

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2001

The Anchorage School board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 8, 2001 at 6:45 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, Tom Anderson, Rita Holthouse, Debbie Ossiander, and Harriet Drummond (via teleconference).

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Pat McDowell, Jim Taylor, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Bill Mikawa, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Larry Wiget, Mike Price, Ray Amsden, Hans Bernard, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people.

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

B. ORGANIZATION OF 2000-2001 SCHOOL BOARD

a. Clerk

Rita Holthouse nominated Debbie Ossiander as Clerk; Tom Anderson seconded the nomination. President Peggy Robinson closed the nominations and asked for a vote; it passed unanimously.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Robinson announced the scheduled up-coming meetings.

Peggy Robinson announced that the School Board applications are available at the front desk in the main lobby, Superintendent's Office, and on the web site. Applications will be closed at noon on January 22, 2001. A special meeting has been scheduled for February 1, 2001 to appoint a new School Board member.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent. Debbie Ossiander requested that School Board Memorandum #170 – Request to Revise Minority Education Concerns Committee Guidelines go for First Reading on January 8, 2001. She also announced that she will divide the question on School Board Memorandum #150 – Approval Of The Conceptual Master Plan And Supplement To The Districtwide Elementary Educational Specifications For Denali Elementary Replacement School.

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONSF. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTSStudent Advisory

Hans Bernard announced that the Student Advisory Board met on January 8, 2001 to discuss a resolution to bring forward to the School Board. They discussed the bond campaign and feel it's a balanced bond. Carol Comeau informed him that the bonds are scheduled to go before the Assembly on February 13, 2001.

Military Delegate

No report.

MECC

No report

G. PRESENTATIONSH. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum #168 – Approval of Superintendent's Contract

It is recommended that the Anchorage School Board approve the attached Superintendent's Employment Contract for Carol Comeau. The contract is for three years, effective January 1, 2001. Her salary will be \$127,000 per year. She will retain the current

budgeted amounts for all the benefits and the expenses except for \$9,000 for the automobile lease and \$3,000 for the home computer. The values of these expenses are added instead to her current salary of \$115,000.

2. ASD Memorandum #169 – A Resolution Authorizing The Participation of the Elected Officials Of Anchorage School District (111), Alaska And Its Employees And Officials In The Public Employees’ Retirement System Of To AS 39.35 Et. Seq.

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve the Resolution Authorizing The Participation Of The Elected Officials Of Anchorage School District (111), Alaska And Its Employees And Officials In The Public Employee’s Retirement System Of Alaska And The Payment Of The Required Premiums, Pursuant To AS 30.35 Et.Seq.

3. ASD Memorandum #161 – 2001 Bond Information Campaign

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$35,000 for the 2001 Bond Information Campaign.

4. ASD Memorandum #170 – Request to Revise Minority Education Concerns Guidelines

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board increase the number of Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) positions from nine to 11 members effective immediately. Terms of office for these two additional members would expire on June 30, 2002.

5. ASD Memorandum #148 – Board Approval: High School Course – Integrated Math

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of Integrated Math, a one-year course at the high school level.

6. ASD Memorandum #144 – Anchorage School District Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Anchorage School District’s Capital

Improvement Program Legislative Request. The information will be made available to Legislators and other interested groups for funding consideration.

7. ASD Memorandum #150 – Approval of The Conceptual Master Plan and Supplement To The Districtwide Elementary Educational Specifications For Denali Elementary Replacement School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Conceptual Design, Supplement to the Districtwide Educational Specifications for the Denali elementary Replacement School, and the Districtwide Elementary Intensive Needs Educational Specification.

8. ASD Memorandum #164 – Approval of Schematic Design for Service High School Renewal

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the schematic design for the Service High School Renewal and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with the Design Development and Construction Documents for the Service High School Renewal project.

9. ASD Memorandum #165 – Increase in Project Funding: Road Improvements Related To The Polaris K-12 School Site

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School board authorize an increase in funding in the amount of \$80,000 from the undesignated fund balance of the Capital Projects Fund for the construction of East 64th Avenue. This will increase the amount to be transferred to the Municipality of Anchorage for this project from \$380,000 to \$450,000.

10. ASD Memorandum #155 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Presidential Award For Excellence In Math And Science Teaching

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the National Science Foundation, in the amount of \$7,500.

11. ASD Memorandum #162- Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Title VII Program Development And Implementation Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education's title VII Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA).

12. ASD Memorandum #166 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Foreign Language Assistance Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs.

