

## **MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD**

### **SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 30, 2001**

The Anchorage School Board met in a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2001, at 4:30 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, Rita Holthouse; Debbie Ossiander, Tom Anderson and Harriet Drummond.

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Pat McDowell, George Vakalis, Janet Stokesbary, Marie Laule, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Jim Taylor, Robyn Rehmann, Fred Stofflet, Ray Amsden, Norm Holthouse, Steve Kalmes, Teresa Johnson, Ellen Montague, John Alexander, Bill Mikawa, Stan Syta, Lee Wilson, Brent Rock, Neal Black, Mary Lou Boughton, Bob Henry, Tom Bibeau, Betsy Nickels, Michelle Egan, Russ Ament, Hans Bernard, Grace Likeness, the press and other interested persons.

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

#### **B. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **ASD Memorandum #192 – FY 2001-2002 Proposed Financial Plan (Revised) (Second Reading)**

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2001-2002 Proposed Financial Plan as set forth in the projected revenue and expenditure schedules in this memorandum and the budget revisions made by the School Board during the first reading on January 24, 2001 (Attachment A). Projected revenues exceeded projected expenditures by \$83,714. The total budget recommendation of \$424,101,236 is based on approved revenues as of the first reading of the budget. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

	Proposed FY 2001-2002 <u>Financial Plan</u>
General Fund	\$337,461,258
Food Service Fund	10,888,000
Debt Service Fund	47,751,978
Local/State/Federal Projects Fund	<u>28,000,000</u>
Total – All Funds	<u>\$424,101,236</u>

The total of local tax contribution to be requested is \$134,844.130.

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling above in accordance with any education-related ballot proposition that may be approved in the April 3, 2001, Municipal Election.

Peggy Robinson announced the fire code capacity requirements for the Board Room and stated that chairs were set up on the third floor for people to view the meeting if they were unable to find a seat in the Board Room.

Carol Comeau announced that the Administration substituted a revised Response to Request for Information memorandum #01-38 due to a change in its title. The correct title of the memorandum is National Award Programs for Teachers rather than the one received earlier.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #192.  
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Amy Friedman, student, spoke about the advantages of the Band and Orchestra Program.

Ceci Walker, student, spoke in favor of maintaining the Band and Orchestra Program.

Matt Nolan, President AEA, read a statement about budget cuts. Mr. Nolan addressed the shortage of employees and the difficulty of attracting qualified employees due to budget shortages. He spoke about the stress of the budget process on parents, the community, and staff. He asked the Board to accept the Administration's recommendation.

Peter Macksey, Community Education employee, stated he was present to respond to Board questions about community education.

Jo Sanders, teacher, urged the Board to consider retention of the World Language Curriculum Coordinator position. She asked the Board to remember the globalization of the economy in Anchorage and its importance.

Judy Hulburt, former District employee, addressed concerns with eliminating the centralized curriculum staff. She questioned where the students will go without centralized curriculum support.

Victoria Gelbert urged the Board to retain the World Language Coordinator position and addressed the harms that would come to the program if this position was cut.

Karl Wilhelmi, President of Government Hill PTA, spoke in favor of retaining the World Language Coordinator position and spoke about the benefits Government Hill Elementary School has received through the World Language Program.

Bev Thornburg, employee, testified as a parent. She addressed the strengths of the curriculum department specifically in obtaining grants. She also spoke about the opportunity-cost of losing the curriculum applicant pool. While she didn't want to see an increase in class size, she felt the loss of the curriculum staff would be more of a detriment to her son's education.

Debbie Ossiander inquired about the dollar amount of grants that coordinators manage.

Bev Thornburg estimated the amount to be about \$600,000.

Kathryn Gerleck, Government Hill Parent Advisory Board member, stated that retaining the curriculum coordinators should be a high priority. She suggested cutting high school sports rather than this area of the budget.

Emma Walton, retired ASD teacher and curriculum coordinator, supported retaining curriculum coordinators and highlighted how the coordinators provided leadership for grant writing. She addressed how the coordinators reach out to the community. She stressed that research tells us that successful districts have five critical elements: 1) high quality curriculum; 2) sustained professional development; 3) material support; 4) administrative and community support; and 5) high quality assessment and evaluation. Ms. Walton added that without leadership we will revert to what it was in the 1970's without hope of bringing innovative good curriculum ideas and processes to the District. Professional development must be well planned and designed. Without material support teachers cannot teach.

