

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

### **REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2001**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, February 12, 2001 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, 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, Bill Mikawa, Bob Henry, Marie Laule, Stan Syta, Ray Amsden, John Floyd, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and interested people.

The School Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag with Darlene Heckler, teacher from Baxter Elementary School, leading the pledge in both English and Inupiaq in honor of Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

#### **B. OATH OF OFFICE OF NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER**

The Honorable Judge Sigurd E. Murphy administered the oath of office to newly appointed School Board member John Floyd.

#### **C. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Robinson welcomed new School Board member John Floyd.

Peggy Robinson announced the scheduled up-coming meetings.

Dave Werdal welcomed Dave Harrington back to Dimond High School after his kidney transplant.

Carol Comeau removed ASD Memorandum #196 – Approval of Schematic Design for Denali Replacement Elementary School from the Agenda for continued review of the estimates.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent noting that the Board received an addendum to the Personnel/Travel Report during the Special Meeting, the Administration pulled ASD Memorandum #196, and the minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2001 (1 C) will be pulled until the voting record can be confirmed on ASD Memorandum #150. Rita Holthouse also stated that she wanted to reserve the right for the Board to come back and change the agenda once the memorandums are pulled and speakers have finished.

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

The Superintendent and the School Board recognized Grace Likeness, Superintendent's Executive Assistant, for her dedication to the Anchorage School District and to the School Board, noting that Ms. Likeness will be retiring from the District on February 16, 2001 after 15 years of service.

ASD Memorandum #185 – Creekside Park Elementary Receives \$5,000 Award:

The students and staff at Creekside Park Elementary will be a bit richer this year thanks to the efforts of a concerned parent.

Last year parent Vicki Thompson entered the Fred Meyer/Rubbermaid "Cash for Class" essay contest which encouraged entrants to write, in 100 words or less, one idea of how their school could use some extra funds. Her suggestion was to purchase special books geared to lower reading levels and distribute them to approximately 300 emergent readers enrolled at Creekside Park. Her essay read in part, "These books aren't readily available to purchase or borrow. They would assist parents' involvement in the educational process and motivate children to read for fun."

Last December Creekside Park principal Dave Combs received word that this essay was one of three chosen for the \$5,000 grant. It is requested the School Board recognize Vicki Thompson whose award-winning essay will result in greater learning opportunities for students.

ASD Memorandum #204 – United Airlines' Fantasy Flight Benefits Students:

The Anchorage School District receives an incredible amount of support from local businesses which directly benefits the students in our community. The positive impact of the partnership between education and enterprise is invaluable. The volunteer efforts of United Airlines employees is an excellent example of this collaboration.

On December 16 over 100 homeless children and their families participated in a program called Fantasy Flight. The participants were transported to the airport, teamed up with United Airlines staff members, and escorted to a gate cleverly disguised as the North Pole. The kids and their families enjoyed snacks, games, gifts donated by United Airlines, and a visit from Santa himself who gave the reindeer a rest and arrived via cargo plane.

This unique holiday excursion, held for the past four years, is made possible by the cooperation of the Title I Child in Transition/Homeless Project, United Way representatives, and primarily through the dedication and caring of United Airlines employees.

It is requested the School Board recognize United Airlines for their participation in Fantasy Flight 2000. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of these airline employees many holiday dreams took flight for underprivileged students and their families.

BP Teachers of Excellence:

Tammie Anderson announced that BP begin this program six years ago to recognize excellence in education and to have a public forum to thank those teachers that dedicate their lives to making a difference in the lives of our children. These teachers stand out from their peers because of their long-term commitment, work ethic and creativity. They bring outstanding imagination and enthusiasm to the classroom. To date, BP has received thousands of nominations and has selected 130 teachers in the Anchorage area for their dedication to education.

The BP Teachers of Excellence program honors 20 outstanding Anchorage educators each school year. Each Teacher of Excellence receives a \$500 U. S. Savings Bond, a commemorative plaque and an invitation to tour BP's North Slope facilities. One of these teachers is chosen as BP's Teacher of the year. This teacher receives a \$1,500 scholarship for continuing education and a bronze sculpture commissioned from Alaska artist Mary Regat.

The following teachers were recognized BP Teachers of Excellence: Arturo A. Ayala, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Dimond High School; Deborah K. Barker, Language Arts, Service High School; Nina Bonito-Romine, 7th-12th grade Spanish, Steller Alternative School; Deneen L. Bozeman, 2nd grade, Campbell Elementary School; Deborah Fancher, 10th-12th grade Chemistry, East High School; Maya Gauvreau, Special Education Art, Mount Iliamna Preschool; Cindy Mikawa, Special Education, Ptarmigan Elementary School. Julye Neel, Counselor, Service High School; Maureen Petrunic, 7th grade Math, Hanshew Middle School; and Dawn E. Worley, kindergarten - 3rd grade Intensive Needs, Creekside Park Elementary School.

February is School Board Recognition Month. Carol Comeau recognized and thanked each School Board member for their service on the Board and honored each with a framed certificate and an Anchorage School District service pin. Ms. Comeau thanked each School Board member for their commitment to children. Michele Egan, Director of Public Affairs, read a proclamation from Mayor Wuerch.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

Student Advisory:

No report

Military Delegate:

Peggy Robinson introduced and welcomed the new military delegate to the School Board, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Mulcahy. No report was given.

MECC

No report

G. PRESENTATION

H. 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 - January 4, 2001
- b. Special Meeting - January 8, 2001
- c. Regular Meeting - January 8, 2001

2. ASD Memorandum #203 - Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day - February 16, 2001:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution recognizing February 16, 2001, as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

3. ASD Memorandum #182 - Appointment Of Military Delegate:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Peter Mulcahy as the military delegate to the School Board.

4. ASD Memorandum #183 - Appointment Of Minority Education Concerns Committee Members:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint the following individuals (Attachments A & B) to the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) for terms expiring on June 30, 2002: Paul Swetzof and James Allen.

5. ASD Memorandum #202 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$300,000.

6. ASD Memorandum #205 - Prior Approval Of Discretionary Grant: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for after-school and summer programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

7. ASD Memorandum #206 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Prevention Coordinators In Middle Schools:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant for middle level violence prevention and Developmental Asset-building, under a competition through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

8. ASD Memorandum #193 – Sale Of Surplus Property And Transfer Of Property:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the listed surplus property by sealed bid sale.

It is further recommended that the School Board approve the transfer of two surplus school buses, #42 and #50 to the Municipality of Anchorage. The Municipality of Anchorage has asked that these school buses be transferred for continued public use by the Anchorage Police Department's Critical Immediate Response Team (CIRT) for the preparation and training for the upcoming Special Winter Olympics.

9. ASD Memorandum #194 – Award Of Contract: Girdwood School Upgrades 2001:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Girdwood School Upgrades 2001 to the lowest bidder, Gamble Construction, in the amount of \$761,600, which includes the Base Bid in the amount of \$553,000, and Alternates #1, 2, 5 and 6 in the amount of \$208,600.

10. ASD Memorandum #195 – Award of Contract: Dimond High School Replacement:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Replacement School for Dimond High School to the lowest bidder, Alcan General, Inc. for the Base Bid only in the amount of \$45,584,000 and to accept Unit Prices #1, #2 and #3.

11. ASD Memorandum #199 – Award of Contract: Chugiak High School Renewal Phase 1 – House 2 Renovation:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Chugiak High School Renewal Phase 1 – House 2 Renovation to the lowest bidder, Consolidated Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$3,475,907.

12. ASD Memorandum #200 – Professional Services Selection: Telecommunication And Power Upgrades In Support of Technology:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of Coffman Engineers as the Designer of Record for Electrical and Telecommunication Upgrades at 18 schools identified as Groups 3 and 4, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with Coffman Engineers for Professional Design Services as addressed in the Request for Proposals dated January 9, 2001.

13. ASD Memorandum #196 – Approval of Schematic Design For Denali Replacement Elementary School:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the schematic design for the Denali Replacement Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent to direct the Architect to proceed with the Design Development and Construction Documents for the Denali Replacement Elementary School project.

14. ASD Memorandum #208 – Amendment To Central Administration Building Lease:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve an amendment to the contract with Fischer Properties for the lease of the building located at 4600 DeBarr Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. The amendment includes modification to the term of the contract from ten years, July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2010, to five years, July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2005 with an option to extend for an additional five years. The amendment also includes an annual reduction in the variable portion of the lease

agreement. The revised annual amount for FY 2000-2001 will be \$564,570.

15. ASD Memorandum #207 – FY 2000-2001 Budget Revision:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appropriate an additional \$3,613,570 to the General Fund, \$200,000 to the Food Service Fund and \$1,000,000 to the Local/State/Federal Projects Fund. Since the overall appropriation revision will not exceed the approved upper limit of the budget, no approval from the Anchorage Assembly is required. The total revised budget for FY 2000-2001 will remain at \$426,230,474 that includes the following individual funds:

General Fund	\$342,790,449
Food Service Fund	10,850,000
Debt Service Fund	42,377,520
Local/State/Federal Projects Fund	27,000,000
Unallocated Spending Authority	<u>3,212,505</u>
Total – All Funds	<u>\$426,230,474</u>

16. ASD Memorandum #21 – Proposed Charter Changes: Family Partnership Charter School:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the request of the Family Partnership Charter School Principal and Academic Policy Committee to revise their charter as described in Attachments C, D, and E of this memorandum.

17. ASD Memorandum #197 – Personnel/Travel Report:

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: Minutes 1-C, ASD Memoranda #203, #182, #183, #202, #205, #195, #207, and #21.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to approve the Minutes of the  
Special Meeting of January 4,  
2001; the Minutes of the Special  
Meeting of January 8, 2001;  
Memorandum #206;

Memorandum #193;  
Memorandum #194;  
Memorandum #199;  
Memorandum #200;  
Memorandum #208; and  
Memorandum #197.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

The Superintendent requested that ASD memorandum #207 – FY 2000-2001 Budget Revisions be moved up on the agenda so it could be discussed prior to ASD Memorandum #195 - Dimond High School Replacement discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Dave Werdal

to move Item #15 - Memorandum #207 up from its current place on the agenda to follow Item #6 - Memorandum #205.

