – Aquarian Charter School

Overall, the Administration feels this is one of our strongest charter schools. They have faced major obstacles related to housing and rapidly increasing enrollment with positive energy and a problem-solving attitude over the past three year; this year posed extraordinary challenges in the fall on two campuses. The move into the former Northern Lights ABC facility was accomplished over the Winter Break in December of 1999 and classes began in January of 2000 in one facility for the first time since the charter school began operation. A “dedication” was held during the winter and was well attended by parents, community and District representatives, and others.

This charter school has a full-time principal who has done a very good job in organizing all of the housing changes and at the same time keeping the strong academic program moving forward. The principal, along with a dedicated core group of parents, teachers, and support staff, have actively recruited their K-6 student population to over 200 students with a large waiting list for the 2000-01 school year. There is a strong commitment to a high level academic focus and an integrated, thematic curriculum which is enhanced by outdoor education, community service learning, and technology infused throughout the day.

The Village Charter School will be co-located with Aquarian Charter School at the Charter School Center on W. 32nd Avenue beginning July 1, 2000. Village Charter School will occupy a four-classroom pod as well as continue with their two rooms at the Z Plaza on the corner of Minnesota and Benson Boulevards. Aquarian will occupy the rest of the school and the three relocatables on the site. Both charter schools will work out a joint occupancy agreement to share custodial and utility costs; Village Charter School can have access to the multipurpose room on a prearranged basis. Both charter schools have been told that the ASD will continue to allow them to occupy this facility on an annual basis based on the cost-effectiveness of maintaining this structure. The need to house these charter schools will be weighed against cost-effectiveness and the need to house other ASD students.

Debbie Ossiander commended the Aquarian Charter School's program.

Greg Miller thanked the Board for all their support in making the Aquarian Charter School a success.

ASD Memorandum #348 – Annual Review/End-Of-Year Report For FY 1999-2000 – Walden Pond Charter School

The Administration has worked extensively with the Walden Pond Charter School this year, its third year of operation with its fourth Headmaster. The Academic Policy Committee is much stronger this year and is working with the Headmaster very well to increase the academic rigor of the program while at the same time dealing with a substantial decrease in funding and staffing mid-year due to less than projected enrollment. This charter school anticipated over 200 students and staffed accordingly; the enrollment during the count period was substantially less, thus the budget was reduced. Seven teaching positions were eliminated after the first semester; all but one of those teachers transferred to other schools in the ASD; one resigned from the District. Most electives were eliminated with the loss of staff.

The APC and the staff continually grapple with a large turnover of students and serious discipline issues. Many of the students coming to Walden Pond for the first time have not been successful at their prior school and are seeking a smaller and more structured environment; many do well there, but many do not and are either suspended or asked to leave due to violations of the entry agreement signed by both parents and student upon enrollment. This is an ongoing problem which was exacerbated by the change from an almost full-time Headmaster first semester who was not teaching full time to a full-time teaching Headmaster with no other assistance in the office but a full-time administrative assistant. Students in grades 7-12 need consistency in discipline and immediate intervention when necessary; the staff and parents have done an excellent job in trying to solve this problem. The Annual Report shows clearly the actions taken by the school to modify and improve student behavior with a strong message that clearly puts the responsibility on the students! The establishment of the Strategies for Success classes next year should also assist in this effort.

There is a sizable percentage of the students at this school with IEPs who require special education services in addition to much remediation in their learning. This has challenged this small staff. The current Headmaster will continue in that role next year thus providing much needed continuity for this program; the same teaching staff will also continue to be at the school. Students who remain at the school are succeeding there and this charter school does fill a need in our educational offerings for students desiring a smaller school with more structure.

The Administration supports the efforts of this charter school and is working with them to bring their budget into alignment. Their lease of space in the Dimond Center is a large drain on their resources; they are trying to renegotiate the lease, but it is difficult in these current economic times to reduce the cost. They are looking at reducing the square footage, thus reducing their costs. In addition, they are trying to find other space which would meet their needs and be less expensive. This is an on-going effort.

The Administration commended this charter school's staff and Academic Policy Committee for their strong commitment to student achievement and student self-discipline and responsibility.