13. ASD Memorandum #156 - Personnel/Travel Report

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandums #168, #169, #161, #170, #148, #144, #150, #164, #165, and #166.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Dave Werdal

to approve Memorandum #155;
Memorandum #162; and
Memorandum #156

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #168 – Approval of Superintendent's Contract

It is recommended that the Anchorage School Board approve the attached Superintendent's Employment Contract for Carol Comeau. The contract is for three years, effective January 1, 2001. Her salary will be \$127,000 per year. She will retain the current budgeted amounts for all the benefits and the expenses except for \$9,000 for the automobile lease and \$3,000 for the home computer. The values of these expenses are added instead to her current salary of \$115,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #168
seconded by Dave Werdal

Copies of the Superintendent's contract were available for public review.

Robert Hayes, parent of children at Inlet View and a fire alarm whistle blower, stated his support for Carol Comeau as Superintendent of the Anchorage School District. He supports the suspension of students at Service High School and feels it was the right thing to do. Mr. Hayes would like to see the addition of portables to help overcrowding conditions. Mr. Hayes has a concern with the time set by the Board for speakers on non-agenda items. He feels that it's too late for parents and students as they are an important part of the meeting.

Theresa Obermeyer inquired as to which attorney wrote the Superintendent's contract. Ms. Obermeyer stated that Mrs. Comeau will make a wonderful new Superintendent because she is a woman. Peggy Robinson stated that Howard Trickey wrote the Superintendent's contract.

Rita Holthouse stated that the Anchorage School District is lucky to have Carol Comeau as the new Superintendent. Harriet Drummond (via teleconference) had some concerns with the terms and conditions of the contract. Rita Holthouse assured her that the contract was a three year contract, not a three and one-half year contract. Carol Comeau stated that she is pleased with the three year contract, appreciates the support, and will do the best that she can.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #169 – A Resolution Authorizing The Participation of the Elected Officials Of Anchorage School District (111), Alaska And Its Employees And Officials In The Public Employees' Retirement System Of To AS 39.35 Et. Seq.

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Resolution Authorizing The Participation Of The Elected Officials Of Anchorage School District (111), Alaska And Its Employees And Officials In The Public Employee's Retirement System Of Alaska And The Payment Of The Required Premiums, Pursuant To AS 30.35 Et.Seq.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #169
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Theresa Obermeyer informed the Board that she was in both the PERS and TRS retirement systems. She thought the School Board members were already in PERS. Peggy Robinson stated that the law was changed this past summer to include public officials into the retirement system.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #161 – 2001 Bond Information Campaign

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$35,000 for the 2001 Bond Information Campaign.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #161
seconded by Rita Holthouse

Carol Comeau stated that she wants to begin preparations for the April 3 Municipal Election. Public Affairs is currently developing a powerpoint presentation.

Robert Hayes stated he doesn't feel that the public is ready for a bond, but stated that he would vote for the bonds if the Superintendent would replace poor performers on projects that have come in under budget.

Theresa Obermeyer informed the Board that she does not believe in bonding when the State of Alaska has \$27 billion dollars.

Peggy Robinson asked why there was no video mentioned. Michele Egan responded that she eliminated the video due to the high cost; a powerpoint presentation would be available for the speakers bureau and for large group presentations. In 1999-2000, Public Affairs spent \$38,002 on the Bond Information Campaign. Ms. Egan feels with the current budget cuts, she can run a quality bond campaign for \$35,000. Carol

Comeau also stated that the web site would be a good source for getting information out to the public and ASD employees.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #170 – Request to Revise Minority Education Concerns Guidelines

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board increase the number of Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) positions from nine to 11 members effective immediately. Terms of office for these two additional members would expire on June 30, 2002.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #170
seconded by Tom Anderson

Carol Comeau explained that she made an error and this request should have channeled through the School Board Policy Subcommittee since it was a requested change in School Board policy. The memorandum is being submitted by the Administration tonight for First Reading.

The MECC members are visiting schools this year and have stated that the additional members would help them reach every school this year. There is an active applicant pool with individuals wishing to remain involved in minority student issues.

Debbie Ossiander requested that this memorandum include School Board Policy Section 173.3 when it is resubmitted to the Board for Second Reading. She also stated that she did not think the policy should be number specific for the number of individuals serving on MECC. Harriet Drummond stated that the Board should not limit the number of participants and informed the Board that she thought the number had been reduced in the past due to lack of participation.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #148 – Board Approval: High School Course – Integrated Math

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of Integrated Math, a one-year course at the high school level.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #148
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau explained that this course was developed in response to requests from teachers at the high school level to help students who are struggling with math skills, and who need assistance to pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Debbie Ossiander stated that she understands that a course like this is needed, but is concerned that a more remedial course may be more in need by students who are struggling in math. She also hopes that we do not have students who are not able to pass the HSGQE, but have passed both algebra and geometry. Carol Comeau explained that a student can pass both courses with a "D" and may not have learned the skills that are necessary to pass the HSGQE. Jim Taylor stated that there are approximately 20 to 50 students at each high school who have passed both classes and not passed the exit exam.

Debbie Ossiander stated that the intent of this adoption should be to target those students who are failing the exit exam. She would like the class formatted to address the greatest needs of those kids. Ms. Ossiander is concerned with limiting the class to only those students who have passed both algebra and geometry.

Carol Comeau explained that her understanding is two pronged; the class is targeted for those students who have not passed the exit exam and those who may need assistance between algebra and geometry.

Sandy Schoff stated that Ms. Comeau is correct. The major goal is to have students pass algebra, which is a graduation requirement. This course was designed for students who had completed their algebra and geometry, but had trouble integrating it into a form that would allow the student to pass the test. Ms. Schoff explained that the HSGQE is heavily comprised of algebra, geometry, and data that would be statistics probability kinds of things. Students may be allowed to take this course if they had only passed algebra prior to taking geometry.

Debbie Ossiander asked if it would be more productive to have a course available to offer simple algebra concepts, some geometry, and statistics rather than this course. Sandy Schoff replied that this new integrated course does just that. She went on to explain that the course is specifically designed to help those students who are having trouble with algebra. This course will help strengthen the student's algebra skills and take them to a higher level.

Peggy Robinson asked what options are available for students who have passed both algebra I & II, but have not passed the exit exam. Dr. Stofflet stated that it is possible to override the requirements and allow students to take this class who have passed both algebra I and II and who have not passed the exit exam.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #144 - Anchorage School District Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Anchorage School District's Capital Improvement Program Legislative Request. The information will be made available to Legislators and other interested groups for funding consideration.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson to approve Memorandum #144
seconded by Rita Holthouse

Peggy Robinson discovered that the wording on page one of the bond history talks about HB 281, which was approved last spring with the debt reimbursement, and indicates how ASD thought all of the bonds passed last spring would be applied to that. ASD discovered that the wording was such that it wasn't going to allow us to do that. The last sentence states that this reimbursement is not currently available for all of the projects except for one and stated that the issue would be discussed further in detail. Peggy Robinson did not see any further discussion in the remainder of the memorandum. Ms. Robinson wanted to make sure it was included before it went to the legislature.

Ray Amsden stated that it was an error and he will strike the last sentence, but note that the exception is the Wendler Middle School renovation. A statement will also be added that the District should also request legislative action that permits retroactive applications for this house bill funding for the 2000 bonds.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #150 – Approval of The Conceptual Master Plan and Supplement To The Districtwide Elementary Educational Specifications For Denali Elementary Replacement School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Conceptual Design, Supplement to the Districtwide Educational Specifications for the Denali Elementary Replacement School, and the Districtwide Elementary Intensive Needs Educational Specification.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #150
seconded by Dave Werdal

ACTION

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

Unanimously approved.

Debbie Ossiander stated that the intensive needs educational specifications are a Districtwide item that does not belong in a specific school memorandum. First, the Board will discuss the Denali Educational Specifications and then the Conceptual Master Design Plan.

Ray Amsden explained that when you approve the concept design, one would presume that the supplementary educational specification would be applicable and that is why they are tied together. He explained the schematic design was not yet complete. Mr. Amsden has concerns that the budget may be low based on cost estimates from the Fairview construction project, market and regulations changes, and higher

anticipated demolition expenses. The design is larger than a standard 26 room school.

Mr. Blaze Burkhart, Kumin Architects, made a presentation on the design of the school and the use of space. He also explained how he worked with the design committee, teachers, students, parents, and community councils, and how the final design evolved.

Margie McNeil, a parent representative, stated that she feels that ASD has used exceptionally good architects in building new schools. As a result, the concept expresses the deeply felt needs the various groups have identified. The Montessori community had some difficulty in working through the process and gave up many things they would have liked to be able to fit in to the school. While cooking is an integral part of the Montessori curriculum, Ms. McNeil stated that it should be part of all schools' curriculum. Four additional kitchenettes were approved in the design; the Board suggested there be a design change to allow one of the kitchenettes to be placed on the second floor along with several classrooms.

