

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2000

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, December 11, 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, Dave Werdal, Bettye Davis, Rita Holthouse, Tom Anderson, Harriet Drummond and Debbie Ossiander.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Pat McDowell, Jim Taylor, Gail Opalinski, Patricia McRae, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Ed Conyers, Lee Wilson, Ellen Montague, Michelle Egan, Stan Syta, Ray Amsden, Bob Henry, Bill Mikawa, Todd Hess, Julie Ginder, Tom Bibeau, William Greene, Hans Bernard 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.

Carol Comeau announced that the Administration Building will be closed December 22 through January 1 and will reopen January 2, 2001.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum #133 – PRSA Aurora Awards

Each year the Alaska Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America recognizes excellence in public relations through the Aurora Awards and the Awards of Excellence. This year, the Anchorage School District received a first place Aurora Award in the internal communications category for its employee appreciation program and a second place award in the World Wide Web category for ASD On-line, the District web site.

Last year the Public Affairs Department rolled out a comprehensive employee appreciation program to recognize the achievement, service, and dedication of

employees and volunteers at all levels of the organization. The most visible component of the program is the Qu yana award, which may be given to any ASD employee or volunteer.

In 1999, the Public Affairs Department hired David McCreath to serve as ASD's webmaster. Thanks to his talent and expertise in web design, the Public Affairs Department was able to unveil a vastly enhanced and user-friendly web site in early 2000.

The School Board recognized the Public Affairs Department and former webmaster David McCreath for their commitment to providing excellence in ASD public relations.

ASD Memorandum #151 – 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. Two or three times each year, a committee of Anchorage School District employees selects 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 December 2000 are Greg Brown of Dimond High School, Margaret Falsey of Rabbit Creek Elementary and Beth Kaser of Kasuun Elementary.

The two classified staff members receiving Denali awards are Dan Traxinger and Art Ayala, both of Dimond High School.

Executive Director of Elementary Education Patricia McRae received a letter of support from her Supervisor, Pat McDowell, but she was nominated by one-third of the principals she supervises. Calling her the "Energizer Bunny" of elementary education, principals say she is resourceful, creative and intuitive.

Members of the Goldenview Middle School Technology Committee are the recipients of the Denali "team" award. Principal Connie Bensler nominated the team and said the following:

"Since before we opened our doors, this group of 14 people has spent countless hours developing a philosophy and practice of the use of technology for our students, staff and community. We have the only on-line, networked PC lab in the District. We have Macs and Dells in every classroom and about half of these computers are on carts and can be relocated to create portable mini-labs. Our web page has team and elective pages with up-to-the-minute information and assignments." This year the team created an impressive technology awards program that recognizes students for achievements in ten areas of technology, ranging from keyboarding to web pages, video production and

networking. Thanks to the technology committee, Goldenview Middle School students are better prepared to meet the challenges of this fast-paced, high-tech world.

The School Board recognized these 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 #153 – Russian Jack Elementary School Hero

In many ways all Anchorage School District employees are heroes, but every once in a while an employee performs an act of heroism that deserves special attention.

Recently during lunch at Russian Jack Elementary School, building plant operator Glenda Compton noticed a second-grade student in distress. It seems the girl was choking on a piece of carrot and could not breathe. Compton quickly came to the student's aid by performing the Heimlich maneuver. Although the student was shaken by the ordeal, she left the lunchroom healthy and happy thanks to Compton's poise under pressure.

The School Board recognized Glenda Compton for her heroic act at Russian Jack Elementary.

ASD Memorandum #154 – National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Thirteen Anchorage School District seniors are among 16,000 students nationwide on the National Merit Scholarship semifinalist list.

The students became semifinalists by scoring well on the Preliminary SAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, taken in their junior year. Less than one percent of the 1.2 million high school juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 1999 became semifinalists.

These students now have the opportunity to vie for nearly 8,000 Merit Scholarship awards to be offered in the spring of 2001.