Debbie Ossiander noted that this particular charter school went through some very particular challenges this year and thanked the staff for being there for kids who have very specific issues.

ASD Memorandum #349 – Annual Review/End-Of-Year Report For FY 1999-2000 – Village Charter School

This is the second year for the operation of the Village Charter School and the year ended successfully for the students and staff who remained at the school for the year. The Administration remains concerned that the school recruits cautiously for teachers prior to the end of the October Foundation Count period in order to avoid over-staffing. At the current time, the school is planning to have between 80-120 students in grades K-8 for 2000-01.

The school will be co-locating with the Aquarian Charter School at the Charter School Center on W. 32nd Avenue and occupying a four-classroom pod in the facility. In addition, Village Charter School will continue leasing two rooms in the Z Plaza Mall next door to the Charter School facility. Village and Aquarian Charter Schools will work out a joint use agreement for the facility, shared custodial and utility costs beginning on July 1, 2000. Stabilization of their housing should allow the Village Charter School to grow in enrollment if their active recruiting effort is successful. Both charter schools know that their tenancy in the former Northern Lights facility is on an annual basis. The ASD will consider the cost-effectiveness of maintaining this facility on an annual basis and will assess the need for housing this charter school and housing other ASD students.

The school is governed by a four-family Academic Policy Committee who have remained consistently involved with the school since its planning and inception. The Finance Committee Chair is very conscientious and maintains an excellent working relationship with the ASD's budget and accounting offices. The instructional program staff appear to be well-balanced and is supplemented by community members and parent volunteers. One of the teachers has a strong special education background and has been able to intervene and assist students who entered the program behind in grade level in the core academic areas; the other teacher's strengths are in music and the arts and sciences and languages. One part-time kindergarten teacher from the District will be transferring to the program and others will be added if the enrollment meets their projections.

The Administration feels that this charter school has made substantial progress this year and it anticipates that if enrollment meets their projections that the school will continue to grow and meet the needs of their students and families.

Raylene Saur thanked the Board and the Administration for their continued support this year.

ASD Memorandum #350 – Annual Review/End-Of-Year Report For  
FY 1999-2000 – Family Partnership Charter School

The Family Partnership Charter School has undergone a great deal of change and turmoil this past year with regard to changes in personnel and radical changes in funding. The Academic Policy Committee replaced the former Teacher in Charge in June of 1999 and hired a new full time principal, Tim Scott, in late June. The person contracted to do the financial accounting also resigned in June. The spring 1999 election for the Academic Policy Committee was challenged by some parents and some staff members who supported the former administration; the election was investigated by the Municipal Ombudsman and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and it was determined that the election was legal, just not handled in a non-controversial manner. The FPCS by-laws were not clear with regard to who could serve on the APC as the teacher representative and the parent representative. The Assistant Superintendent for Instruction met with the Academic Policy Committee many times to address these issues.

In addition, the entire office staff was laid off due to reductions in funding required by a change in designation from a regular charter school to a correspondence program for funding purposes by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in July; this created additional turmoil for the new principal and the Academic Policy Committee due to a loss of approximately 25% of their funding. The FPCS Academic Policy Committee appealed this change in designation and has just reached an agreement with the DOEED to reinstate their funding for 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 at the previous level with an attendant commitment to rewrite the regulation defining correspondence programs prior to the 2001-2002 school year.

After the funding changed, part-time office staff was hired after all of the TOTEM employees had been placed elsewhere; all of these employees had minimal experience in public schools and had to “hit the ground running” in late July and August as school was beginning and parents wanted to begin their academic programs. There were many misunderstandings about the ASD requirements for transcripts, enrollment, budget transfers, purchasing and requisitions, reporting requirements, reimbursements, etc., but the administrations of the school and the district worked through the issues cooperatively. A full-time business manager was also hired who was new to public education, thus there was an entirely new system of accountability and procedures to be learned. The Administration commends these

individuals for working with the District to reconcile differences and to work through the many issues which have come up this year.

