

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 14, 2001

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, May 14, 2001 at 6:35 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, Rita Holthouse, John Floyd, Dave Werdal, Debbie Ossiander, Harriet Drummond, and Jake Metcalfe via teleconference.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Pat McDowell, Jim Taylor, Gail Opalinski, Patricia McRae, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Fred Stofflet, Lee Wilson, Ellen Montague, Michelle Egan, Bob Henry, Stan Syta, Ray Amsden, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and interested people.

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

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Robinson announced upcoming meetings.

Peggy Robinson announced that during the Board Policy Subcommittee meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2001, discussion would include a potential school for expelled or long-term suspended students. A harassment policy brought forward by the Student Advisory Board will also be discussed.

Dave Werdal thanked Debbie Ossiander for being the Chair of the Legislative Committee. The District received many benefits because of the long hours Ms. Ossiander put in at the Legislative Information Office in Anchorage and with legislators in Juneau discussing educational issues.

Carol Comeau asked the Board to forward any agenda items to her for the Joint School Board/Municipal Assembly Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2001.

A Special School Board meeting was scheduled for 12 noon on May 29, 2001 to address any student issues regarding graduation.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved with the following changes: minutes (1b) from the Special Meeting on April 9, 2001 were corrected prior to this meeting by Ms. Sambo to reflect the correct release date for tapes per the District's attorney's opinion. Debbie Ossiander added ASD Memorandum #328 – Office for Civil Rights Complaint Concerning High School Activities under the Superintendent's Report. Peggy Robinson also added another memorandum (without a number) under Superintendent's Report: Spring 2001 Test Scores.

Passed by unanimous consent.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #287 – 2001 Alaska Spelling Bee Winners

Recently two middle school students participated in a state competition in which they left the other competitors spellbound. On March 30 Jean Falconer, seventh-grader from Hanshew Middle School, and Kelly McCarthy, eighth-grader from Gruening Middle School, battled other students for spelling supremacy in the 2001 Alaska Spelling Bee.

There were 179 spelling bee participants when the words started flying. Five rounds later, Jean and Kelly were the final competitors. It took seven more rounds and the word "mouflage" to determine the winner. Kelly took the second place award and Jean earned the championship. With this winning performance, Jean advances to the 74th Annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee competition which will be held in Washington D.C., May 29 through 31.

It is requested the School Board recognize Jean Falconer and Kelly McCarthy for their excellent performances in the 2001 Alaska State Spelling Bee.

2. ASD Memorandum #288 – District Teams Sweep Alaska MathCounts Competition

MathCounts is a national math coaching competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement by making math as challenging and exciting as a school sport. Every year the MathCounts Foundation provides a copy of its handbook to middle

schools across the country. Teachers and volunteers use these materials to coach students during in-class instruction or as part of an extracurricular activity.

After several months of coaching, schools select students to compete individually or as a team in written and oral competitions. The top four individuals earn an all-expenses-paid trip to represent their state at the national finals in May.

The state competition was held in Juneau in March. This year the top three winning teams came from Anchorage School District schools. Congratulations to the following athletes:

First place team from Goldenview: Joseph Anderson, Morgan Jessee, Sarah Rockwell and Trevor Majors; second place team from Romig Middle School: Michael Mintz, Zachary Davis, Joe Quinn and Devin Preston; the third place team from Gruening Middle School: Kirsten Valentine, Erik Tomsen, Mason Victors and Amber Oliva.

Three of the top four individual competitors were also Anchorage School District students including first place winner Andy Harris from Mirror Lake Middle School; second place winner Morgan Jessee from Goldenview Middle School and fourth place winner Kirsten Valentine from Gruening Middle School.

It is requested the School Board recognize these outstanding athletes.

3. ASD Memorandum #258 – Recognition for Federal Express and School Business Partnerships

This year the Alaska Branch of the Federal Express Corporation celebrates their ten-year anniversary as a member of the Anchorage School Business Partnership program. Since 1991, FedEx Alaska has had a major impact on schools like Turnagain and Lake Hood Elementary, as well as on the District as a whole. They consistently prioritize their support of the School Business Partnership Board of Directors through their representative, Barbara Stallone, and have lent financial support to the program over the past several years. This year FedEx Alaska presented the School Business Partnership Program with a check for \$5,000. These funds will support

continued activities designed to successfully prepare our youth for future careers in Alaska.