Congratulations to the following academically-talented students:

Justin Muschinske and Rebekah Smith from Chugiak High School;
Jessica Campaign, Rita Glasionov, Matthew Moon and Patrick Newman from Dimond High School; Matthew Iverson from East High School; Julian Brelsford from Family Partnership; Aaron Fuhr, Mary Hiatt, William Hinckley and Sarah Mapes from Service High School; and Brittany Loken from Steller Secondary School

The School Board recognized these students for achieving semifinalist status in this prestigious competition.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTSStudent Advisory:

Hans Bernard announced that the Student Advisory Board is in the process of a revision to the harassment policy and will present their revision to the Policy Committee upon completion.

Military Delegate:

No report.

M.E.C.C.:

Reverend Greene, M.E.C.C. Chair, commented that the committee has reviewed the recommended budget cuts very thoroughly and could not agree on one single recommended cut noting that the recommendation should be to increase the budget. Reverend Greene explained that education should not be cut and doing so would be a great disservice to the community.

Other:

Peggy Robinson recognized Bettye Davis, senator-elect, and announced that this will be the last Regular School Board meeting for Ms. Davis.

The Superintendent and the School Board recognized Mary Tanghe for her dedication to the Anchorage School District and to the School Board noting that Ms. Tanghe will be retiring the end of December.

F. PRESENTATIONG. 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 | - | November 20, 2000 – 4:30 p.m. |
| b. | Special Meeting | - | November 20, 2000 – 6:30 p.m. |
| c. | Special Meeting | - | November 21, 2000 |
| d. | Special Meeting | - | December 4, 2000 |

2. ASD Memorandum #152 – Recommendation Regarding Status Of Walden Pond Charter School

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to close the Walden Pond Charter School at the end of their first semester, December 15, 2000.

3. ASD Memorandum #145 – 2001 General Obligation Bond Recommendations

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve a bond proposal package for capital construction totaling \$73,729,000. This incorporates the following projects:

Districtwide Major Maintenance:		\$11,987,000
Minor Building Renewal Projects	\$3,210,000	
Electrical Projects	1,553,000	
Maintenance Equipment	734,000	
Mechanical Projects	4,540,000	
Roof Replacement and Repairs	1,275,000	
Traffic Safety Upgrades	675,000	
Evaluation Studies:		860,000
Energy Conservation Study	\$375,000	
Phase 1		
Whaley School Planning	75,000	
Earthquake Shelter Evaluation	200,000	
Polaris K-12 Planning	100,000	
5-School Traffic Safety Planning	110,000	
Wendler MS Phase 2a		13,500,000
King Career Center Code Renovation		3,000,000
Service HS Phase 2a		15,340,000
East HS Phases 2 & 3		13,752,000
Bartlett HS Phase 2a		11,790,000
Ptarmigan Classroom and MPR Addition		3,500,000
		<hr/>
	TOTAL	<u><u>\$73,729,000</u></u>

4. ASD Memorandum #136 – Award Of Contract: Consulting Services For Medical And Life Insurance Benefits

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to Marsh USA, Inc. for Consulting Services for Medical and Life Insurance Benefits, in the amount of \$24,000 for the period January 1, 2001 through June 30, 2001 for fiscal year 2000-2001; \$49,000 for the period July 1, 2001

through June 30, 2002 for fiscal year 2001-2002; \$51,000 for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 for fiscal year 2002-2003; \$26,000 for the period July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003 for half of the fiscal year 2003-2004. Total fixed fee of this contract is \$150,000.

5. ASD Memorandum #138 – Acceptance Of Continuation Grant Award: Safe And Drug-Free Schools Peer Education Initiatives

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from the Alaska Highway Safety Planning Agency, in the amount of \$62,531 to fund the Safe and Drug-Free Schools (SDFS) Program's peer education program.

6. ASD Memorandum #139 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Safe And Drug-Free Schools Peer Educators Fair

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from the Alaska Highway Safety Planning Agency in the amount of \$23,940 to fund a peer education conference/fair.

7. ASD Memorandum #146 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: School Safety Pilot Program Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Anchorage Fire Department, in the amount of \$10,000.