Martha Claire Giffin, Alaskan Aids Assistance, attested to the collaboration her agency has had over with years with various coordinators in the schools, specifically in the Rare-t program.

Delisa Culpepper, Alaska Public Health Association, agreed with the previous speakers relative to the benefits of the curriculum coordinator position. She specifically addressed the benefits of having a health education curriculum coordinator. She stated that it was very important for teachers to be kept up to date with current curriculum trends.

Barbara Sweetland Smith spoke about the community involvement of the curriculum coordinators. She urged the Board to reconsider their earlier decision to eliminate this department.

Kim O'Meara, representative of the Parent Advisory Group to the Japanese Immersion Program at Sand Lake Elementary School, strongly supported retaining all the curriculum positions, particularly in the World Language Program. She asked the Board to set the example as a leader for the State of Alaska and the entire country.

Tam Agosti-Gisler, teacher, spoke about the benefits of planning time at the middle school level.

Nancy Boxler, teacher, addressed both the coordinator positions and the elective planning time for the middle school level. She spoke about the difference in student direction without the curriculum positions. She also spoke about how she uses her planning time. Ms. Boxler addressed the opportunities and advantages of having a curriculum coordinator.

Dale Normandin, Chugiak High School Assistant Principal, advocated for not cutting assistant principals at the high school level and spoke about the duties and responsibilities of assistant principals. He urged the Board to support the Administration's recommendation.

Kim Rampmeyer, teacher, spoke in regard to the deletion of the curriculum specialists, specifically in the PE area. Ms. Rampmeyer reviewed the various duties and responsibilities of the curriculum staff.

Daphane Mathis spoke about the benefits of retaining middle school elective planning time. She suggested the Board use the \$5 million reserve to fund this area.

Tom Straugh, Vice President, ACE, urged the Board to look at the long term effects of their decision to eliminate the curriculum department.

Nadine Price-Schrufer, teacher Whaley, addressed the unique elements that elective teachers bring to the community.

Diane Holmes proposed the Board read the secondary activities handbook to learn the real purpose of sports. She asked the Board to support what works best for the greatest number of the kids. She also urged the Board to inflation proof the education budget and to work with the Assembly to put forward an education tax.

Amanda Gould, teacher, spoke about how she used her team planning time and its benefits. She stated that cutting elective team planning time will greatly reduce planning the curriculum.

Margo Bellamy, principal, spoke in support of team planning time for all teachers, especially for elective teachers.

Jane Yokoyama, Central Middle School teacher, spoke in support of planning time for elective teachers.

Tony Schmidt, Clark teacher, asked the Board to reconsider their vote last week to eliminate school team planning for electives and PT teachers.

Chris Baxter spoke about the impact of the proposed cuts to the curriculum department specifically to the Rare-t program.

Bob Roses, President of AEA, presented information about average teacher costs. Instead of making cuts in teacher salary, he'd rather keep in mind long range projections.

Donna York spoke in opposition to the proposed cuts to the curriculum department.

Candida Winter, parent, asked the Board to not cut the curriculum program at Government Hill Elementary School. As a mother of a child with special needs she knew some of the programs provided through the World Language Program would hurt her child's education if it were cut. She urged the Board to support learning a second language.

Dorothy Orr, teacher at Kassun Elementary School, spoke in favor of keeping the curriculum specialists.

Sophia Masewicz, Romig principal, urged the Board to retain the planning time for middle school elective teachers.

Bruce Chandler, pediatrician and medical officer at the Health Department, addressed the benefits of the health curriculum specialists and their impact on students' education. He stated it was critical that we not cut curriculum development.

Susan McDonald, registered nurse, stated that compromise was in order and in the best interest of the children. She suggested the curriculum specialists remain in place for Math, Health, PE, Science and Language Arts.

Pam Frichter asked the Board to keep the middle school as a real middle school. She stated that middle school opens the keys to her son's head and heart. She asked the Board to support the middle school program the way it is currently set. It works.

James Crary spoke in favor of retaining the World Language Coordinator position.

Dave Werdal urged the speakers to lobby the legislature to inflation proof the education budget.

Peggy Robinson also spoke about advocating for education funding at the State level.

Recessed at: 7 p.m.

Reconvened at: 7:30 p.m.

Dave Donaldson, Goldenview Middle School teacher, asked the Board to support retaining middle school planning time.

Andy Holleman, Goldenview Middle School teacher, stated that teachers use their team planning time in a useful way and supported retaining this item in the budget. He stated the middle school model works and asked the Board not to dismantle it.

Chelsea Gaughan, student, spoke on behalf of the curriculum coordinators in the health and PE departments.

Susie Kulper, teacher, urged the Board to retain the curriculum coordinator positions.

Nancy Carder, Chugiak Elementary School principal, spoke about the benefits offered by the World Language Coordinator.

David Kohler, Special Education Department Chairman, spoke in support of the Re-Open program.

Carol Cross, Vice President of Alaska Language Acquisition, supported retaining the World Language Coordinator position.

Lucy Zercher, Chugiak Elementary School parent, stated she was proud of the Spanish Immersion Program at Chugiak Elementary School and expressed her thanks for the help and support provided by the World Language Coordinator.

Robb Boyer, former District employee, addressed the process of team planning time at the middle level. He urged the Board to accept the Administration's recommendation and not cut team planning time at the middle level. He finalized that team planning time is the gas that drives middle school. If you take away the planning time you will have a junior high and not a middle school.

Cynthia Tooney asked the Board to think about initiating a school tax.

Lael Marlow supported the middle school model and urged the Board to continue funding the program.

Jan Flavel, teacher, asked the Board to reconsider their previous decision to eliminate curriculum coordinator positions. She questioned why we are looking at cutting these positions in light of the high school graduation qualifying examination requirements.

Mary Murphy, teacher, spoke in support of retaining the curriculum coordinators.

Richard Cramer spoke about the benefits of the Japanese Immersion Program and the dedication of the curriculum coordinators to this program. He stated the children will lose if the Board cuts this program.

Branch Haymans, parent, spoke about the benefits of the curriculum coordinator positions.

Laurel Derksen spoke favorably about the World Language Curriculum Coordinator.

Diane Etter expressed concern with the proposed cuts to the Curriculum Department. She stated that small class size is not the only guarantee to quality learning. If there is not solid curriculum and solid teaching, the kids won't learn much. The curriculum coordinators are experts in their field. Ms. Etter reminded the Board that each and every student benefits from good core curriculum. What kids are taught is every bit as important as how kids are taught.

Susan Moore strongly urged the Board to reconsider the proposal to cut the curriculum coordinator positions. They are an essential and vital partner on our high quality educational team and must be retained.

Stuart Matthews, West High student, spoke about the benefits of the Rare-t program and the positive impact the curriculum coordinator has on this program.

Kali Hulquist, West High student, urged the Board to retain the Rare-t program.

Colleen Patrick-Riley favored retaining the elective teachers' planning time and urged the Board to reconsider their previous vote. She encouraged the Board to listen to the Superintendent's recommendations.

J. J. Gonzalez spoke about the benefits of retaining the health curriculum advisor to the Rare-T program.

Vickie McCubbin, Hanshew teacher, offered strong support for retaining the curriculum coordinator positions. She indicated they are essential to the success of the District's 49,000 students.

Rena McFarlane spoke in support of full funding of the District's curriculum coordinators.

Jan Littlebear, Tyson teacher, stated that her best teaching has taken place when there are low class numbers. She asked the Board to not balance the budget by increasing class size.

Marian Elliott, Tyson teacher, asked the Board to not increase class size. Ms. Elliot informed the Board that small class size is beneficial to helping our children learn.

Recessed at 9 p.m.

Reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

Bob Nanny spoke about the negative impacts of losing curriculum coordinators and his experience in California without the benefit of curriculum coordinators.

Carol Comeau read a prepared statement on the budget changes proposed by the Board at First Reading. She stated she did not believe that eliminating the curriculum department was the right way to fund the maintenance of the current class size. Ms. Comeau also believed the action to eliminate the second planning period for elective and physical education teachers will do great damage to the quality of the middle school program in the District.

Debbie Ossiander asked for the percentage of time curriculum coordinators are involved with direct interaction with teachers. She stated she has never seen a job description. Ms. Ossiander wondered whether there was a directive or expectation that coordinators spend extensive time on teacher interaction.

Fred Stofflet reported that coordinators are expected to have direct teacher interaction. On an individual basis it varies from 40 to 70 percent of their time and averages that half the time involves interactions. Another half is responding to those interactions and another half is dealing with their grants and community interactions.

Debbie Ossiander initiated discussion about the impact of eliminating the curriculum department.

Dave Werdal announced to the audience that class size was a concern to Board members.

Dave Werdal initiated discussion about the Equipment Replacement Fund as outlined in Response #01-36.

Rita Holthouse inquired whether any of the General Fund accounts in the budget include any part of the cost of the teachers or staff members that are funded by grants.

Janet Stokesbary responded that the only teachers funded in this budget are those funded by the General Fund budget. Teachers and staff funded through grants are not included in the General Fund budget.

Tom Anderson initiated discussion about the impact of middle school team planning time on the effect of FTE.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Tom Anderson

to reinstate \$603,047 in expenses to maintain  
the current curriculum support department  
staffing level at seven curriculum coordinators  
and 3.5 clerical FTE.

Rita Holthouse announced she favored doing an external audit in this area after internal discussions with staff and the community. She feared that if we dismantle this program right now, our highly talented coordinators will take jobs with other districts and we will realize our error after it is too late. Ms. Holthouse added she would be most willing a year from now to consider any improvements suggested for this department but wanted them to be the result of an inclusive study. She urged support of this motion to reinstate the funding for our current curriculum and instruction department.

Debbie Ossiander shared that over the last four to five years she has regularly heard from regular education teachers that they have not seen curriculum coordinators nor received direct support from them. Ms. Ossiander added she also heard with some frequency during her tenure on the Board during bargaining, when asked about where to cut the budget, the community points to the Administration and the curriculum department. Ms. Ossiander was surprised she didn't hear more about decreasing class size because she knows that is a priority. Ms. Ossiander mentioned that she originally supported this motion. However, she was concerned about the benchmark exams. Ms. Ossiander declared she supported this amendment but will join Ms. Holthouse in asking the Administration to do a thorough analysis of this department.



AMENDMENT:

Moved by Tom Anderson to reinstate middle school team planning  
seconded Rita Holthouse for electives and PE teachers.

Tom Anderson announced that to make such a sweeping change would effect the middle school model.

Peggy Robinson asked that a dollar amount be put into the motion in the amount of \$6,684.

Rita Holthouse informed the Board she would support this motion because the Board made a major change in a school program without any notice to the community and staff and we need to stop doing that. Ms. Holthouse suggested that maybe we can take a look at this issue and revisit it at another time.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander that revenue for middle school team  
planning comes from the PTR allocation.

Debbie Ossiander announced that she couldn't support the amendment without designating a revenue source.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson that funding come from this years \$5  
seconded by Harriet Drummond million from the Assembly.

VOTE:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Robinson  
Holthouse, Anderson

Nays: Werdal

AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT AS AMENDED:

Ayes: Drummond, Ossiander, Robinson  
Holthouse, Anderson

Nays: Werdal

AMENDMENT AS AMENDED PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Dave Werdal  
seconded by Tom Anderson

to add:  
\$17,000 for cafeteria tables at Mt. View  
\$47,000 for cafeteria tables at Homestead.  
\$64,000 Total

Cut from 1064 Maintenance Projects (3080)  
HVAC/Duct Cleaning \$64,000. (Reduced total  
now \$286,000.)

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Harriet Drummond  
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to add back into the budget:  
(from Att. B now called Att C):  
30.5 FTE elementary  
education teachers \$1,921,500  
9.0 middle school counselors 576,000  
12.5 high school teachers 787,500  
for a total of 52 FTE and  
and expense of \$3,276,000

An at-ease was called at 10:45 p.m.  
Reconvened at 11 p.m.

Harriet Drummond proposed that the funding come from the Undesignated Fund  
Balance in the amount of \$3,041,529.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Harriet Drummond  
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to table motion until after we take care of  
a funding source for curriculum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.



From Prior Board	
Actions	<u>83,714</u>
Total Revenue Sources	
to Fund Budget	
Increase	<u>\$2,216,885</u>

Harriet Drummond clarified she felt that the Board and the Administration would be discussing the use of the \$5 million additional tax appropriation as the needs came forward to us from the Administration. Ms. Drummond added that we know that as this budget develops and the revenues are adjusted and the expenditures are predicted, things will change dramatically. Also, the potential federal funding that may come to the District may also change our funding picture dramatically. She also reminded the Board as she urged support of this motion that many times in the past few years, the Board has used pieces of the Undesignated Fund Balance to balance the budget.

Dave Werdal inquired about the Equipment Replacement Fund. He questioned whether the \$1.5 million is adequate vs. the \$2. million to start with?

George Vakalis voiced that obviously the more money put into the fund initially the more money that could be drawn from it. The problem is the lower the amount that is put into it the longer it takes to build it back up to a point where you can take advantage of the interest to help offset the purchase cost and also the difference between the original purchase price of the equipment and the new price of the equipment to replace it. Ideally, you put as much as possible into the account as you can and then build from there.

Dave Werdal addressed using the Undesignated Fund Balance. He informed the Board that we need to budget as close to expenditures as we can.

Tom Anderson expressed interest in the dynamics of the Undesignated Fund. He indicated that if this is a savings account, tapping it is not prudent and he would not vote for this motion. He did not want people to think of this as a slush fund.

Carol Comeau reported that the Undesignated Fund Balance is like a saving account in that we've always tried to have 3 percent, more or less, to use for emergencies or programs that the Board feels is the only way to fund. It can be used to supplement to, add to, or fund emergencies.

Tom Anderson submitted that if we tap into this, we are sending a message to the legislature that we have the capacity to do that. If we don't tap into it, we send a message, with class size shifts, that the legislature needs to fund more. He summarized that he didn't think this was a prudent course of action.



VOTE:

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

Nays: Nays

AMENDMENT PASSED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Peggy Robinson  
 seconded by Harriet Drummond

to change the high school activity fees as  
 listed and reduce the local revenue by \$3,551.

XC running, Tennis, Track/Field	\$100
Swimming/Diving	\$275
Hockey	\$450
All Other Sports	\$175

The Hockey and Swimming/Diving programs  
 and Booster Clubs would be allowed to hold  
 Districtwide fundraisers to offset some of this  
 fee increase for every student who registers.

Peggy Robinson indicated she would be surprised if this motion passed but felt it should be placed on the floor for discussion purposes.

Debbie Ossiander stated while she was enthusiastic and supportive, she was concerned with public reaction. She preferred for the Board to put this on as a separate agenda item. She stated she would consider having a motion to put a tiered sports fee on our agenda for the next meeting.

Rita Holthouse agreed to postpone this item until public testimony could be heard. She indicated the Board needed community and Administrative input. It should be a tier system but we need to know how it will interact with the family cap, etc. She was glad it was brought up but thought it should be postponed.

Harriet Drummond was supportive of providing adequate public notice and hearing from the sports community that they are supportive of this surcharge.

Dave Werdal expressed concern with the fee increase. He felt it was rather extreme.

Rita Holthouse stated she would like to see a study include the cost per student as well as the revenue generated by the sports.

VOTE:

Ayes: None

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

AMENDMENT FAILED.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

that the Administration bring forth a  
proposal on tiered sports fees to include  
revenue and maximizing participation.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Harriet Drummond spoke about the benefits of providing an A and B budget. She reminded the Board that the Assembly does not look at the details the way we do. They will not understand the pain of this budget. She stated her preference was to do a simple A and B budget with simple graphics that explains how we got to where we are.

Carol Comeau reported that the Administration has already begun work on a Budget In Brief document.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED.

C. SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Carol Comeau announced that the Assembly postponed the re-zoning issue of the South Anchorage High School site until February 6. She also announced that on Tuesday, February 13, the Assembly would discuss the District's bond propositions.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/  
LITIGATION)

E. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of January 30, 2001 was adjourned by unanimous consent on Wednesday, January 31, 2001 at 11:55 a.m.

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Peggy Robinson, President

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Debbie Ossiander, Clerk

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Date Minutes Approved