It is requested that the School Board recognize FedEx Alaska for their generous support of School Business Partnerships in Anchorage.

Jim Utter introduced his Partners in Education Symposium planning committee, Dennis Berg, and Barbara Stallone. Mr. Berg thanked the ASD for this honor on behalf of Federal Express. He then presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 to Jim Utter in support of the symposium.

John Floyd was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his time and service spent on the Board. Mr. Floyd commented that he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the Board and has gained insight into the District. He asked the Board to be fiscally conservation and not spend the dollars unless they have them. He also requested that a minority apply for Ms. Robinson's seat when her term expires next year.

Hans Bernard, Student Representative to the School Board for the past three years, was presented with a gold pan from the Board and thanked for his commitment to public education. Mr. Bernard, who has been the longest serving representative in the nation, has presented at both state and national conferences. Carol Comeau presented him with an ASD logo shirt and thanked him for his commitment to the District.

Hans Bernard commented about his time on the Board and how much it has met to him. He described the wide range of activities he has been involved in with the Board. Mr. Bernard said that he has been taught by a school filled with caring educators and appreciates the support of the Administration and his teachers. While the Board might experience budget shortfalls in the future, he asked that the Board remember that all students have potential. He thanked everyone for their time during the past three years. Mr. Bernard will graduate in a few weeks from Chugiak High School and attend Willamette University in the fall, studying for a degree in political science.

E. PRESENTATIONS

1. Urban Rural Youth Program Ambassadors

Ben Ewing and Melissa McDonald, sophmores at Service and Bartlett, spent two weeks in Eek as part of this program. Both said that the education is very good in the villages and the work is challenging. They felt the teachers were excellent, but the curriculum was limited, although the computer equipment in the school was outstanding. There are 94 students, seven certificated staff with a ratio of 17:1 in high school and 12:1 for the whole school. Each participated in Alaska Studies course, which is a high school class.

Harriet Drummond stated that she was impressed with the students' presentation and asked if the school used a satellite connection or a dedicated satellite server for their computers. Melissa McDonald said that it was a good high-speed connection. The school is considered a community center and community members are allowed to use the computer equipment each evening from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The Urban Rural Youth Program is a reciprocal program in its first year of a three-year program.

Melissa McDonald gave a brief description of her experience of being a host to a student from a village of 300 people.

Ben Ewing stated that the village experience gave him more insight in what affects people in the village. He realized that people may be different on the outside, but are the very same on the inside.

Peggy Robinson said they are looking at increasing participants in the program for next year and encourages both genders to become involved.

Carol Comeau told Ben Ewing that she enjoyed reading his journal entries in the newspaper.

2. Alaskans for Alaska Studies

Ira Perman, Elsa Sargento, and Susan Anderson spoke on behalf of the Anchorage Task Force for the teaching of Alaska History and Cultural Studies. They came before the School Board to request

they direct the Administration to work with the community to develop:

1. a one semester high school course in Alaska History with a strong component of Alaska cultural studies, the successful taking of which will become a graduation requirement for students of the Anchorage School District. This course would replace one of the two Social Studies electives required for high school graduation. It would not add to the number of credits required for graduation. They asked that the course be ready for teaching in fall semester of 2001.
2. They further requested that the District incorporate lessons of cultural respect and appreciation into the entire K-12 education experience for all young students.

Mr. Perman stated that the time has come for students to learn about their state, its history, and its people. In order for us to have a cohesive state, our history must be known. Mr. Perman informed the Board that 46 of Alaska's 55 school districts currently require their students to take Alaska History in high school. Anchorage School District, which is the largest school district in the state, does not.

Elsa Sargento stated that she was terribly saddened by the paintball incident; it was blatant, ugly racism coming from students in our classrooms. She reminded the Board that 40 percent of the children in classrooms are non-white. Students within the District speak over 80 languages. Ms. Sargento urged the School Board to mandate Alaska History for all high school students and to incorporate activities and curricula throughout K-12 students.