8. ASD Memorandum #149 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Municipality Of Anchorage WIA School Youth Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Municipality of Anchorage in the amount of \$74,116.

9. ASD Memorandum #147 – Board Approval: High School Course – Analyzing And Displaying Data

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of Analyzing and Displaying Data, a one-semester math course at the high school level.

10. ASD Memorandum #129 – Contract With AASB For Superintendent Search Consultant Services

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Professional Services Contract with the Association of Alaska School Boards for Superintendent Search Services for \$12,000 plus expenses.

11. ASD Memorandum #140 – Personnel Report

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Professional Services Contract with the Association of Alaska School Boards for Superintendent Search Services for \$12,000 plus expenses.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #152, #145, #136, #147 and #129.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 20, 2000 (4:30 p.m.); the Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 20, 2000 (6:30 p.m.); the Minutes of the Special Meeting of November 21, 2000; the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 4, 2000; Memorandum #138; Memorandum #139; Memorandum #146; Memorandum #149; and Memorandum #140.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #152 – Recommendation Regarding Status Of Walden Pond Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to close the Walden Pond Charter School at the end of their first semester, December 15, 2000.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal to approve Memorandum #152.
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Carol Comeau explained that it is with a great deal of regret to have to make this recommendation noting that there has been a great deal of care and concern for the students of Walden Pond Charter School in trying to make this program work. The requirement of having at least 200 students in a charter school in order to receive funding from the State puts a serious budgeting dilemma on charter schools. After analyzing the student enrollment, this school would be left with a bare-bones budget and it was decided that this school could not remain open. Ms. Comeau apologized for having to make this recommendation and noted that arrangements have been made for the seniors to go with Ms. Hackett, Headmistress, to Benny Benson if they so choose. The other students can go back to their neighborhood schools or other schools through zone exemptions.

Megan Hackett, Headmistress of Walden Pond, expressed concern about the future of her students noting that closure at semester time will make their transition to other schools very difficult. Ms. Hackett noted that due to the personalized approach at Walden Pond, students have learned many positives and their individual self-esteem continues to increase. Ms. Hackett further noted that she is very grateful for the years Walden Pond has been a charter school noting that smaller, more individualized programs are better for students than the much larger schools.

Nikki Blazka, senior at Walden Pond, explained that this school has been extremely helpful to her noting that it has been a caring and safe learning environment for its students.

Robert Hayes, parent of two elementary children at Inlet View commented that he has heard very many positive things about this charter school and efforts should be made in the future to continue schools of this type. Mr. Hayes further noted that charter schools are suppose to do more with less and that if regular schools were subject to this same type of scrutiny, all of the District's schools would probably be closed.

Tony Hussey, Walden Pond Academic Policy Committee Chair, commented that he appreciates the support the District has given to this charter school and that although he would rather not see the school close, under the present circumstances it is not viable for it to continue.

Sylvia Betes, Walden Pond parent, commented that the teachers at Walden Pond have been very resourceful and extremely helpful to all of the students noting that not all kids fall into the same mold. Ms. Betes further noted that closing Walden Pond will have a serious affect on all of its students.

Tiffany Thompson, student at Walden Pond, commented that many kids are terrified of having to go to a public school noting that lots of kids feel safer at the smaller schools and urged the Board to consider their feelings.

Paulette Marino, Walden Pond parent, expressed concern that this type of charter school is very much needed in the Anchorage School District noting that this program was the choice of many parents and students. Ms. Marino further noted that this program really works for kids and it is very difficult to see Walden Pond have to close its doors.

Carol Comeau stated that having to close this school was a very difficult decision to make and committed to the parents that staff will help, in any way they can, to assist them and their students in getting them into the best school environment as possible. Ms. Comeau further stated that the school will close December 15 and the students will get credit for an entire semester (second semester will begin January 23).