Early in the fall, the Administration began to be contacted by members of the community, teachers, support staff, legislators, and various community vendors and agencies questioning the practices of this particular charter school and their use of public funding. The Assistant Superintendent for Instruction met with many people or had phone and e-mail discussions with others who had knowledge of many students who were enrolled full-time in private schools in this community and also getting full-time or partial funding from the Family Partnership Charter School to pay for their extra-curricular activities. They thought that was wrong and a misuse of public funds.

The Assistant Superintendent for Instruction began an investigation of these issues and notified the Principal and the Academic Policy Committee of these allegations. The principal had to do quite a bit of time-consuming research in order to determine how many and which students were enrolled full-time and part-time in private schools and what each student's individual educational plan was for use of Family Partnership funding. The Principal has been directed to ask for private school and home-school information on the annual enrollment form since it was not part of their database. Over one hundred (100) of the students at FPCS are enrolled full-time at private schools, mostly Grace Christian, St. John's, and Heritage Academy. From reviewing every one of these students' educational plans and reimbursement accounts, the Assistant Superintendent has determined that the vast majority have only used FPCS for extracurricular activities. The Assistant Superintendent thinks that this is a violation of the intent of the charter agreement with the Anchorage School Board and the State Board of Education who approved this charter in 1997 and has notified the Superintendent and the FPCS principal and Academic Policy Committee of this. The Administration intends to request modifications to sections of this charter at the June 26, 2000, School Board meeting so that it is clear what expenses are reimbursable and allowable and what the expectations for educational plans are for each student.

The intent of this particular charter is to provide an opportunity for a partnership between home-schooling parents and the Anchorage School District to give students an opportunity to have some of their education provided by certificated teachers in the ASD in classrooms or one to one or small groups after school hours. The District has been willing to allow some use of non-certificated contracted personnel for physical education, art, and music lessons if these were in the home-school student's educational plan which was approved by the parent, an ASD teacher, and the charter school principal. This worked well for

two years, but the problem appears to have escalated this school year with the addition of many private school families deciding to have the ASD pay for their extra-curricular activities under the guise of an ASD teacher sponsor. These parents and students have told their friends that the ASD is paying for their extracurricular activities. This practice has raised many complaints from the public and District employees who have to pay fees for the same community sponsored activities; this practice has been communicated to the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction who has been investigating it all year trying to ascertain the depth of the problem.

There are sections of the charter that need to be strengthened and clarified by formal School Board action on June 26, 2000; the Administration believes that this lack of clarity is the basis for the problem of parents submitting requests for reimbursement for activities that are not appropriate and never agreed to by either the Administration or the School Board when this particular charter was approved. The charter needs to clarify what classes, activities, services, and supplies/equipment are eligible for reimbursement for home-school/ASD partners and what is reimbursable for private school/part-time students who are enrolled in ASD classes taught by certificated teachers. Teachers need to know the rules also so that they will not be caught signing off on an educational plan that is not appropriate. The Administration does not believe that the intent of the part-time student law was to provide public school funds for non-school district lessons and activities and memberships, rather it mandated that students who attend private and/or home schools fulltime will be allowed to enroll on an equal basis with other public school students in classes at public schools. The FPCS students may enroll in classes in other schools on the same basis as other ASD alternative schools, after the home high school or middle school students have registered.

The Principal has committed to working with the Academic Policy Committee to develop templates of acceptable educational plans and to develop a teacher handbook for teachers so they know what their role is as a partner. In addition, procedures for reimbursement must be clarified and agreed to once and for all or the Administration will have to withdraw their support for the Imprest Checking Account flexibility that has been approved in the past.

The Academic Policy Committee requested and paid for an audit this year of last year's revenues and expenditures. This audit was done by Mikunda and Cottrell and reviewed with the FPCS APC; it did not come to the School Board Audit Subcommittee, but has been provided to the ASD Administration by the FPCS principal. It is the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Controller that the FY 1999-2000 records

and procedures for this charter school be audited and reviewed with the charter school and the School Board Audit Subcommittee in the next year prior to renewal of the charter for the 2001-02 school year. Recommended changes in procedures would be in place as directed by the School Board and/or the auditors.

It is indeed unfortunate that these problems have occurred; this is a unique charter school with tremendous potential for forging a true partnership for home-schooling families and the ASD. The Administration wants to solve the problems that currently exist so that this charter school can continue to thrive, but at the same time, the Administration has a strong obligation to insure that public funds are spent appropriately and as intended when the charter school was approved.

In addition to all of the issues with funding and reimbursements, the implementation of mandated assessments and testing was problematic for many parents and staff at Family Partnership. The charter is clear with regard to these requirements; all ASD funded schools are required to participate in all state and locally required tests. Many FPCS parents resent this intrusion and requirement and have refused to send their students to testing centers. Much confusion took place over this issue and Dr. Straugh, Testing Coordinator, and the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction have made it clear that this is a basic requirement for this school. The school is going to have to clearly understand and plan for the testing schedule every year. Parents must be notified that their students must be tested in order to remain in the program. Testing conditions must be strictly enforced for confidentiality and this takes extra resources due to the individual nature of this school's program. The reduction in the amount of CAT testing and other district testing will help with this school's issues, but they will still be required to participate in the Kindergarten assessment, the Writing Assessment, the CATs in the required grades, and the pre-algebra test for sixth graders as well as the Benchmark tests and the HSGQE. There was an increase from 1998-99 when 278 students in grades 3-10 took the CAT tests to 370 in 1999-2000, but this is far short of the total eligible to be tested in FPCS.

Public accountability for acquiring public funding is strictly enforced by the Administration. The Administration does believe that the current leadership of the Family Partnership Charter School is willing to make the changes in their operations in order to comply with School Board Policy and Administration Procedures; the Principal and Business Manager have been honest and ethical in their dealings with the Administration this year. The Academic Policy Committee is well aware of the Administration's concerns and the Administration feels they are willing to comply with our directions, though some APC

members are “pushing the limits in order to achieve the maximum independence for their program”—this requires a great deal of monitoring on the part of the Administration.

Carol Comeau commented that this was a very difficult memorandum to write because she has great regard for the people associated with this charter school noting that they have gone through a difficult time and have come a long way. Ms. Comeau stated that her significant concerns are reflected in the memorandum noting that the charter is not clear and it will be brought back to the Board at the next regular meeting. There has been very good cooperation from the staff to the Administration’s concerns. The charter changes that will be brought forward will better reflect the expectations for their advisory board.

Rita Holthouse commented that approximately three months ago she started hearing from the public that families of private school kids were receiving gratuities from several entities at the expense of the District. Dr. Holthouse further commented that she has been very supportive of this charter school but will not continue to do so if this activity continues. Dr. Holthouse urged the Walden Pond administrators to work very carefully in taking care of this issue.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she has also received very irate calls from the public about the same concerns as the previous speaker. Ms. Ossiander requested that an on-going audit be set up for this charter school. Ms. Ossiander expressed concern about charter school students not being able to select specific classes and inquired how the District could meet their needs for their desired classes.

Pat McDowell responded that most often alternative school students want a specific teacher in a specific time period and that cannot always be accommodated. Ms. McDowell commented that she firmly believes that schools have tried to be of assistance to the needs of the alternative school students.

Debbie Ossiander noted that it was her hope that there would be an opportunity at the beginning of the semester to do some type of assessment of classes that are available for charter school kids. Ms. Ossiander also stressed how critical their financial accountability is in regard to their entire operation.

Rita Holthouse commented that some of the parents of this particular charter school refused to participate in the mandated testing and inquired if this would be rectified.

Carol Comeau explained that in a regular school, if a family refused to take the mandated tests, nothing would happen. But in this charter

school, when parents requested a waiver from testing it was denied. For this particular charter school, it is suppose to be on the enrollment form that parents agree to the mandated testing. If they want the funds, they need to follow the requirements. Some parents just refused which was a violation of the charter. The program principal needs to make sure that all families understand that the students need to participate in the mandated testing.

- 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 June 12, 2000 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:10 a.m., June 13, 2000.

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Peggy Robinson, President

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Kathi Gillespie, Clerk

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Date Minutes Approved