Unanimously approved.

ASD Memorandum #203 – Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day – February 16, 2001:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution recognizing February 16, 2001, as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to approve Memorandum #203.

Carol Comeau stated she was pleased about this resolution honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich. Last year, the community inquired as to why the Anchorage School District did not do more to honor this leader. Mary Bristol and Edna Lamabull worked together to put together a packet of materials, which has been widely distributed to teachers.

Theresa Obermeyer was signed up to speak on this memorandum and deferred to the other speakers.

Harriet Miyasate Belial commented about how pleased she is to see this person honored. She explained how Ms. Peratrovich helped Native women stand up for themselves and be proud of who they were. Ms. Belial encouraged the School Board to make this a school holiday to honor a women who fought for people who could not fight for themselves. Every cultural group has its pride and diversity and no race is better than another.

Shirley Kendall is a retired teacher who worked at East High. She is involved in the Elizabeth Peratrovich celebration and one of the goals in developing the packet at the elementary level was to teach the students to say her name correctly. Ms. Kendall explained how Ms. Peratrovich and her husband worked on many issues using the news media and writing many letters. Ms. Kendall is very pleased with the resolution passed by the School District.

Paulette Moreno said it is extremely important to recognize this day and feels that the more positive role models students see, the more positive relationships they will have. She is also a member of the Alaska Native Sisterhood, which is a highly respected organization. Ms. Moreno explained that she was a very shy child and her first introduction into the District was with Geneva Penatac, and how she made a difference in her education.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #182 – Appointment Of Military Delegate:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Peter Mulcahy as the military delegate to the School Board.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Dave Werdal

to approve Memorandum #182.

Carol Comeau stated how pleased the District is to have received the nomination of Lieutenant Colonel Mulcahy and looks forward to working with him over the next few years.

Teresa Obermeyer is pleased to see an appointment from the U. S. Army. Ms. Obermeyer wants to help Lieutenant Colonel Mulcahy in any way she can. She asked if there was a resume for him; Peggy Robinson stated that the resume was attached to the memorandum in the back of the Board Room.

Debbie Ossiander thanked Lieutenant Colonel Mulcahy for his involvement in the District, and informed the Board that he is the Post Commander at Fort Richardson.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #183 – Appointment Of Minority Education Concerns Committee Members:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint the following individuals (Attachments A & B) to the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) for terms expiring on June 30, 2002: Paul Swetzof and James Allen.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #183.  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that she and Bettye Davis, former School Board member, conducted interviews last summer and found many candidates available and interested in serving on the MECC. These additional members will assist the current members, who are attempting to visit each school.

Theresa Obermeyer brought a Black's Law Dictionary to the meeting. She is concerned over the way that minorities are treated. Ms. Obermeyer stated that the media is corrupt because they won't publish her letters.

She also would like to see the MECC become involved in the Minority Relations Police Task Force. Ms. Obermeyer commended Rev. Greene on his leadership with MECC. She is concerned about the lack of attendance of members at the MECC meetings, and questioned why the Board is increasing the number of members to the MECC.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Drummond

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #202 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$300,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #202.  
seconded by Tom Anderson

Peggy Robinson asked the Board to vote on whether or not she has a conflict of interest. The gavel was passed to Mr. Werdal.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander that Peggy Robinson has a  
seconded by Rita Holthouse conflict of interest in this matter.

Peggy Robinson explained that in the past and during the coming summer, she plans to teach a couple of technology classes for the District. The Board will be asked to approve the actual contract, but the money that pays the instructors will come from this grant.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Robinson

MAIN MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #205 – Prior Approval Of Discretionary Grant: 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century Learning Center:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education for after-school and summer programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #205.  
seconded by Dave Werdal

Carol Comeau stated that this memorandum is for prior approval and the District feels they will be successful again in securing this grant. The District has been successful in securing two previous grants, which includes five middle schools and 12 elementary schools, who are currently participating in the Twenty-First Century Learning Program.

Debbie Ossiander is concerned over the direction the Administration is going based on the narrative explanation. Mirror Lake Middle School has had after-school busing for both the intramural program and tutoring after-school program, which was provided with some help through the Chugiak Community School. Ms. Ossiander brought this issue up when the Board decided to support the Administration's recommendation to reduce the number of community schools in support of this grant. Her understanding of the rationale, which was discussed with former Superintendent Christal, was that this grant would be particularly focused on middle schools. There would be some type of decision, in terms of reducing community schools, to continue to provide broad geographic representation so that the benefits could be enjoyed throughout the Municipality. Ms. Ossiander was contacted by a variety of people in the community who expressed concern over the disappearance of the after-school buses. These individuals were directed to the Municipality to

inquire about a People Mover bus stop, which proved to be unsuccessful. There is a concern about students not being able to participate in after-school activities and tutoring programs due to the lack of after-school transportation. Children are waiting at school for their parents until 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. in order to participate in these activities.

Ms. Ossiander feels that the socio-economic status at Mirror Lake is similar to Hanshew and Mears Middle Schools. She also feels the number free/reduced lunches is under-reported at Mirror Lake. Bev Thornburg stated that Hanshew and Mirror Lake are not the same socio-economic status; Hanshew has a higher percentage of mobility, more free/reduced lunches, and a rapidly changing profile.

Debbie Ossiander supports the grant, but fails to see why the focus is shifted from middle schools to elementary schools. By focusing on elementary schools, the District is denying Mirror Lake, Gruening, Goldenview, and Mears any after-school activity programs that are supported by busing and tutoring. Ms. Ossiander feels middle schools serve a larger population base and serve a population that is more at-risk. Ms. Ossiander wants Mirror Lake included in this grant application due to the geographic isolation of the school.

Carol Comeau stated that the criteria for this particular grant is that it must go to high-need areas and focus on after-school activities which includes tutoring. Pat McDowell, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, explained that those middle schools that would not qualify under this grant are using other resources to provide tutoring for their students.

Ellen Montague explained the criteria that is necessary for the application: need for project (covers urban and rural); percentage of rapid growth; poverty rates, percentage of Title I students; drop-out rates; literacy rates; educational levels in the communities, etc.

Carol Comeau asked the Administration if they spoke with the Federal government to see if Mirror Lake, Chugiak/Eagle River, or Girdwood area would qualify as a rural designation. Bev Thornburg stated that she did not, but reminded the Board that this grant competition will favor the applications that serve the most poverty-laden schools. By moving out of the socio-economic parameters, the District would be hurting their chance to win this grant competition.

Rita Holthouse inquired as to which five to nine elementary schools would be added to the grant. The Administration said Mountain View, Nunaka Valley, Airport Heights, Northwood, and Eagle River; the Willow Crest principal has not been notified yet. Eighteen elementary schools will have this program. Patricia McRae and Ellen Montague both stated that they believe all Title 1 schools are covered.

Dave Werdal asked Bev Thornburg if any consideration was given to geographic area when choosing the schools for the new grant so the Eagle River area would be covered; she replied that it was considered.

Carol Comeau informed the Board if the District did not follow the criteria of these grants, and with the budget cuts in community schools, we could get into problems by supplanting Federal funds. There is no latitude that allows the allocation of Federal grant funds based on geographic location.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Tom Anderson

that the grant application include  
Mirror Lake Middle School.

Debbie Ossiander stated that the initial grant application was wonderful in its endorsement of middle schools as a turning point in kid's lives. That is why the Board has supported the restructuring effort of middle schools. Ms. Ossiander thought that is why the community schools were cut back in order to support this grant and that was the prime criteria for cutting back community schools. She doesn't think this was done with geographic balance; there are no after-school activities in the Chugiak area. Ms. Ossiander urged support for this amendment.

Dave Werdal asked Ms. Ossiander if her intent is to subtract one school from the grant in order to add Mirror Lake or just spread the resources further among the schools.

Harriet Drummond reported that Mirror Lake has less than 20 percent mobility rate and Hanshew is at 24 percent; Hanshew has 34 percent minority and Mirror Lake has 13 percent minority; and the free/reduced lunch rate is 17 percent at Hanshew and 14 percent at Mirror Lake. She urged the Board to vote down the amendment.

Rita Holthouse stated she will vote against this amendment; to include Mirror Lake at this point will hurt the District's chance for this grant. The Federal government has set the criteria for high needs schools and the Board needs to follow the District's recommendation.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Anderson

Nays: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal,  
Robinson, Drummond

AMENDMENT FAILS.

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #207 – FY 2000-2001 Budget Revision:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appropriate an additional \$3,613,570 to the General Fund, \$200,000 to the Food Service Fund and \$1,000,000 to the Local/State/Federal Projects Fund. Since the overall appropriation revision will not exceed the approved upper limit of the budget, no approval from the Anchorage Assembly is required. The total revised budget for FY 2000-2001 will remain at \$426,230,474 that includes the following individual funds:

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Debt Service Fund	42,377,520
Local/State/Federal Projects Fund	27,000,000
Unallocated Spending Authority	<u>3,212,505</u>
Total – All Funds	<u>\$426,230,474</u>

ACTION:

Moved by Dave Werdal

to approve Memorandum #207.

seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau explained that this is another revision to the current year budget based on the receipt of the additional \$5 million dollars after the tax cap failed and the increase of our spending authority. Each Board member was given another copy of the Response to Request for Information. One correction needs to be made on the attachment to the Response based on School Board action during the budget development process. The equipment replacement fund stated \$2 million dollars and

the Board reduced it to \$1.5 million dollars. If the Board approves this request, textbooks and equipment will be ordered, the equipment replacement fund will be established, contracted services arranged, and major maintenance projects and building studies planned.

Debbie Ossiander asked Board members to consider putting the replacement account back up to \$2 million dollars. This would enable the District to reduce, on an annual basis, our expenditures for equipment by using depreciation and prorating the cost over several years. Ms. Ossiander is not comfortable supporting the curriculum audit as there has not been a cost estimate completed. The list also calls for an earthquake shelter study, which Ms. Ossiander would like to see completed jointly with the Municipality. Her basic concern is how much structure and limitation does it put on various budget categories if the memo is passed. Specifically, she would like to increase the equipment fund.

Fred Stofflet reported that one year ago, former Superintendent Christal requested that he check with several places to get a "ball park" figure on what an audit would cost. A verbal estimate obtained was approximately \$200,000.

Carol Comeau stated that they have not clearly defined what the questions would be. The Administration will put the information together within the next few weeks and return to the School Board for discussion.

George Vakalis informed the Board that several years ago the Municipality went through all municipal facilities and indicated which ones could be retrofitted to become shelters. The School District was aware at the time that there was a problem with their facilities and knew that the older ones would not meet the requirements to become shelters. Mr. Vakalis stated that regardless who has the shelter, the District has a responsibility to the parents to make sure all students are safe should there be an earthquake. A study of ASD facilities should be done to identify those locations geographically that would qualify as shelters.

Rita Holthouse asked for clarification as to why it is going to cost \$330,000 to switch the swimming pools to individual meters.

Carol Comeau informed the Board that in order to make sure that the District is only paying for utilities on the pools, it is necessary to install meters. This was highly recommended during discussions on the pools

and the District's severance of the pools to the Municipality. This would prevent any disagreement on who is responsible for what costs incurred.

Rita Holthouse has concerns about the \$710,000 for major maintenance studies, including the pools and earthquake shelters. She asked if it is more important to do these items rather than have a \$2 million dollar equipment fund. Carol Comeau said that amount was in the original recommendation, but the Board reduced the fund to \$1.5 million. The Administration still feels the studies are very important. The Bond Counsel advised the District to not include them in the bond package as they are not related to any one capital project. Mr. Vakalis stated the concern from the Bond Counsel is that it is conceivable that we could use bond money and study a number of facilities, but the overall outcome as a result of the study could say that only school A and school C may have merit as far as one of these studies. The money could not be directly charged to the schools that it did not include.

Harriet Drummond agreed that the meters are very expensive but supports the purchase. The District will experience a savings by turning over the pools to the Municipality. She would also like to find a way to share the cost of the earthquake study with the Municipality since they own our buildings. Ms. Drummond has a concern with the \$250,000 price tag to replace the e-mail system. She recommends not replacing our e-mail system until the new Chief Information Officer is hired. Carol Comeau said the Administration will advertise the CIO position as soon as possible.

Debbie Ossiander asked if the Administration could delay action on the memorandum until the equipment fund could be brought back up to \$2 million dollars. Carol Comeau stated that all items were in the original budget with the exception of the curriculum audit and the replacement of the e-mail system. Dave Werdal stated that he felt that the Board supports the curriculum audit. Carol Comeau assured the Board that she will return to the Board with a budget and further discussion on the curriculum audit.

Peggy Robinson asked if there was going to be an increase in the ACE salaries for the programmers at Information Technology. The Administration is currently going through the job reclassification process.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #195 – Award of Contract: Dimond High School Replacement:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Replacement School for Dimond High School to the lowest bidder, Alcan General, Inc. for the Base Bid only in the amount of \$45,584,000 and to accept Unit Prices #1, #2 and #3.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Dave Werdal

approve Memorandum #195

Carol Comeau commented that after many discussions, the Administration is making this recommendation to the Board and is confident that Alcan General will deliver the product as they have stated in the bid award.

James Sarafin, Attorney for Neeser Construction, stated that Neeser didn't protest to delay the bid, but has serious concerns about the recommended award. Their first concern is that this project is twice the size of the largest project that Alcan has ever completed, and is concerned about their ability, capacity, and skill to complete the contract. Second, Alcan did not disclose all interests as required in the potential contact award. The principal still owes money to the old principal and the old principal is still the guarantor on the construction bonds. Mr. Sarafin stated that he received the independent review findings from his client who had received the document at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2001.

Terry Fike, Alcan General President, and Mike Kreger, Alcan Counsel, offered a brief rebuttal to some of the comments from Mr. Sarafin. There was a fair and open procurement done by the book, there was no single impropriety, and now are faced with a protest based on innuendo. Alcan General has a guarantee from USF&G (United States Fidelity and Guarantee Surety Company) for a \$45 million dollar payment bond and a \$45 million dollar performance bond. Mr. Kreger stated that performance

should not be an issue because Mr. Fike is purchasing Alcan; procedures were followed correctly. None of the bidders were requested to identify who their indemnitors were on the legal document. Mr. Fike gave a brief presentation on the accomplishments of Alcan General's construction history.

Mr. Bob Henry, Director of Purchasing, received the bid protest on February 8, 2001 and immediately reviewed School Board policy, section 725.368.2 (a), which states that the Administration shall obtain an independent review of the appeal issues. The results of the independent review will be reported to the School Board. Argetsinger & Kulawik were retained by the District to complete the independent review. The issue raised was Alcan General was not a responsive responsible bidder. The second item raised was Alcan failed to disclose other interests in their bid and proposed contract. Another issue raised was the \$7 million dollar overage on the North Star Borough project. Mr. Henry spoke with a representative from the North Star Borough and found this issue had no merit.

Mr. Kulawik reviewed the protest and found that Alcan General had been pre-qualified properly and the computation according to the requirements was a total cost of the work that is counted. The ability of Alcan General to complete the project was reviewed and they felt that they were qualified to do this type of work. The bid bond speaks for itself; USF&G has \$45 million dollars of confidence. The point where they are accused of taking unfair advantage is irrelevant because Alcan Electric is doing administrative and accounting work for Alcan General; this has nothing to do with unfair bidding. This is not unusual; many companies work this way. The Independent Review Report recommends awarding the bid to Alcan General.

Debbie Ossiander commented that one of the decisions that could be made tonight is to defer any action and award no bid. Ms. Ossiander is very concerned about the dollar amount of this award compared to our budget and how we are going to come up with an additional three to four million dollars needed to demolish the existing school. If there was a delay, we could go back to our design to see if there are additional ways to save money. The South Anchorage High School project is already behind so another delay would bring them both back in sync, which would solve many problems. Ms. Ossiander asked the Administration to respond to any problems the District may face by delaying this project.

Tom Anderson asked for a point of clarification from Ms. Ossiander; is she saying that she intends to reject the bid or put a stay on the award. Ms. Ossiander replied both are options, but prefers to hear from the Administration first.

Ray Amsden said there are generally three choices: redesign and rebid; seek additional funds now prior to moving ahead with the project; and to do as the Administration is recommending, which is to move ahead with the project. Redesign and rebid would delay the project approximately six to eight months. With so much public work available to contractors, the delay could drive the cost up. The bond package cannot be increased; the only way to secure additional funds from the bond package would be to borrow from other projects within the proposed package.

Rita Holthouse commented that she is not interested in delaying the contract, but is concerned about the ability to finish the final site work and the ability to demolish existing buildings.

Harriet Drummond commented that she is concerned about the cost of the demolition, which is now two and one-half times the original estimate. Ms. Drummond thought she recalled the demolition cost at about \$7 to \$8 million dollars, and does not recall being told the cost would double.

Peggy Robinson commented that out of the original eight contractors prequalified; only four elected to bid because of all the work available to contractors. Ms. Robinson asked if there was a time right after the prequalification process in October that the individuals could protest others being prequalified, and were the contractors aware the opportunity was there. Ray Amsden confirmed that the opportunity was there and was explained in the description notice of appeal, which is in the original bid documents.

Mr. Werdal questioned if Neeser Construction received the information on prequalifying on February 7, 2001, how could they have know what to appeal on and what issues should be brought up if they did not have the information? Ray Amsden confirmed that the information was in the October response to bidders. The contractors did not have a copy of the other contractors' bids, but because it is a public document, they could have reviewed the document if they were interested. It is an industry-accepted practice that any potential bidder has access to all bid documents up to the award.

Debbie Ossiander informed the Board that she is not interested in awarding the contract until she knows where the additional money is coming from. Carol Comeau stated that the Administration is actively engaged in coming up with a source of funds, but may need to go back to the voters to ask for demolition costs, which would need be categorized as completion of the Dimond project. Janet Stokesbary has not directed this particular question to Bond Counsel. The original bond approved was for full funding of the entire project. A final certificate of occupancy would not be forthcoming until all the approved components of the project were completed. Many projects have come in under original budget bringing a fund balance available for other needed projects.

There was a concern by several Board members regarding a possible delay of construction and the housing of students. Carol Comeau explained that delaying construction would most likely increase costs. Staff and parents at Dimond want to see this project go forward; Mr. Okada is comfortable having an additional 200 students in the new Dimond High School for one year pending the completion of the new South Anchorage High School.

Mr. Sarafin responded to Mr. Kreger's earlier comments about the bond company being solvent, which is not the issue being raised by Neeser Construction. The issue is who is going to be build your school--Alcan General or the previous owner of Alcan General. He believes that all bidders must disclose and certify all parties with any interest whatsoever.

Mr. Neeser addressed the delays that the Administration brought up and commented that he did not understand the delays mentioned. He suggested stopping the process for 30 days and negotiate. The costs could be reduced to be within budget. Mr. Neeser also stated that he was informed by the School District that the only time he could protest the bid was once the bid award was completed; he was not given the opportunity to protest the bid right after the prequalification.

Mr. Floyd asked Mr. Amsden if the criteria changed during the process. Mr. Amsden stated that they started with a much higher benchmark and that it eroded during the process. Because this process was new for the District, they hired a consultant to help set the criteria. Several drafts were prepared and shared with the construction and architecture communities for their comment. Some of their comments resulted in revisions, but they tried to establish a benchmark to maximize competition among bidders, but weed out the ones that would not do a good job.

Tom Anderson asked Mr. Neeser to respond to the schools that Alcan General has worked on and if he thought they didn't have the same capability because their work was on smaller projects. Mr. Neeser replied that they are much different and until you have done a large project, you would not understand.

Mr. Fike informed the Board that he put in place \$40 million dollars of construction last year and has the staff to handle the job, has a proven track record, and is capable of building the Dimond facility. Mr. Kreger commented that he believes the independent reviewer has done a thorough study. He stated that failure to disclose non-requested information is not relevant and does not have any bearing on the bid.

Saul Friedman, ASD Attorney, responded to Ms. Holthouse's question about negotiating with bidders. Mr. Friedman stated that the award to the lowest responsible bidder is the criteria for the award of this contract. The policy on negotiations allows the Board to allow an approach for negotiations in a contracting situation. There may be circumstances where the Board could initiate a contract issue with an approach of negotiations. This was not contemplated as interfering with the approach the Board established, in this case the two step process. The Board in this situation and the policies are consistent with the Department of Education regulations, which require in a contract of this nature, where the bonds will be reimbursed by the State, competitive sealed bids and require the award be to the lowest responsive bidder. Mr. Friedman informed the Board that this is not a situation where negotiations are appropriate. He also stated that the language in the RFP and in the protest is clear regarding the latest date a bid protest could be filed.

Mr. Friedman further explained that the law requires a contractor to provide a performance bond in the event the contractor does not complete the job. The purpose of that is to make sure money is available to finish a contract, which may have been defaulted on before it is completed. ASD requires the bonding company to say they will pay up to \$45 million dollars in the event there is a lack of performance and that money will be used to complete the project. If the contractor defaults, the bonding company will hire a contractor to finish the project, but still believes the District has final approval on who will complete the project.

Debbie Ossiander is concerned about the shortfall of money, but is willing to go forward because she thinks the policies have been followed correctly. She would like to have further updates on funds and feels any

project can be downsized. Ms. Ossiander will vote yes, but under protest strictly due to budget concerns.

Harriet Drummond stated she is nervous about awarding a project that is \$3 million dollars short and no idea where the money is coming from. The Administration has not informed the School Board of the funding source.

Peggy Robinson believes that we need to move forward; waiting for a year will only increase costs. Bonding for demolition costs should not be a problem; it was part of the original bond package that was passed by the voters. Construction costs will only rise if the project is delayed.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Drummond

MOTION PASSED.

Peggy Robinson stated that the School Board found that the protest by Neeser Construction did not have merit, and found that Alcan General was a responsive bidder. They disclosed the interest that they needed to in their bid and are not in a position of receiving an unfair advantage.

ASD Memorandum #21 – Proposed Charter Changes: Family Partnership Charter School:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the request of the Family Partnership Charter School Principal and Academic Policy Committee to revise their charter as described in Attachments C, D, and E of this memorandum.

The Superintendent explained to the Board that they should only consider Attachments C and E because Family Partnership has already incorporated the attachments from Attachment D into Attachment C.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to approve Memorandum #21  
with Attachments C and E .

Carol Comeau noted that she has appreciated the patience of the Family Partnership Charter School during the past year while discussing recommended changes.

Ms. Ossiander expressed her wish to understand the core unit and the quarter and half-time status of students. Ms. Butler, from Family Partnership, explained that students are funded by FTEs. If a student is half-time, he/she will only receive one-half of the funds in their educational account. FPCS determined that a unit of instruction is approximately 90 hours of course work, which is essentially one semester class at a high school or the same equivalent number of hours within an elementary school.

Ms. Ossiander stated that she thought the changes were occurring to address the extra-curricular expenditures. Ms. Butler explained that two things were accomplished with the charter changes. First, the concern of the Board that private students were able to access extra curricular enrichment programs. FPCS established an academic priority which welcomes all students into their program, but they must come with academic needs prior to being allowed access to extra curricular enrichment programs. Each student must take one academic core class in order to take an extra curricular class. If a student wants to take two extra curricular classes, he/she must take two academic classes. Ms. Ossiander stated that she understands the definition, but doesn't understand the implication of the definition as related to extra curricular.

Debbie Ossiander asked if there is a restriction on the amount of funds that a quarter-time student may receive for extra curricular class. Ms. Butler explained that quarter time student must enroll in two academic classes per year of instruction on their education plan and receives one quarter of the funds allocated to a full FTE in their student account; the student would then be allowed to take an extra curricular class. Ms. Ossiander commented that her concern was not with private schools students accessing extra curricular, but the definition of what is extra curricular. Ms. Butler said the next priority of FPCS is the development of a procurement list that everyone can agree upon.

Rita Holthouse asked why FPCS did not bring the procurement list to the Board at this time. Ms. Butler explained that her understanding was that Ms. Comeau was to provide them with a list that they could work on with Arge Jeffery, who is the Charter School Liaison for the District. Ms. Comeau stated that it was her understanding that FPCS was to provide a draft list to the Administration to review. Ms. Butler said they

were close to having a draft ready to work on and would return to the Board at a later date. Ms. Comeau assured the Board that she would bring the procurement list back for discussion at the end of March.

Carol Comeau explained that the information in the Pertinent Facts of this memorandum, page 2 (funding parameters), and as outlined on Attachment C from FPCS, was faxed to Deputy Commissioner Bruce Johnson and reviewed by the Assistant Attorney General. Both agreed that the requested changes to their unit of instruction do not apply to their actual funding that comes from the state. Their funding parameters are set by Alaska State Regulations and are also cited in the Alaska Charter School Law. The Administration supports these proposed changes to the Family Charter School charter with the clear understanding that sections 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 and subsections do not apply to how the school is funded; funding is clearly regulated by the Department of Education and Early Development's regulations cited above and the laws governing school funding as well as the charter school laws.

Rita Holthouse asked if families in the FPCS can still use part of their funding to purchase family memberships to the Alaska Club. Ms. Butler explained that all family memberships have changed to allow only the portion that is utilized by a student to be covered by school funds. The use of any educational funding must be tied into the student's educational plan. Ms. Holthouse asked if horseback riding, zoo passes, ski passes are still allowed. Tim Scott stated that only in terms of lessons.

Ms. Comeau stated that she believes that the FPCS Academic Policy Committee and the District are working together to solve some of the concerns that have been raised. Some of the classes that have come under scrutiny are no different than those that have been approved for other schools, such as intensives in Alternative Schools.

Ms. Drummond reminded the Board that intensives are paid for by the families and not through public funds. There are small scholarship funds available, but the District does not pay for intensives.

Rita Holthouse asked if a student has completed all of their graduation requirements before their senior year, is the student allowed to come back. Pat McDowell stated with the current graduation requirements, it is rare and the Administration normally discourages them. To date they have not denied any requests.

John Floyd asked if the Board or Administration would support that change to make FPCS the kind of school that receives the full funding without the constraints of the DEED regulations. Peggy Robinson explained that the District chose not to enter into the lawsuit and pay for the lawsuit. Debbie Ossiander has supported the school legislatively.

Ms. Holthouse asked if sibling preference was included in the revised lottery procedures. FPCS is following School Board Policy and is only requesting a change in the dates when they hold their two lotteries each year.

Peggy Robinson suggested replacing the CAT Tests listed in the charter with “state-mandated norm reference tests.”

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson	that references to the CAT tests
seconded by Rita Holthouse	be changed to “state-mandated norm reference tests.”

Unanimously passed.

Rita Holthouse commented that a group of parents talked about how they were going to private school and then getting enrichment programs through FPCS. Ms. Holthouse wants assurance that this complaint is not going to be valid one. Ms. Butler knows that there is a small minority that will brag, but foresees it will be reduced by adding the additional academic requirements.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

I. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #201 – Community School Affiliate Update:

A group of five formerly staffed Community Schools have been working this year to maintain a reduced level of service at their sites. Their current aspiration is to develop modified and viable community school programs

which serve the needs of their communities. Most schools indicate that their long-term goal is to locate a way to return full-time staff to their programs.

Each of these Affiliate Community Schools began developing programs of classes and activities in the fall of 2000. Their programs are listed along with other Community Schools in the Community Cache, and now on the ASD website. Several of the Affiliates are employing part-time community school assistants at their schools. Assistants at these sites are engaged to help with evening building monitoring, and to provide assistance to key volunteers in the areas of program development, registration, customer service and office management.

Each Affiliate Community School manages their operation through the direction of their individual Association Board, which is a subsidiary of the Anchorage Community Education Advisory Board (ACEAB). Association Boards average 12 members in size and are representative of a variety of constituent groups including: community members, school personnel, PTAs, satellite community school representatives, parents and youth. Affiliate community schools follow the guidelines required of other ASD Community Schools in terms of program development, fiscal responsibility and public relations.

Support from the principals at these sites has been of critical importance to this new effort. The innovative model of affiliate community schools relies heavily on the volunteer force and contribution at each site. The number of volunteer hours is enormous in those schools that are adjusting to this new model. Association Boards are taking stock of their limits and abilities to continue in force as they have been. Each of the community school Association Boards at these schools are to be richly acknowledged for their courage and willingness to take on such a challenge.

Carol Comeau commented that the Community School staff did an excellent job on this memorandum.

Dave Werdal noted that Campbell Community School was the only one that was able to return to the original number of classes offered.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Russell Mjolsnes informed the Board about a liquor store that is opening soon by Wendler Middle School. It was approved unanimously by the

Assembly on October 17, 2000 after no discussion and no spokesperson from the School Board. He encouraged the Board to take a serious position about objecting to the opening of a liquor store at that location.

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of February 12, 2001 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:45 p.m.

RECONSIDERATION:

ACTION:

Requested by Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to reconsider Memorandum #21 -  
Proposed Charter Changes:  
Family Partnership Charter  
School.

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Peggy Robinson, President

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Debbie Ossiander, Clerk

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Date Minutes Approved