Susan Anderson, President & CEO of the CIRI Foundation spoke on behalf of Margaret Nelson, President of the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Ms. Anderson stated that combating racial indifference could be accomplished by instituting a required course in Alaska History and culture. The course should contain appropriate curriculum on valuing diversity and must come with a commitment to train teachers as well. To make a difference, the Anchorage School District must also build into its curriculum real-life, real-person experiences for teachers and students.

Ms. Anderson stated that the Alaska Native community is ready to work with the District on these issues. The Native Heritage Center is willing to provide Elders and tradition-bearers to work on the curriculum; help prepare teachers through seminars and inservices; and provide a place for experiential learning.

Ms. Holthouse stated that she received a call from a student at East High, and they have gathered a petition of 160 signatures, which will be sent to the School Board. Ms. Holthouse asked the group on how strong they were for wanting this as a succinct course rather than as a strand course.

John Floyd commented that he really appreciates the support this group has brought to the meeting tonight. He also stated that he would like to be part of the support group.

Dave Werdal stated that he interested in this, but will rely on the Administration and teachers for guidance in this area. Mr. Werdal expressed the need for input before a decision can be made.

Carol Comeau thanked the group for their testimony. Ms. Comeau stated that she would be very pleased to meet with the group about their strong interest in implementing this course. She would also like to hear from students, teachers, and organizations for input. Ms. Comeau personally feels that it is time for this to come forward. It is time to end the urban/rural divide. Ms. Comeau assured the group that she will come forward with a recommendation.

Rita Holthouse commented that when the recommendation comes forward that it include all budgetary items and training issues.

The School Board recessed at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

Student Advisory:

Hans Bernard said that the Student Advisory Board met today and his new replacement is Corey Rennell from Steller Alternative School.

Military Delegate:

No report.

MECC

No report

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 – April 4, 2001
- b. Special Meeting – April 9, 2001
- c. Regular Meeting – April 9, 2001
- c. Special Meeting – April 13, 2001

2. ASD Memorandum #282 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Verizon Gift Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the Verizon Foundation in the amount of \$15,000.

3. ASD Memorandum #261 – Approval of Math Textbook Adoptions For Integrated Math and Informal Geometry

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of the following math textbook and related materials for Integrated Math:

MathMatters 2. Lynch, et al. NTC/Contemporary Publishing Group, Inc. 2001.

It is also recommended that the School Board approve the adoption of the following math textbook and related materials for Informal Geometry:

Discovering Geometry, An Inductive Approach. Serra. Key Curriculum Press. 2001.

4. ASD Memorandum #293 – Award of Contract: Service High School Renewal Project, Phase 1A

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Service High School Renewal Project, Phase 1A to the lowest bidder, EBCO, for the Base Bid in the amount of \$598,000 and Alternate #1 in the amount of \$240,000 for a total award amount of \$838,000; and accept Unit Prices B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J as proposed.

5. ASD Memorandum #294 – Professional Services Selection: King Career Center Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of Krochina Architects as the designer for King Career Center Code Upgrades Project, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with Krochina Architects for consultant services as addressed in the Request for Proposals dated March 21, 2001.

6. ASD Memorandum #295 – Award of Contract: Wendler Middle School Renovation Phase I Sitework

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Wendler Middle School Renovation Phase 1 Sitework to the low responsive bidder, Summit Roads, for the Base Bid amount of \$1,731,061.88 and Alternates #1 in the amount of \$454,622 and #2 in the amount of \$160,000, for a total award amount of \$2,345,683.88.

7. ASD Memorandum #296 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Title II Math Professional Development Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for professional development in teaching mathematics.

8. ASD Memorandum #297 – Hazardous Transportation Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through F for the 2001-2002 school year.

9. ASD Memorandum #291 – Revision to School Board Policy Section 800: School Community Relations and School Board Policy 346.3: Library/Media Materials (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 800 (Attachment A), and School Board Policy 346.3 (Attachment B) on First Reading.

10. ASD Memorandum #301 – 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 Memorandums #282, #261, #293, and #291.

ACTION:

Moved by Harriet Drummond
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to approve the Minutes for the Special Meeting of April 4, 2001; Special meeting of April 9, 2001 as corrected; Regular Meeting of April 9, 2001; and Special Meeting of April 13, 2001; Memorandum #294; Memorandum #295; Memorandum #296; Memorandum #297; and Memorandum #301.

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #282 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Verizon Gift Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the Verizon Foundation in the amount of \$15,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #282
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Theresa Obermeyer complimented Scott Bacthelder and Bill Voss for obtaining the grant that has been funded. It is a wonderful partnership for students.

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #261 – Approval of Math Textbook Adoptions For Integrated Math and Informal Geometry

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of the following math textbook and related materials for Integrated Math:

MathMatters 2. Lynch, et al. NTC/Contemporary Publishing Group, Inc. 2001.

It is also recommended that the School Board approve the adoption of the following math textbook and related materials for Informal Geometry:

Discovering Geometry, An Inductive Approach. Serra. Key Curriculum Press. 2001.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #261
Seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Theresa Obermeyer asked what is informal geometry and assumes there is a syllabus for the class. She also thinks that if the class size is small that the students will get more out of the class.

Rita Holthouse asked if there are adequate funds to purchase a book for each student or will they purchase classroom sets. Dr. Fred Stofflet stated that there is money budgeted for individual books for students taking the course and for appropriate teacher editions.

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #293 – Award of Contract: Service High School
Renewal Project, Phase 1A

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Service High School Renewal Project, Phase 1A to the lowest bidder, EBCO, for the Base Bid in the amount of \$598,000 and Alternate #1 in the amount of \$240,000 for a total award amount of \$838,000; and accept Unit Prices B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I and J as proposed.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #293
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Debbie Ossiander commented that the Board should take notice that only three bids were received. Dick Cattanach, Associated General Contractors, has agreed to meet with the District to discuss ways to increase contractors' participation and hopes the Administration will consider his offer. Carol Comeau stated that she would be more than willing to discuss this issue with him.

Jake Metcalfe suggested that a discussion should occur with many different groups in the community. Carol Comeau asked for suggestions of people to include in this discussion.

Harriet Drummond received a question from the Abbott Loop Community Council regarding the hockey rink at Service High School and will they continue to have one with the construction. Ray Amsden said

the hockey rink would remain in place until the parking lot work is complete. Rita Holthouse questioned if the hockey rink is going to go away when the construction takes place. Ray Amsden replied that they need to revisit the plan to see where it will be placed, but there will be no elimination of the hockey rink from Service High School.

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #291 – Revision to School Board Policy Section 800:
School Community Relations and School Board Policy 346.3:
Library/Media Materials (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 800 (Attachment A), and School Board Policy 346.3 (Attachment B) on First Reading.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #291
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that she will include the Municipal Ordinance (AMC 17.10.010(B)) under Section 850.3 – Outdoor Areas (i). This ordinance requires permit holders to be responsible for any participants' or guests' compliance with the Municipality of Anchorage Ordinance that requires the removal of animal waste by the pet's owner.

This was passed unanimously.

Debbie Ossiander commented that this policy includes a lot of information and briefly outlined the areas where changes have been suggested by the Policy Subcommittee and where additional changes would be needed:

1. general reflection of current practice, change wording to assure cooperation;
2. outlines media access to schools;
3. clarifies access to public records;
4. timelines and appeal process in getting records;
5. when/where advertising is appropriate;

6. clarifies political activities;
7. community at-large complaints;
8. how facilities are used;
9. removes religious activities from prohibition; and
10. use of district materials and equipment.

Theresa Obermeyer commented that this policy is very complicated, but important to the community. The schools are widely used by the public and private school students.

Ms. Ossiander stated that she has a number of amendments in addition to the suggested changes by the Policy Subcommittee.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to insert "readily" before the last word utilized in the third paragraph under Section 850 – Use of School Facilities.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to add the following sentence in the fifth paragraph under Section 851.1:
The Superintendent or designee may waive the insurance requirement under unique circumstances."

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
Seconded by Harriet Drummond

to delete the last sentence in the first paragraph under Section 851.3 – Cancellation Procedures

“Cancellation of a permit covering an event which has been contractually arranged is the exception. (See 852.4e)”

VOTE:

Ayes: None

Nays: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILED

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to change the words “Acts of God” in sub-section d. under 851.4 – Use (Category V) to: “natural occurrences”

VOTE:

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to add the following sentence to the end of the paragraph under Section 853 – Assignment of Group Priorities: “However, Federal, State, or Municipal election polling places shall receive highest priority in scheduling and be approved without change.

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to delete the following words in the paragraph under Section 853.3 Category 3 – Non Profit Adult Organizations: “official public meetings related to school issues,”

VOTE:

Ayes: Werdal, Robinson, Ossiander,
Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: Holthouse, Floyd

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

the reference in sub section d
(856.2) under Section 853.5
Category 5 – Commercial Use
and Political Use should be
changed to: 855.2; and

the words “does not apply to” in
sub section e under Section 853.5
– Category 5 – Commercial Use
and Political Use should be
deleted and the word “includes”
should be inserted.

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

delete the first sentence in sub-
section Category 4 – Educational
Institutions under Section 854
Facilities Use Fees: “Facilities use
fees charged during regularly
staffed hours, except when
auditoriums are used.”

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander

to rewrite Section 853.3 in

seconded by Harriet Drummond clearer language with one heading to tie together.

Carol Comeau will discuss the rewrite of the language with Ms. Ossiander prior to second reading.

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson that Section 831.3 – was changed
seconded by Harriet Drummond in Policy Subcommittee, but not included in the final draft: ~~The use of e~~Citizens who wish to volunteer their time and talents to serve in schools ~~is~~ are encouraged and their services are coordinated through the unit principal for those... (third paragraph)

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson Section 840, second paragraph:
seconded by Rita Holthouse Administrators and staff are encouraged ~~to accept invitations~~ to accept invitations to appear...

VOTE:

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson,
Ossiander, Metcalfe, Drummond

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #298 – Third Quarter Suspension/Weapons
Expulsion Report – 2000-2001

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. This information is shown in the narrative information below and as Attachments A-F.

Overall suspensions decreased at the elementary level when comparing incidents from the third quarter of the 1999-2000 school year to 2000-2001. Elementary schools showed a significant decrease in fighting/assault, while there were slight increases in the areas of harassment and willful disobedience. Drug/alcohol/tobacco violations and weapons violations were both down from last year. There were no firearm incidents in the elementary schools during third quarter of this school year. Total suspensions in middle schools also decreased during third quarter, although there were increases in the areas of harassment, weapons, and willful disobedience. Fighting incidents remained the same and drug/alcohol/tobacco violations decreased by ten. There were no firearm incidents in middle schools during the third quarter. Overall suspensions in the high schools were also down during the third quarter of the 2000-2001 school year. Decreases were seen in the areas of assault and weapons, while drug/alcohol and smoking violations were down significantly. Increases occurred in the areas of fighting/threats, harassment, and willful disobedience. There was one firearm incident in high schools during the third quarter.

Carol Comeau stated that she is very pleased with the number of incidents that decreased during the third quarter. Pat McDowell stated that there is a revised memorandum #298 which reflects there were no firearms in high schools during the third quarter.

Rita Holthouse continues to be concerned about the second drug/alcohol expulsions. Ms. Holthouse requested a report be compiled by year by quarter showing this information.

Dave Werdal stated that this was a difficult policy to change. There are valid concerns about students experimenting with drugs versus hard core use of drugs.

Carol Comeau agrees with parent concerns over hard core use versus experimentation. The Administration shares the concern and would appreciate the latitude to differentiate the difference between experimentation and hard-core use. She would like to look at this policy over the summer and refer it to Policy Subcommittee.

Debbie Ossiander supports the request and would like to receive the information to review prior to it being referred to the Policy Subcommittee. Ms. Ossiander would also like a representative from the Police Department to see if this is a community at-large problem.

Peggy Robinson inquired as to how an expelled student will fit into the discussion on at the Policy Subcommittee meeting on the school for expelled students. Carol Comeau explained that she has been working with the Juvenile Justice Working Group for some time, and they also have a concern over the number of expelled students. The Administration is currently working on a grant to do something about this problem.

Ms. Robinson stated on a positive note that there is a 50 percent decrease in fighting from two years ago. Also, the number of assaults has decreased.

2. ASD Memorandum #299 - Third Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

The elementary schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow 15 to 20 minute individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarter for many years. The middle schools and high schools began the practice of providing opportunities at the end of the first

and third quarters for parents to pick-up their student's report cards and to confer briefly with the student's teacher(s) a few years ago.

These efforts have generally been well supported by parents and teachers over the years as can be seen in the information provided by each division. In cases where there has been a decrease in participation, the appropriate Instructional Division supervisor will be working with principals and their staffs and PTA or parent group to increase parent participation. The District will also attempt to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities so parents can be released from work to attend these conferences. It is also important for parents to realize they are always welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

Carol Comeau stated that the change in middle school conferences was not two years ago, but six years ago.

3. ASD Memorandum #328 – Office For Civil Rights Complaint Concerning High School Activities

For more than a year, High School Education, the EEO office, the Assistant Superintendent, and the District's attorney have been working with the U. S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights regarding compliance with Title IX. This is the result of an investigation into complaints filed by individuals desiring the addition of girls' hockey to high school interscholastic sports.

Carol Comeau explained that they have been working through the issues with the OCR office in Seattle, but have not come to a resolution. An effort was launched to achieve recognition by OCR of our existing competitive cheerleading squads. An effort to outsource bowling as a female interscholastic event is being evaluated and ways to generate more volleyball participation at the C-team level with additional squads and jamborees would all increase girls' interscholastic sports rosters.

Carol Comeau stated that the sport of football was examined because three schools had over 100 students turn out to play. By limiting the number of students on the roster would show OCR that the District was making progress. Two other schools had 30 players and one school had 40 players turn out for football. By

limiting the football squad, the District gained another 100 students towards the 500 mark to meet OCR standards.

Peggy Robinson asked what happens if the District does not comply with OCR standards. Pat McDowell stated that OCR could levy fines that would motivate the District to come into compliance. The District wants to cooperate with OCR.

Debbie Ossiander stated that football parents understand the rationale behind the decision, but are strongly opposed to limiting the students' participation. The parents want to put funds towards increasing girls' participation rather than limit the boys. Debbie Ossiander would like the Administration to look at participation fees to see if we can recruit girls for sports. It is counterproductive to limit kids in sports activities.

Dave Werdal asked if the Administration has checked to see if the 30 to 40 extra kids are playing on the C-Team. Mr. Werdal stated that he expects a fair amount of complaints from the three schools where the football squads have been limited.

Mr. Werdal asked if the decrease of students on the football squad is an administrative decision and not voted on by the School Board. If this is the case, he indicated that he will tell people that he doesn't agree with the decision and did not get to vote on it.

Carol Comeau stated that she did not want the Board to go away thinking that they have no say in this decision. Ms. Comeau said that the Administration has worked hard with OCR to solve this issue, and this is a way to equalize the opportunities between boys and girls. If Ms. Comeau found there were girls willing to play hockey, the Administration would bring this issue back to the Board and request the establishment of girls' hockey, which will cost a minimum of \$80,000.

Debbie Ossiander stated that it should go before the Board on how the District responds to OCR. Ms. Ossiander feels that this topic should be calendared and discussed. Carol Comeau will talk with the OCR attorneys and find out where we are at this point and what the fines may be.

4. ASD Memorandum on Spring 2001 Testing (no number assigned)

Fred Stofflet informed the Board that there was an error in the programming for grades 4 and 7 spring testing. Parent mailers did not have correct scores on them. The problem was corrected and revised reports were printed and mailed today to parents.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Sara Gantt expressed concerns over the framework of the Capital Requests Advisory Committee. She supports the attempts to restructure, but feels the three-year timeline is wrong. Ms. Gantt encouraged the Board to extend the terms to five years with staggering terms. With the term limitations, the members may not be able to provide candid feedback; the older members are invaluable. Ms. Gantt also thought the name of the committee should be renamed; "C.R.A.C." is not an appropriate name for any committee.

Dee Hubbard spoke on behalf of the Anchorage Council of PTAs. She has three main concerns of the committee: (1) the committee representation was cut from three members to one member; (2) no formal notification on the structure of the committee was given; and (3) there is an unreasonable time limit for members.

Personally speaking, Ms. Hubbard doesn't agree with the term limits, there was no notice given to members on the restructuring of the committee. Ms. Hubbard does like the meeting structure of four meetings per year compared to one, but feels that the restructuring of the committee is a slap in the face to the volunteers.

Carol Comeau stated that she was sorry if the acronym C.R.A.C. offends people. The name of the committee is the Capital Advisory Requests Committee and should be referred to in that context. There is no exclusion for any current member to apply. Ms. Comeau explained that they are broadening the committee to look at all schools. There was an oversight on the PTA representative, which Ms. Comeau stated would be adjusted. PTA should be able to select their own representative instead of the President being assigned to the committee. The committee has been expanded to include a middle school representative, a principal from each level, MECC, AEA, Chugiak/Eagle River Chamber of Commerce, and the design/construction community. The intent is not to exclude anyone on this committee, but bring a broader perspective from within the community. Ms. Comeau stated that she believes in staggered terms and the additional meetings throughout the year. She believes the members will become more educated in the wide range of community needs.

Laura Waldon spoke on issues at Fairview and Mountain View. She feels that minority parents are not treated fairly and are intimidated by the Administration. Ms. Waldron stated that language is a barrier because parents can't communicate with the Administration. She also asked why there has been no diversity training for teachers. Ms. Waldron was also upset that the parents were not notified of a bomb threat at Fairview.

Ms. Waldron also stated that children are at-risk while riding schools buses due to diesel fumes.

Kimberly Watts, parent of a child at Mountain View Elementary School, is concerned with school safety. She stated children are not being treated humanely at the school, and her child has come home with bruises. Ms. Watts appreciates the changes that Ms. Comeau has made at the school, but feels the stabbing incident at Mountain View would not have happened if the people would have listened to her in the beginning. Ms. Watts is very concerned that the man was able to run about the school for 13 minutes before a 911 call was made.

Ms. Comeau agreed that the Administration needs to get out more into the community. The mayor has also committed to have a town meeting to talk with parents. Carol Comeau stated that during a call-in show she was on, a Spanish speaking parent called in and requested a Spanish speaking counselor.

Carol Comeau informed Ms. Waldron that a letter did go home with all students at Fairview on the day the bomb threat occurred. It is unfortunate that parents do not look into their child's backpack to see if there are any notes from the school administration.

Ms. Comeau also agreed that the teachers, administration, and school staff need more diversity training. She assured both Ms. Waldron and Ms. Watts that the school district does care about the Mountain View community.

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Carol Comeau informed the Board that there needs to be a Special School Board meeting to address the budget revisions and would be a single agenda item. She also encouraged the Board members to send in specific requests for program reinstatements or any suggested recommendations they would like to see included in the budget by Friday, May 18, 2001

because the items may need to be costed out by the budget department. The Superintendent and the Board President will set the meeting date for the Special Board meeting.

There is a special School Board meeting set for May 29, 2001 from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. to address any suspensions/expulsions for graduating seniors.

Debbie Ossiander called both Carol Comeau and Peggy Robinson to ask that the Board have a work session to discuss school safety issues. Ms. Ossiander would like an assessment of what our security situation is. She feels notification to parents is a huge topic and would be interested in talking about this topic with the School Board.

Mr. Allen Tesche, Assembly Member, requested the Chief of Police, Walt Monegan, and Carol Comeau attend a Safety Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 15. Ms. Comeau stated that there has not been enough time to critique the Mountain View situation and the debriefing was not complete. Ms. Comeau suggested to the Board that representatives from the Anchorage Police Department come to the work session and speak to the Board.

Topics for future work sessions include school safety, delivery of gifted education (especially at the middle schools), and high school smaller learning communities.

Rita Holthouse commented that she attended the National School Boards Conference in San Diego and would be happy to provide the notes from the school safety session. Ms. Holthouse also inquired if there were groups available to do audits on school safety.

Carol Comeau explained that she believes there are excellent resources available locally, Anchorage Police Department and the Military, to assist the District.

Carol Comeau informed the Board that a tentative date has been chosen for the dinner with the Board and the Anchorage Principals' Association. She will provide additional information once the date has been confirmed.

Dave Werdal inquired if the new position to cover the School Business Partnership and the School to Work grant was not funded as they thought by the Board.

Carol Comeau stated that the position is considered full-time under the ACE contract. Ellen Montague originally thought that the benefits were not included in the funded amount. Ms. Comeau feels that 9.5 months is adequate because schools are out during the summer months. If additional funds were added to increase the length of the person's contract, the District may not be able to absorb the additional cost should it not be funded by an outside agency for the same amount in the next year.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 14, 2001 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:45 p.m.

Peggy Robinson, President

Harriet Drummond, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved