

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #92 (2000-2001)

October 23, 2000

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS FOR FY
2000-2001

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals as shown on Attachment A.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School Board annually reviews and adopts their mission statement and goals for the school year. In 1996, the School Board revised the mission statement to clearly and succinctly indicate the major purpose of the District: **"To educate students for success in life."** This mission statement has provided focus for the students, the staff, parents and the community and has provided guidance as the budget has been prepared.

In addition to the mission statement, the goals have been adopted annually in order to communicate to students, staff, parents, and community members the priorities that guide all activities of the staff and students to achieve that mission. It is the Administration's belief, and in recent years the School Board has concurred, that the goals should not be radically changed each year if long-term improvement is expected. This has been positively received by the staff in the schools and departments.

Each year, the School Board receives recommendations for some modification to the goals by the Administration, and is given the opportunity to communicate recommendations for change prior to adoption by the Board. The various departments have provided input as have some Board members. The recommendations on Attachment A reflect that input.

The proposed goals for the 2000-2001 school year continue the major emphasis from the past three years on reading, writing and spelling, and mathematics. The Administration is recommending the continuation of the emphasis on teaching to the adopted performance standards and benchmarks so that our students successfully pass all three sections of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) and the Benchmark Exams in grades 3, 6, and 8. All training and staff development is focused on this task so that our students have the best chance possible from the beginning of their school careers. The Administration has just received the HSGQE data from the Department of Education and Early Development and general data on the Benchmark testing. Once we receive the more detailed information for individual students and schools, the school staff will be able to review each student's progress and begin to develop programs and learning interventions necessary for students in order for them to meet or exceed the Benchmarks and to pass the HSGQE.

The critical role of the family is recognized as an essential component in the academic success of students. Partnerships between the school and the home are the key to increasing this academic success. Our employees are our most valuable resource in providing a strong educational program to our 49,500 young people; they deserve recognition and compensation that helps us retain and recruit the best employees in all job categories to support our mission of educating students for success in life. The District is also striving to build coalitions with parents, business community representatives, and political leaders to understand and support issues of critical importance to the District. This is especially important as we deal with decreasing revenues, and an increasing student population which is more diverse and complex in composition.

Continuing our outreach to the media and to community groups will also continue to be a focus. The Administration is committed to reaching out in various ways in order to better educate the community and our employees on a year round basis, rather than just during budget development and when asking for support for school bonds.

Upon adoption, the goals will be shared with all school and departments in the District. Adoption now will allow the District to incorporate these goals into the budget development process and allow the schools to continue their academic focus developed in the School Report Card process.

CC/PM/FS
Attachment

Prepared/Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent (Acting)