Peggy Robinson stated that when Walden Pond first came forward, the Board had a very real hope for the success of this program. Ms. Robinson further noted that it has been very frustrating that the District didn't have space for this program in one of its own facilities which would have helped the program's budget. Ms. Robinson further noted that the re-designing of future middle schools and high schools should help in securing additional classroom space for other types of educational programs such as charter schools.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #145 – 2001 General Obligation Bond Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a bond proposal package for capital construction totaling \$73,729,000. This incorporates the following projects:

Districtwide Major Maintenance:		\$11,987,000
Minor Building Renewal Projects	\$3,210,000	
Electrical Projects	1,553,000	
Maintenance Equipment	734,000	
Mechanical Projects	4,540,000	
Roof Replacement and Repairs	1,275,000	
Traffic Safety Upgrades	675,000	
Evaluation Studies:		860,000
Energy Conservation Study Phase 1	\$375,000	

Regular Meeting of December 11, 2000

Whaley School Planning	75,000	
Earthquake Shelter Evaluation	200,000	
Polaris K-12 Planning	100,000	
5-School Traffic Safety Planning	110,000	
Wendler MS Phase 2a		13,500,000
King Career Center Code Renovation		3,000,000
Service HS Phase 2a		15,340,000
East HS Phases 2 & 3		13,752,000
Bartlett HS Phase 2a		11,790,000
Ptarmigan Classroom and MPR Addition		<u>3,500,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u><u>\$73,729,000</u></u>

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #145.
 seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau thanked the Capital Projects Committee who met in late November to address the District's capital needs. This recommendation assesses what is needed to keep the District's projects moving forward.

George Vakalis and Ray Amsden gave a brief presentation of the Administration's bond recommendation explaining the current priority needs of the District. Mr. Amsden explained that the committee looked at maximizing the efficiency and minimizing the impact of school programs during the different phases of the projects noting that some projects cannot be implemented any sooner than how they are listed. Mr. Vakalis noted that the breaking down of the phases will be less cumbersome to the overcrowded schools.

Ivan Moore of Moore and Associates explained the recent bond package survey noting that the results have been extremely positive. Mr. Moore noted that the majority of those surveyed were favorable toward a \$74 million bond along with an additional, separate \$40 million bond for a new Chugiak/Eagle River High School.

Damon Carey, Polaris K-12 PE teacher, explained that Polaris has no gym and gym activities take place in the school's multipurpose room which is also where many other activities take place including lunch. Also, when gym classes are in session, many classes are disrupted by the noise because of the inadequate insulation of the surrounding classrooms. Mr. Carey noted that a separate gym for Polaris K-12 would not only enhance the program at Polaris but the entire community as well.

Kitte' Miller, Polaris K-12 parent, noted that when Polaris first opened, there were plans to expand the facility but that has never happened. The existing facility is contributing to facility problems as well as maintenance costs and needs to be

addressed. Ms. Miller stated that this program is no longer an experiment but a highly successful program and urged the Board to include Polaris K-12 in the bond recommendation.

Dylan Kentch, Polaris K-12 senior, urged the Board to include enough money in this bond package to complete a gym for Polaris. Mr. Kentch explained that the entire school is poorly insulated and gym classes should not interfere with other classes and a gym would not only address this problem but would enhance the learning environment for all students at Polaris.

Lauren Agni, Polaris K-12 senior, commented that Polaris has the most inspirational teachers in the District who have the ability to actually bond with their students. Teachers at Polaris actually want to see each student succeed. Ms. Agni urged the Board to include the entire Phase 2 of Polaris in this bond recommendation noting that teachers and students need a facility where they can teach and learn to the maximum of their ability.

Patti Paiz, Ptarmigan Elementary PTA President, commented that Ptarmigan is the most over-capacity school in the District and it is definitely time to construct an addition to this school.

Jimmy Daniels, Ptarmigan Elementary Principal, speaking on behalf of the Ptarmigan Learning Committee, thanked the School Board for including Ptarmigan in this bond recommendation noting that an addition will be greatly appreciated by the Ptarmigan community.

Jeff Lipscomb read a resolution to the School Board on behalf of the Service High School PTSA which supports placing the remaining phases for Service High School, with completion in 2004, on this bond recommendation. Mr. Lipscomb explained that Service High School is extremely over-capacity and urged the Board to include all phases on this bond recommendation.

Chris Birch, President of Mid-Hillside Community Council, urged the Board to support full funding for the remaining phases for Service High School noting that South Anchorage will definitely be out there to help pass this bond proposition. Mr. Birch explained that Service is the largest and most crowded high school in Alaska and it is time to address this issue.

Heidi Postishek, Polaris K-12 teacher, along with four elementary student representatives, asked the Board for help to address some of their needs such as a gym, a stage and a larger lunchroom. The student representatives explained that most teenagers have to eat their lunch in the hallways because there is no room for anymore tables in the lunchroom and that if Polaris had a bigger gym they could have more activities. Also, the older students need a place to study and to meet with friends other than the hallway.

Sara Gantt asked the School board to re-think the current recommendation and to include Phases 2 and 3 for Service High School in the recommendation. Ms. Gantt reminded the Board that Service is very overcrowded and it is imperative to move forward and take care of Service High School. Ms. Gantt also reminded the Board that Service was the only school to qualify for the DEED grant fund for 70 percent direct reimbursement from the State of Alaska.

Theresa Obermeyer commented that the students in this District deserve decent buildings and noted that she is advocating not only for East High School but all the schools in the entire city.

Bob Woofter, Polaris K-12 parent, stated that the program at Polaris has been very successful and has also saved the District and the taxpayers a great deal of money. Mr. Woofter further stated that even though Polaris has been very successful, it has never received what was promised when it was first opened. The staff and students have been asked to do so much with so little for such a long time and it is now time to address the many issues of this facility.

Peggy Brown, Service High School community member, urged the Board to include Service High School's remaining phases in this bond recommendation noting that there are still health and safety issues from twelve years ago that still need to be addressed.

Crystal Kennedy, educational representative for the Eagle River Valley Community Council, commented that the Chugiak/Eagle River community feels that they are once again being left off the bond proposal. Ms. Kennedy explained that Chugiak High School now has 15 portables on its campus. The entire situation at Chugiak High School is very serious which will not change any time soon as the entire community continues to grow. Ms. Kennedy urged the School Board to include a new secondary school for the Chugiak/Eagle River area on this bond recommendation.

Anna Fairclough, Assembly member and Chugiak/Eagle River parent, explained that she appreciates the District's efforts in trying to address the needs of all schools through phasing but that has created a lot of itsy-bitsy projects that now need to be funded. Ms. Fairclough further explained that there is also a very great need for a new secondary school in the Chugiak/Eagle River area and suggested that the Board consider the inclusion of a new high school for this area in their bond recommendation. Ms. Fairclough further noted that the various on-going construction phases need to be addressed and completed.

Kathleen Stevenson thanked the Board for including Bartlett High School in the bond recommendation noting that the Bartlett community is looking forward to accomplishing some of their facility goals. Ms. Stevenson stated that the Bartlett community will definitely be out there to support the District's bond proposition.

Chuck Fanin, Bartlett High School Assistant Principal, commented that he and the entire Bartlett community are strong advocates for the bond recommendation noting that classroom space has really become an issue at Bartlett.

Margo Bellamy, Wendler Middle School Principal, commented that Wendler has been waiting for a very long time for their renovations and the entire Wendler community is pleased that their school is included in the bond recommendation.

Trudy Keller, East High School and Wendler Middle School advocate, thanked the Board for including both East and Wendler in the bond recommendation noting that the community is very grateful that their facility needs are being considered.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Tom Anderson
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to add \$3.5 million for planning,
renovation and addition
(including a gym) to Polaris K-12
and to delete \$100,000 for
planning.

Tom Anderson explained that this would address the needs expressed by the Polaris community and that this amount should not negatively affect the vote on the total bond package. Mr. Anderson commented that it is time that Polaris K-12 had a real gymnasium.

Rita Holthouse commented that she is generally satisfied with the Administration's bond proposal with the exception of Polaris K-12. Dr. Holthouse explained that since PE is a course requirement and since this course is disrupting the education of other students, a gym is necessary for this school. Dr. Holthouse further stated that she fully supports this amendment.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Dave Werdal
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to set up a second bond of
\$40.2 million for an Chugiak/
Eagle River Secondary
School.

Dave Werdal explained that a new secondary facility in the Chugiak/Eagle River area is very badly needed and it is time to proceed in this direction. This is worded as a secondary school to leave some flexibility in the type of school that will be built.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Holthouse

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to add \$8.78 million for Service
seconded by Harriet Drummond High School, Phase 2, to the \$4.2
million bond.

Debbie Ossiander explained that since phasing is very expensive and since Service is in the worst shape of all the high schools, this would not only lower the cost of the Service renovation but would also add a little geographic balance to the bond.

Dave Werdal expressed concern about having two different components on a different bond and this may also confuse the voters. Mr. Werdal stated that he is not in favor of putting two phases on separate bonds.

Carol Comeau commented that it appears that there is plenty of support to put the Chugiak/Eagle River proposal on a separate bond. Ms. Comeau further commented that it might not be wise to split Service on two different bonds.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond

Nays: Ossiander, Werdal, Robinson,
Holthouse, Anderson, Davis

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson that Bartlett, Phase 2b be included
seconded by Betty Davis in the bond for \$5,281,000
additional, or a total for Phase 2
of \$17,071,000.

Peggy Robinson explained that Bartlett's Phase 2a and 2b are not as clear cut as the Phases for Service and people in Muldoon sometimes feel they are getting shorted. Ms. Robinson noted that it would only be fair to East Anchorage to fully fund Phase 2.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Robinson, Anderson,
Davis

Nays: Ossiander, Werdal, Holthouse

AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #136 – Award Of Contract: Consulting Services For Medical And Life Insurance Benefits

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to Marsh USA, Inc. for Consulting Services for Medical and Life Insurance Benefits, in the amount of \$24,000 for the period January 1, 2001 through June 30, 2001 for fiscal year 2000-2001; \$49,000 for the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002 for fiscal year 2001-2002; \$51,000 for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003 for fiscal year 2002-2003; \$26,000 for the period July 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003 for half of the fiscal year 2003-2004. Total fixed fee of this contract is \$150,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #136.
seconded by Tom Anderson

The speaker who signed up to address this memorandum was not present.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

By unanimous consent, the Consent Agenda was changed to address Memorandum #129 before addressing Memorandum #147.

ASD Memorandum #129 – Contract With AASB For Superintendent Search Consultant Services

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Professional Services Contract with the Association of Alaska School Boards for Superintendent Search Services for \$12,000 plus expenses.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #129.
seconded by Dave Werdal

Mary Marks, M.E.C.C. and Native Education Advisory Committee member, urged the Board to appoint Carl Comeau as superintendent noting that Ms. Comeau is fully aware of the needs of Alaska Native students.

Reverend Greene, M.E.C.C. Chair, strongly urged the Board to appoint Carol Comeau as superintendent noting that Ms. Comeau knows the District and the District (as well as the entire community) know her. Reverend Greene further stated that Ms. Comeau is a very good person to work with and he supports her 100 percent.

Connie Bensler, APA President, stated that the Anchorage Principals' Association endorses Carol Comeau as the District's next superintendent and urged the Board to appoint her as superintendent of schools.

Donna Guillory, parent of two children in the District, suggested that the Board conduct a nationwide superintendent search in order to have a wider selection of candidates to choose from for the position of superintendent.

Ellen Gamel, TOTEM President, urged the Board to cancel the proposal for a nationwide search for superintendent noting that the District has a very qualified person already on board for that position in Carol Comeau. Ms. Gamel stated that Ms. Comeau cares how employees feel and readily asks for their involvement.

Aurora Hovland, 29 year resident and lifetime volunteer, stated that the Filipino community strongly recommends and endorses Carol Comeau to be appointed as superintendent. Ms. Hovland commented on the many, many positive comments that have been in the newspaper recently about Ms. Comeau noting that she is a woman of integrity and character. Ms. Hovland further noted that this community is very fortunate to have a person of Ms. Comeau's caliber at the helm of the Anchorage School District.

Thelma Buchholdt, member of many local and national Asian organizations, stated that it is very important that someone of Carol Comeau's caliber be appointed as superintendent of the Anchorage School District. Ms. Buchholdt further stated that Ms. Comeau is highly respected throughout the entire community and strongly urged the Board to appoint her and to cancel any nationwide search.

Robert Hayes stated that he fully supports the appointment of Carol Comeau as superintendent and was very pleased that there were so many positive comments about Ms. Comeau from the entire community. Mr. Hayes also asked the Board to put the *Persons To Be Heard* portion of the agenda back to the first part of their meetings.

VOTE:

Ayes: None

Nays: Drummond, Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson, Holthouse, Anderson, Davis

MOTION FAILED.

ACTION:

Moved by Tom Anderson
seconded by Rita Holthouse

that the School Board enter into contract negotiations with Carol Comeau for the position of Superintendent of the Anchorage School District.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #147 – Board Approval: High School Course – Analyzing And Displaying Data

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of Analyzing and Displaying Data, a one-semester math course at the high school level.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to approve Memorandum #147.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she was under the impression that the District was going to try to get an AP Statistics course in the high schools and inquired if the District is shifting away from trying to offer AP Statistics.

Sandy Schoff explained that AP courses are available at every high school but it depends on whether or not there is a student population interested in having it. Ms. Schoff further explained that AP Statistics can be taught at any high school if 30 students sign up for it.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she thought this course would be for kids who failed the math portion of the exit exam.

Sandy Schoff responded that wasn't the design of the course; this is a statistics course that students could take after Algebra and Geometry. This course targets the students who have a fundamental understanding of Algebra and Geometry noting that this course would enhance their performance.

Rita Holthouse inquired if this class is open to any student who wants to take it even if they have already taken Pre-Calculus or Calculus.

Sandy Schoff replied that it was not.

Rita Holthouse asked if the senior high principals concurred with this decision.

Jim Taylor responded that the principals concurred and further noted that for those students who are not highly successful in Algebra or Geometry, that it would be incumbent upon their counselors as to whether or not they would be able to take this course. Mr. Taylor further explained that those students who could pass harder courses wouldn't be in this particular course.

Peggy Robinson commented that since each high school does not offer AP Statistics (because of the low enrollment for that course) that to limit the kids who can sign up for this course because they got a C or better in Algebra 2 is of great concern to her.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Tom Anderson

that the following statement be added to the Recommendation: (Additional wording is underlined.) It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of *Analyzing and Displaying Data*, a one-semester math course at the high school level, open to all students who have completed Algebra I and Geometry.

Rita Holthouse explained that this would cover the situation if a school were unable to offer AP Statistics. Dr. Holthouse further explained that there might be some students who have advanced in math who would like to take this course as an elective.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Robinson,
Holthouse, Anderson, Davis

Nays: Ossiander, Werdal

AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #141 – Facility Project Report And Change Order Report For The Month Of October 2000

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

ASD Memorandum #142 – First 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. The information is shown in the narrative information below and as Attachments A-F.

Overall suspensions increased at the elementary level when comparing incidents from the first quarter of the 1999-2000 school year. Elementary schools showed increases in harassment and weapons; decreases were seen in fighting, willful disobedience and drug/alcohol/tobacco use. Suspensions in middle schools have increased slightly from last year in the areas of fighting/assault, but decreased in the areas of harassment, weapons, drugs/alcohol/tobacco, and disobedience violations. Suspensions at the high school level have increased in the areas of fighting/threats, assault, harassment, weapons, and drug/alcohol, but have decreased in firearms, smoking, and willful disobedience.

ASD Memorandum #143 – First 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 participation during the third quarter of the school year. The District will also attempt to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities so that

parents can be released from work to attend these conferences. It is also important for parents to realize that they are always welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

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 December 11, 2000 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 12:08 a.m., December 12, 2000.

Peggy Robinson, President

-----, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved