

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #232 (2000-2001)

March 19, 2001

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: HOUSING FOR PTARMIGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the recommendation of the Ptarmigan Elementary Boundary Task Force to move Ptarmigan Elementary Kindergarten classes to Chester Valley on a temporary basis beginning in the fall of 2001-2002 to relieve overcrowding at Ptarmigan Elementary School. This recommendation would remain in place as long as Ptarmigan is overcrowded.

PERTINENT FACTS:

At 150 per cent capacity, Ptarmigan Elementary School is the most overcrowded of all Anchorage School District elementary schools. Ptarmigan Elementary School currently has an enrollment of approximately 459 students in a school with a capacity of 304 students. Three relocatable classrooms are currently housing the overflow student population. It is projected that the housing in this area will remain full due to the fact that it is an area of the city that offers affordable housing, particularly for young families.

During the 1999-2000 school year, a space utilization committee began studying the overcrowding concern. The committee met on April 14 and 21, and May 5, 2000. At the end of the school year, the committee recommended continuing to monitor and study the problem during the 2000-2001 school year.

In early November of 2000, a Task Force comprised of principals and PTA representatives from Chester Valley, Creekside Park, Ptarmigan, and Wonder Park Elementary Schools was established (Attachment A). Representatives from the

Anchorage School District Transportation, Demographics, and Elementary Education Departments served as resource people to the Task Force. Representatives from the Northeast Community Council also attended the meetings, which were facilitated by an Elementary Education Supervisor. Meetings were held on November 3, 15, and 27, and December 1 and 8, 2000, at Chester Valley and Ptarmigan Schools (Attachment B).

The school representatives discussed their educational programs, concerns, building maps, and space needs, and agreed that action must be taken in order to address the overcrowding at Ptarmigan. They also indicated that it was important to keep the Ptarmigan community together. The Task Force reviewed and discussed at length various scenarios and the pros and cons of each scenario.

Attached are the current student populations, enrollment projections, and current attendance boundaries (Attachment C).

Letters were sent to parents of all Chester Valley and Ptarmigan students (Attachment D). Advertisement for the public hearings was published in the Anchorage Daily News on February 3, 2001, and in school newsletters (Attachment E). The public hearings were held on February 6 and February 8, 2001, for the purpose of gathering input on the Task Force recommendation.

Following community participation through the public hearings (Attachment F), the Task Force recommendation was reviewed administratively prior to the final recommendation being submitted to the School Board.

CC/PM/JG/jb

Attachments

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