Debbie Ossiander expressed a concern over setting a precedent by accepting the plans for the intensive needs specifications for Denali as a standard for the whole District; educational specifications should not be viewed as a source to go out and ask for extra space, but only used as a guide. Carol Comeau stated that as long as you meet program needs, these educational specifications should not be used. These have been designed because it is a new school and Ms. Comeau doesn't feel schools will bring this forward to request additional space. The educational specifications would be used as a guide on remodel jobs.

There was discussion concerning the increased costs due to the intensive needs program. Ray Amsden stated that the school would qualify for debt reimbursement and the additional 1,600 square feet would also meet reimbursement guidelines. Even knowing that the additional space would make the school run better, Debbie Ossiander stated that she is concerned with the cost for taxpayers and increased budget costs. Rita Holthouse stated that our population is changing and there needs to be space for equipment and this is an excellent opportunity to have a quality program in this new school. Harriet Drummond inquired as to whether or not combining the gym/multipurpose room into one room had been discussed. Mr. Burkhart replied that it is an ongoing discussion and no decision has been made.

Ray Amsden expressed a concern about how the question can be divided. He said that they probably should have brought the intensive needs educational specifications forward first and then gone out and designed the school. Rita Holthouse stated we should vote down the educational specifications for intensive needs and still approve the Denali concept design. The Administration would be requested to bring the intensive needs educational specifications back at a later date so they could be approved by the School Board and inserted into the appropriate educational specifications.

1. To approve the Supplement to the Districtwide Elementary Educational Specifications for the Denali Replacement School.

VOTE:

Ayes: Robinson

Nays: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal
Anderson, Holthouse

MOTION FAILED.

2. To approve the Conceptual Master Plan for the Denali Replacement School.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

Harriet Drummond signed off via teleconference at 9:30 p.m.

ASD Memorandum #164 – Approval of Schematic Design for Service High School Renewal

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the schematic design for the Service High School Renewal and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with the Design Development and Construction Documents for the Service High School Renewal project.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #164
seconded by Rita Holthouse

Debbie Ossiander informed the Board that she was including "Phase I" into her motion to approve the schematic design for the Service High School renewal project.

Phase I includes work in the library; construction of the science classrooms, and site work that includes the addition of one driveway.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal, Robinson
Anderson, Holthouse

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #165 – Increase in Project Funding: Road Improvements Related To The Polaris K-12 School Site

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School board authorize an increase in funding in the amount of \$80,000 from the undesignated fund balance of the Capital Projects Fund for the construction of East 64th Avenue. This will increase the amount to be transferred to the Municipality of Anchorage for this project from \$380,000 to \$450,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal to approve Memorandum #165
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Ray Amsden stated that the amount to be transferred from the undesignated fund was in error. The increase should be \$70,000, which will be transferred to the MOA for this project.

Kitte Miller, Co Chair of Polaris Parent Forum, stated she is available to answer any questions the Board may have.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal, Robinson
Anderson, Holthouse

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #166 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Foreign Language Assistance Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #166
seconded by Dave Werdal

Carol Comeau stated that the principals are very supportive of this grant application as it will enhance opportunities for all the students at their respective schools.

Debbie Ossiander explained that she pulled the memorandum to continue her point to the Administration that she wants a response to some of the problems within the immersion program. Specifically, she is concerned about scheduling at the middle schools and opening up entry into the immersion program for students past grades K-2.

VOTE:

Ayes: Werdal, Robinson
Anderson, Holthouse

Nays: Ossiander

MOTION PASSED.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #157 - Facility Project Report And Change Order Report For The Month Of November 2000

The monthly Facility Project Report Update and Change Order Report for the month of November 2000 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

Attachment C (bottom portion of document) - Remaining Contingency - \$13,149. This number should be changed to \$24,841.47. This was for All Alaska Electric.

Peggy Robinson questioned Attachment A - Muldoon Elementary Replacement Project. The document states that the original contract was for \$20 million, but on Memo #160, page 71, Muldoon, is listed at \$13 million plus. Ray Amsden stated that Ms. Robinson was looking at two different numbers. That contract was issued to Davis Construction in the amount of \$20,300,000 for two schools, Muldoon and Trailside. The initial contract for Muldoon was \$10,113,000 and the new Southeast Anchorage Elementary (Trailside) was \$10,117,000, totaling \$20,230,000.

Debbie Ossiander noted a change order for Scenic Park for \$25,000 for painting and questioned why a change order was needed for painting. Ray Amsden indicated that the original contract did not include the painting. Carol Comeau stated that last spring, a number of administrators went out to meet with parents and staff who were quite upset about a number of issues concerning the construction project. There was such a big difference in appearance between the old and new sections, and the fact there was money remaining, prompted the Administration to make the decision to include the painting.

Debbie Ossiander questioned the change order on the fire proofing in the Chugiak High School corridor. Ray Amsden said the construction was required to comply with current code.

ASD Memorandum #163 – The Dimond High Replacement School 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 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. ASD Risk Management has reviewed the artwork and has expressed no objections.

Carol Comeau stated that the pictures would be available to review in the Superintendent's Office. This project is funded through the Municipality One Percent for Art program.

ASD Memorandum #158 – Operating Budget Transfers – November Monthly Report FY 2000-2001

The attached report of budget transfers for November 2000 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

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

Attachment B: Schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of November 2000. Abbreviations in titles represent how data is stored in IFAS; continuity in the abbreviations within IFAS is an on-going process.

Debbie Ossiander questioned budget transfer #003229 on page 2 – unallocated high school resources to various high schools to support drug/alcohol prevention. She indicated that she thought these programs were mostly funded through federal grants. Carol Comeau informed the Board that these funds were used to pay case managers who work with students suspended for first time drug/alcohol offenses and work them back through the schools. Debbie Ossiander asked if the District could apply for grants to pay for this rather than using operating funds. Pat McDowell stated that she would check into it. Unfortunately, federal funds have diminished over the past few years in this area.

ASD Memorandum #159 – End-Of-Month Membership Summary For November 30, 2000

The end-of-month membership report for November 30, 2000 is attached. The total active enrollment at the end of November was 49,294, an increase of 306 students from the November 30, 1999 total of 48,988. Table 1 compares the membership on November 30, 2000 with the totals from November 30, 1999.

Carol Comeau stated that there was one addition to the report for Northern Lights ABC School. They currently have 564 on their wait list. This error has been corrected and will show on future reports.

ASD Memorandum #160 – Treasurer’s Report/Financial Recap: November 30, 2000

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer’s Report and the Financial Recap. The Treasurer’s Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis with year-to-date information as of November 30, 2000.

Peggy Robinson stated that she likes the format of the reports that are run off of the IFAS system. She would like to know how much money is remaining out of the \$13.5 million that was encumbered from last year’s funds and has not been encumbered for specific programs. That money may be available to make one-time purchases instead of using next year’s budget or may be used to offset deficits for next year. Bill Mikawa is currently working on this report.

Debbie Ossiander asked if this was an area that was normally examined each year as the new budget is prepared. Carol Comeau informed the

Board that this is reviewed each year. The new reporting system makes it much easier to access this information.

ASD Memorandum #167 – Status Report On Budget And Tax Appropriation For FY 2000-2001

On December 14, 2000 the Anchorage School District wrote to the Municipality's Office of Management and Budget to confirm our understanding of the effect on the District's budget and local tax contribution for FY 2000-2001 resulting from Sections 2 and 3 of AO 2000-39(S-1) As Amended, approved by the Anchorage Assembly on April 4, 2000, and the Tax Cap Initiative (99PTAR) not being approved by the voters on November 7, 2000. It was our understanding that in combination with other actions taken by the Assembly, the local tax appropriation would increase \$5,047,774 and the upper limit of the budget would increase \$3,000,000 since the Assembly had already increased the budget \$5,000,000 in June 2000. This would result in the FY 2000-2001 Anchorage School District budget to be \$421,230,474 and the total amount of local tax support to be \$126,599,531. A summary of the chronological events impacting the FY 2000-2001 budget and the District Administration's logic used to determine the revised upper limit of the budget and the revised local tax support previously indicated is provided as Attachment A. The Municipal Administration has provided an alternative interpretation for the revised upper limit of the budget and is described below.

Carol Comeau stated that the School Board had asked the Administration what they were planning to do with the money the District will receive from the Municipality due to the fact that the tax cap did not pass. This memorandum was prepared to encourage the Board to have a discussion with the Administration and provide direction on how to use these revenues. The Administration is interested in hearing the Board's perspective regarding the acceptance of the upper limit spending authorization.

Rita Holthouse inquired as to what the cons would be by accepting the increased spending authorization. Carol Comeau explained that by accepting the upper limit, the budget would be larger and by not accepting the increased spending authority, our budget would be smaller. She stated that it is important for employee groups to not believe that this is a fund that can be used for negotiations. The District may be sending the message to the community that our budget is up and we're going to spend to that. It's not known whether or not the revenues will meet the increased spending authority. The Administration would like the Board

to give the Administration the flexibility to use this money for one-time expenditures. There also may be some larger projects that the Administration may bring back to the Board at a later date to discuss offsetting some of the costs. For example, long standing ADA issues could be addressed if the revenues are available.

Janet Stokesbary stated that what the Municipality has presented to us is that we will receive an increased revenue amount of a little over \$5,047,000 worth of taxes. She said unless you have revenues to support the spending authority, you should not be spending it. The state, federal, and local grants fund was reviewed at the end of December and the District is within \$300,000 of the spending authority.

Rita Holthouse asked how the District received the extra \$8 million spending authority. Janet Stokesbary explained that in April 2000, the Assembly reduced the ASD budget in two areas. The Assembly reduced the upper limit by \$8 million and the taxes by \$5 million. When the Assembly increased the budget in June for \$5 million to help with the budget reductions, it was the District's understanding that it was offsetting the \$5 million against the \$8 million; ASD thought they would only receive \$3 million more. The Municipality has now reinterpreted their ordinance and plans to give the District the full \$8 million in addition to the \$5 million already received in June.

Debbie Ossiander strongly urged the Board to use the whole approach when discussing the budget with the Assembly while stressing the local tax contribution. When the District goes before the Assembly, the local tax contribution must be discussed as well as asking them to consider giving approval for our upper limit, but not stressing that as the budget. Ms. Ossiander believes that the District can use the flexibility of the increased potential of the upper limit, but feels it is dangerous unless we begin to clearly announce and define exactly what that term means. Debbie Ossiander is very supportive of the Administration using the \$5 million for one-time expenditures particularly if there are items in the 2001-2002 budget that could be transferred to this budget cycle, which would reduce the \$15 million deficit for next year.

The Board agreed that they had no objection to accepting the higher upper limit of the budget and agreed to allow the Administration to spend the \$5 million on one-time costs this year.

Mr. Werdal requested that if the Administration can't identify \$5 million in one-time costs, to please put the remaining funds in the undesignated fund balance to possibly help with next year's budget.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she would like to give as much flexibility as possible to the Administration in the event they are able to identify something that would add to increased efficiency in the District rather than limit the spending to one-time costs.

Debbie Ossiander requested the Board to allow her one more question on a past memorandum (#166). She asked if there may be Totem problems on the grant that would go to Muldoon. Carol Comeau stated that the Bilingual Department is comfortable with the grant, but Patricia McRae will research this question for Ms. Ossiander.

Hans Bernard announced that he has finals on January 17 & 18 and will not be able to attend the budget hearings.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Peggy Robinson announced that she was called by Bill Cook who runs a strategic planning business through AASB. He will be in Anchorage on February 21 and would be available to meet to discuss strategic planning at no cost to the Board. Ms. Robinson is not available and there appeared to be no interest from the Board.

Peggy Robinson stated that she received a letter from the Ethics Commission requesting comments on the rewrite of the charter. Based on her experience, she will submit a letter under her own name.

The Board received information from the attorneys that it is possible to retroactively change the holding time of audio tapes before they are released to the public. The attorneys suggested holding the tapes for 20 years on negotiations.

Carol Comeau gave a brief update on how the School Board secretary's job responsibilities are being aligned. Mary Kay Sambo will record the first School Board meeting of the month; Robin Siegfried will record the second meeting of the month; Grace Likeness will record the budget hearings, first and second reading of the proposed budget, and School Board work sessions; and Cathy Lundine will prepare and distribute the School Board packets. All telephone calls regarding the School Board or Superintendent will continue to go through Grace Likeness in the Superintendent's office.

Carol Comeau will notify the School Board by the end of the week on her plans for the proposed administrative reorganization.

Peggy Robinson informed the Board that the Eagle River/Chugiak area PTA presidents are planning to meet at Chugiak High School on Tuesday, January 9, 2001. She encouraged each Board member to attend; Carol Comeau will also be attending.

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of January 8, 2001 was adjourned at 10:12 p.m. by unanimous consent.

Peggy Robinson, President

Debbie Ossiander, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved