

## MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

### REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2001

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, March 12, 2001, at 6:45 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, Debbie Ossiander, and John Floyd.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Pat McDowell, Jim Taylor, Gail Opalinski, Patricia McRae, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Lee Wilson, Bob Henry, Ray Amsden, Michelle Egan, Ellen Montague, Arge Jeffery, Robin Siegfried, the press, and interested people.

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

#### B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Robinson announced the scheduled upcoming meetings.

Debbie Ossiander announced that she has been asked to join the comprehensive statewide review of Alaska's Special Education Services March 22 & 23 which is coordinated by the State Department of Education and Early Development.

Carol Comeau announced that the samples of the One Percent art panels for Trailside Elementary were available in the Board Room for School Board members and interested people in the audience to view.

Peggy Robinson thanked the School Board members and for agreeing to speak at the Bond presentations.

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #242 - Recognition of Consul-General Yoshinori Tsujimoto Of Japan

For the past three years Consul-General Yoshinori Tsujimoto has actively promoted his vision to unite the Japanese and American cultures. He has inspired Anchorage School District students to continue their study of the Japanese language and culture and to become the future ambassadors to Japan.

Some of his noteworthy contributions include celebrating the partnership of the Japanese Saturday School and Japanese Immersion Program. As a result, students are meeting new friends and exchanging correspondence in Japanese. Through his efforts, many students are aspiring Taiko drummers. Sand Lake Elementary students and parents are learning Taiko through community school classes and performing for school and community events.

Mr. Tsujimoto frequently attends student performances and award ceremonies and invites students to attend the Japanese Consulate's events. His most recent project is the inclusion of students in the Japan America Society of Alaska.

Because of his influence and participation with the Anchorage School District many students have a deeper understanding of the Japanese culture and people. Mr. Tsujimoto's legacy in Anchorage will be felt not only in the programs he has helped launch, but in the hearts of the students in our District.

It is requested the School Board recognize Consul-General Tsujimoto for helping to unite Japanese and American cultures in Anchorage.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Hans Bernard stated that the Student Advisory Board did not meet but he will forward the resolution they are working on to Pat McDowell. Mr. Bernard said that while in Juneau with some of the Board members, he felt a lot of progress was made in making the

legislators more aware of the issues facing the Anchorage School District and the Association of School Boards. Debbie Ossiander Senate Hess.

2. Military Delegate

No report.

3. M.E.C.C.

Reverend Green informed the School Board that MECC received a complaint from Hanshew Middle School and will be forwarding the final report to Carol Comeau and the School Board.

F. 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. | Regular Meeting | - | January 8, 2001   |
| b. | Special Meeting | - | January 22, 2001  |
| c. | Regular Meeting | - | January 22, 2001  |
| d. | Special Meeting | - | January 24, 2001  |
| e. | Special Meeting | - | January 30, 2001  |
| f. | Special Meeting | - | February 1, 2001  |
| g. | Special Meeting | - | February 5, 2001  |
| h. | Special Meeting | - | February 12, 2001 |
| i. | Regular Meeting | - | February 12, 2001 |

2. Reconsideration: 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.

3. ASD Memorandum #227 - A Resolution Recognizing March As National Women's History Month

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution recognizing March as National Women's History Month.

4. ASD Memorandum #209 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: School Safety Officers Program - Municipality of Anchorage

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept a grant from the Municipality of Anchorage for School Safety Officers Program for the 2000-2001 school year.

5. ASD Memorandum #223 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Youth Restitution Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept a pass-through grant from the Municipality of Anchorage, Youth Restitution Program, in the amount of \$35,000.

6. ASD Memorandum #210 - Renewal Of Contract: Zero Balance Banking Services

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew a contract with the First National Bank of Anchorage for a one-year period, May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2002 and that the Non-Interest Bearing Certificate of Deposit be authorized at \$985,000 for Zero Balance Banking Services.

7. ASD Memorandum #211 - Award Of Contract: Back Office Software Solutions (BOSS)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Horizon Software International, Inc. in the amount of \$152,684.00, for the implementation of Phase II of Back Office Software Solution (BOSS) system.

8. ASD Memorandum #224 - Award Of Contract: Bear Valley Elementary School Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Bear Valley Elementary School Roof Upgrades to the low responsive bidder, Universal Roofing of Alaska for the Base Bid in the amount of \$139,510, and accept Alternate #1 in the amount of \$13,800, for a total award of \$153,310, and to accept Unit Prices 1 and 2 as proposed.

9. ASD Memorandum #241 - Award Of Contract: Chugiak High School Renewal Phase 2 - Gym Modifications

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 2 - Gym Modifications to the lowest bidder, Consolidated Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$145,700.

10. ASD Memorandum #225 - Approval Of Building Schematic Design For Wendler Middle School Renovation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Building Schematic Design for Wendler Middle School Renovation and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with the Design Development and Construction Documents for the Wendler Middle School Renovation Phases 2a and 2b.

11. ASD Memorandum #213 - Proposed State Plan Of Service For Gifted For The 2001-2004 School Years

As required by law, it is recommended that the Anchorage School Board approve the attached State Plan of Service for Gifted Students for the 2001-2004 school years. The Plan is comprised of three sections: Child Find Plan, the Procedures and Criteria used to evaluate potentially gifted students, and the Ranges and Types of services for gifted students. A brief description of these sections is described on the following pages.

12. ASD Memorandum #215 - 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: ASD Memorandums #21, #227, #209, and #213.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2001 (6:30p.m.); Special Meeting of January 22, 2001 (4:30 p.m.); Regular Meeting of January 22, 2001 (6:30 p.m.); Special Meeting of January 24, 2001 (4:30 p.m.); Special Meeting of January 30, 2001 (4:30 p.m.); Special Meeting of February 1, 2001 (3:30 p.m.); February 5, 2001 (4:00p.m.); Special Meeting of February 12, 2001 (4:30 p.m.); Regular Meeting of February 12, 2001 (6:30 p.m.); Memorandum #223  
Memorandum #210  
Memorandum #211  
Memorandum #224  
Memorandum #241  
Memorandum #225; and  
Memorandum #215

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Reconsideration: 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.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to reconsider the action taken on  
seconded by Harriet Drummond February 12 with regard to  
Memorandum #21: Proposed  
Charter Changes: Family  
Partnership Charter School.

Rita Holthouse explained the background of the proposed change in the Charter for the Family Partnership Charter School. This involved private school students going to private school classes most of the day and then enrolling for P.E. and electives at the Family Partnership Charter School. The School Board had requested a procurement list of what type of items could be purchased and what type of vendors are eligible to receive the state funds. Ms. Holthouse requested the reconsideration because the list has not been produced to the School Board.

Dave Werdal felt that it is not necessary to reconsider since the Family Partnership Charter School group agreed to produce the list at a later time and felt assured that Carol Comeau and her administration would see that the list would be produced. Mr. Werdal stated that he would not support the reconsideration.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Floyd and Werdal

MOTION TO RECONSIDER PASSED

Carol Comeau stated that she is comfortable with the reconsideration. She too has concerns but feels, like Mr. Werdal, that the administration is closely scrutinizing the program and will continue to work through the issues. Ms. Comeau commented on her concerns with the program and stated that she was very interested in the Board's discussion.

Tara Bird, a parent at Family Partnership Charter School, stated that the parents at Family Partnership Charter School do not want to be doing inappropriate things with public funds. She thanked the Board and Administration for their support of this program.

Rita Holthouse stated her support of the Charter School's program and also her frustration with the fact that the list of paid activities/programs has not been included in the memorandum.

Carol Comeau explained what the Administration and School Board would like to see on the list, i.e. naming the activity/program and how the different organization's programs are being used in the student's individual learning plan.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she intends to vote for the ASD Memorandum #21 as presented and her reasons for doing so.

Peggy Robinson asked Carol Comeau to describe the highlighted part of the memorandum that requested a special work session with the Board. Carol Comeau stated that if there was enough discussion at the Board meeting the special work session would not be needed.

Peggy Robinson mentioned the new Attachment D that describes supplies and materials. Ms. Robinson also reminded the Board of Attachment E, which describes changes in the lottery procedures. If the memo does not pass they may want to divide the question and approve the changes to the lotteries separately.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to postpone Memorandum #21 until it is revised to include a list of "non-certified vendors and organizations" which may be reimbursed for providing services to students.

Debbie Ossiander called for a "Point of Order" due to the fact that the memorandum presented to the Board is not the same memorandum that was presented the first time. Ms. Comeau explained the changes in the memo that talked about the procurement list and the request for a work session. Dave Werdal agreed that if the memorandum is being reconsidered it should be the same memorandum that was presented to the Board the first time. Ms. Robinson agreed and stated that Attachment D is new and should not be included in the reconsideration of the memo. Ms. Robinson stated her concern that if they pass the motion as written it will also postpone the changes to their lottery.

Harriet Drummond commented that the original memorandum of February 12th did have an Attachment D and E and the Board should be discussing the same memo. The new Attachment D was submitted March 5th. They should have renamed the new Attachment D.

Rita Holthouse stated her intention was to postpone the memorandum until the Board receives a procurement list that would include services of non-certified vendors and agencies. Ms. Holthouse considered making a motion to divide the question to allow the changes in the lottery procedures to go forward.

Peggy Robinson stated to Ms. Holthouse that the order of the two amendments should have been reversed and asked her to withdraw her motion to postpone until after they vote on the motion to divide the question. Ms. Holthouse and the other Board members had no objection to withdrawing the amendment.

The Amendment to postpone Memorandum #21 was withdrawn.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse	To divide the question on
seconded by Harriet Drummond	Memorandum #21

Debbie Ossiander asked Carol Comeau for clarification of the point on lottery procedures. Carol Comeau commented on the changes in policy to the lottery procedures that were being requested in the memorandum. Tim Scott also explained the reason for requesting the changes in the policy of the lottery procedures.

The Board members discussed the possibilities of requesting a new memorandum for the March 19th Board meeting.

VOTE:

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

AMENDMENT TO DIVIDE THE QUESTION PASSED

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse	To approve Attachment E
seconded by Harriet Drummond	"Proposed Change to Lottery Procedures for Family Partnership Charter School" from the general memorandum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

To postpone Memorandum #21 until it is revised to include a list of "non-certified vendors and organizations" which may be reimbursed for providing services to students.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Werdal, Anderson

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #227 - A Resolution Recognizing March As National Women's History Month

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution recognizing March as National Women's History Month.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve ASD Memorandum #227  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that the Administration felt it was important to bring this before the Board because of the various activities being presented in the schools on this topic.

Mr. Robert Hayes commended Carol Comeau for her strong leadership in the School District and recognized Theresa Obermeyer for her interest and involvement at the School Board meetings.

VOTE:

Ayes: Rita Holthouse, John Floyd, Dave Werdal, Peggy Robinson, Debbie Ossiander, Tom Anderson, and Harriet Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #209 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: School Safety Officers Program - Municipality of Anchorage

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept a grant from the Municipality of Anchorage for School Safety Officers Program for the 2000-2001 school year.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve ASD Memorandum #209  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that the Assembly approved the recommendation to give \$150,000 per year to the District for the School Safety Officers.

Robert Hayes wanted the School Safety Officers to be aware of the possibility of faulty fire alarms that may be in the schools.

Peggy Robinson stated that the funds from the Assembly are very much appreciated.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #213 - Proposed State Plan Of Service For Gifted For The 2001-2004 School Years

As required by law, it is recommended that the Anchorage School Board approve the attached State Plan of Service for Gifted Students for the 2001-2004 school years. The Plan is comprised of three sections: Child Find Plan, the Procedures and Criteria used to evaluate potentially gifted students, and the Ranges and Types of services for gifted students. A brief description of these sections is described on the following pages.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #213  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau explained the State of Alaska's procedures in approving the School District's gifted program plan. She also described the information presented to the Board in the memorandum.

Robyn Rehmann, Executive Director of Special Education stated that the District is required to resubmit the plan of service on a regular basis. The Administration has not made substantial changes to the plan of service because there would soon be new statutes in place. After the new statutes are in place, a task force will be formed to look at possible changes in the program and the Administration will plan on bringing an amendment to the Board for approval.

Debbie Ossiander voiced her concern with the proposed legislation involving gifted programs. Ms. Ossiander commented on the variable degree of receptivity toward the gifted pull-out plan from parents and teachers.

#### AMENDMENT

Moved by Debbie Ossiander                      the ASD gifted office will notify all  
seconded by Harriett Drummond              parents of children who potentially  
qualify for service that this option  
may be available.

Ms. Ossiander complemented the Gifted Department's work on notifying the parents of the children who qualified for taking the SAT's at an early age. She would like to see the Gifted Department provide a similar letter to the parents of students who may qualify for the gifted services.

Carol Comeau asked Jo Garrett to comment. Ms. Garrett stated with how such a program might be implemented by the Gifted Department. She also stated her concerns.

Ms. Garrett also addressed the concern of having some teachers not recommending students for gifted testing as frequently as others. Robyn Rehmann stated that they do need to help the parents understand that they can also make a referral for their student. Less than half of the students tested actually qualify for gifted services. Ms. Rehmann said that they must continue to spread the word about gifted education by advertisement, notices to different community organizations, and increased public announcements.

Dave Werdal asked if the problem of teachers not referring students because they don't want to lose them from their classroom is a frequent

problem; and would it have a budgetary impact. Ms. Rehmann stated that it would have a budgetary impact because they would be testing more students, which would involve more teacher time and testing materials.

Rita Holthouse asked Ms. Ossiander if it would be her intent that non-standard placements could also be explained in the letter. Ms. Ossiander stated that would be her intent, but does not feel that she has the expertise to state how it would be accomplished.

Rita Holthouse stated that the District leaves no effort untried to identify students with disabilities and she feels the same effort needs to be made in the gifted area as well. She will support the amendment.

John Floyd stated that if the District has the opportunity to identify students for whatever reasons that they may qualify for gifted services the District is obligated to do that. Mr. Floyd agreed with Ms. Holthouse and would support the amendment.

Peggy Robinson stated that if the amendment can be interpreted as requesting the Administration to make a broader effort to notify parents of gifted services and qualifications; and also asking the Administration to work more with teachers that do not often make recommendations, she will support the amendment. She wanted to make sure that the Administration would also include notifying parents that there are ways of qualifying students who may have certified disabilities in some areas but may be gifted in others.

Carol Comeau stated that the Administration would have to identify the extra cost involved to implement the request brought forward in this amendment and would bring that information to the Board at a later time.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED

Debbie Ossiander commented on the procedures for standard placement and the frustrations by many teachers who feel they are spending a large amount of time on assessment.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander by simplifying qualifying  
seconded by Tom Anderson assessments by requiring one  
achievement and one ability test.

Ms. Ossiander noted that the requirement for placement at the mid-level is one achievement and one cognitive ability test; the qualifying standard in the high school mentorship program is only one qualifying test score and the non standard placement qualification is two assessments.

Carol Comeau asked Jo Garrett to respond. Jo Garrett explained the procedures for testing the elementary students. They do not use three tests on every student. If they qualify in the first two, they move on to the third. She feels the more information they have on a student, the better, and would prefer to keep the three test scores. She went on to explain the length of time it may take to qualify a student.

Dave Werdal questioned the amendment. He requested clarification on which part of the tests would be eliminated if the amendment passed. Ms. Ossiander stated that it would be up to the gifted program to decide.

Carol Comeau asked Jo Garrett if the gifted program staff has discussed changing assessments and would the two tests be adequate in identifying gifted students. Jo Garrett said that the staff has not discussed it. She would not want only two tests to be the only thing used. As long as there was other criteria used for identifying gifted students, she would be comfortable with it. Ms. Garrett also explained the difference between testing elementary students for gifted services and mid-level and secondary students for gifted services.

Mr. Werdal was concerned about the fact that the gifted program staff has not discussed the issue of eliminating the third test and stated that he did not feel comfortable supporting the amendment.

Peggy Robinson agreed with Mr. Werdal.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Drummond

Nays: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson, Anderson

AMENDMENT FAILED

Debbie Ossiander wanted to mention that there is concern that it will be required that each 6th grade teacher leave his/her classroom to be part of

a multi-disciplinary team to draw up an IEP for the student going into mid-level gifted. The teacher will often times be meeting with a teacher that won't provide the service at 7th grade. She would like the gifted department to look at this more closely.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander                      by including gifted mid-level math  
seconded by Tom Anderson

Debbie Ossiander stated her concerns with the elimination of mid-level gifted math.

Jo Garrett described the reasons for eliminating the gifted math class.

Gail Opalinski also stated the reasons for eliminating the title of gifted math in mid-level grades.

Carol Comeau stated that she agrees with Ms. Ossiander but feels there should be more discussion on the topic before the decision is made.

Rita Holthouse stated that she would vote against the amendment and would like a report back on it.

Dave Werdal asked Ms. Comeau to clarify her opinion on this topic. Carol Comeau discussed her views on the subject and stated that she believes there should be more discussion at a later time after the staff has had a chance to look at it more carefully.

John Floyd requested information on how the gifted department made this decision. Jo Garrett explained the process and who was involved in making that decision.

Mr. Floyd stated that he will not go against professionals on this subject and cannot support the amendment.

Hans Bernard stated that he would be in support of Ms. Ossiander's motion because it gives students more options.

Robyn Rehmann proposed that the Board leave mid-level math as it is and later pull a group together of parents, students, and professionals to provide open dialog and come to a consensus together after the new statutes are made.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Anderson, Drummond

Nays: Holthouse, Floyd, Werdal, Robinson

AMENDMENT FAILED

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Rita Holthouse was excused from the Board meeting.

1. ASD Memorandum #216 - Facility Project Report And Change Order Report For The Month Of January 2001

The monthly Facility Project Report Update and Change Order Report for the month of January 2001, is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

2. ASD Memorandum #217 - Operating Budget Transfers - January Monthly Report 2000-2001

The attached report of budget transfers for January 2001 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000—  
Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000,  
which includes summarized justifications.

Attachment B: Schedule of monthly budget transfers  
processed for the month of January 2001. Abbreviations  
in titles represent how data is stored in IFAS; continuity  
in the abbreviations within IFAS is an on-going process.

The budget transfer forms and related information for all of the transfers are available in the Budgeting Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

Debbie Ossiander requested clarification on the unallocated high school resources budget transfer. The funds were used for math textbooks to help students prepare for the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Pat McDowell stated that the funds were used for the Data class that the Board approved earlier in the school year. Ms Ossiander stated that she had received a phone call from mother of a student who failed the math portion of the HSGQE and asked what could be done to help this student. Ms. Ossiander suggested she talk to the counselor and to take the integrated math class that will be available in the fall. Ms. Comeau stated that Ms. Ossiander is correct and suggested summer school as another possible option.

3. ASD Memorandum #218 - End-Of-Month Membership Summary For January 2001

The end-of-month membership report for January 31, 2001, is attached. The total active enrollment at the end of January was 49,377, an increase of 319 students from the January 31, 2000, total of 49,058. Table 1 compares the membership on January 31, 2001, with the totals from January 31, 2000. The comparison and official membership for January 31, 2000, vs. January 31, 2001, is shown on Attachment A.

Carol Comeau stated that the Board was given another attachment for the Special Education students. The attachment was not included with the Board memorandum. Pat McDowell also told the Board that there was an error on the first page of the report in the first column in table one. It should read 49,058. Peggy Robinson commented on the fact that there is an additional 500 high school students and 200 more middle school students this year. Even though the number of students increased, the number of fighting/suspensions did not significantly increase.

Carol Comeau stated that the elementary enrollment this year has not been declining as they thought it would. Therefore, they are revising the projections in the CIP, and it will show an increase of elementary students.

4. ASD Memorandum #219 - Treasurers' Report/Financial Recap: January 31, 2001

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis with year-to-date information as of January 31, 2001.

5. ASD Memorandum #220 - Second 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.

Second quarter suspensions at the elementary level increased compared to incidents from the second quarter of the 1999-2000 school year. Elementary schools showed increases in fighting/assault and drug/alcohol/tobacco use, while decreases were seen in harassment and willful disobedience. Suspensions in middle schools also increased from last year in the areas of fighting/assault and drug/alcohol/tobacco use, along with increases in harassment and willful disobedience; but decreased in weapons violations. Suspensions at the high school level increased in every category, with the exception of harassment.

Carol Comeau stated that the Administration is very concerned with the increase in fighting and drug and alcohol in all levels and will be spending time in the spring talking about it. Ms. Comeau further stated the need to get parents more involved.

Hans Bernard stated that Ms. Comeau would be talking to the Student Advisory Board about this topic.

Ms. Robinson also expressed her concerns with the drug/alcohol problem.

Dave Werdal mentioned the drug/alcohol violation increase of 87 to 147. He questioned if the increase was due to the "two strikes and out" that the Board put in. Carol Comeau stated that the cut-off is at 6th grade. If a student had one offense up to 6th grade it stops. It starts over again in 7th grade so the incidents are incidents happening from 7th grade through 12th grade.

6. ASD Memorandum #221 Response To Management Letter: Deloitte & Touche LLP

The District awarded a contract to the firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP to complete an examination of the District's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2000.

7. ASD Memorandum #226 - Trailside Elementary School One Percent For Art

Chapter 7.40 of the Anchorage Municipal Code defines the process for selection and acquisition of art to be displayed in public places, including public school buildings. This code authorizes the Municipality to select the artist and the artwork, with a review of the proposed artwork by the School District only as to its safety and maintenance factors. ASD Risk Management and Maintenance have reviewed the artwork and have expressed no objections.

H. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

I. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Debbie Ossiander thanked Hans Bernard, Harriet Drummond, and Carol Comeau for the outstanding job they did while they were in Juneau. Ms. Ossiander commented on the areas of concern with the legislators and that community support is needed. Harriet Drummond stressed the importance of the community getting in touch with their legislators and direct them to the findings of the Education Funding Task Force. Carol Comeau added that a group of principals were going to Juneau the following week.

Peggy Robinson stated that the Board appreciated the amount of work that Ms. Ossiander has been doing in Juneau. Ms. Robinson asked if Mary Bristol and the Social Studies Department has had a chance to comment on the renewed interest in teaching Alaska history to the students and how it might be implemented. Carol Comeau stated that a meeting was scheduled for the end of the month with Edna Lambull and the Social Studies Department chairs.

Ms. Robinson asked Carol Comeau if she would prepare a memorandum for the March 19th Agenda supporting the recommendations of the Governor's Education Funding Task Force.

The Board discussed the possibility of preparing a memorandum supporting the investment of tobacco settlement money on effective tobacco prevention programs. Ms. Robinson requested the Legislative Committee to discuss the issue and decide whether or not to bring it before the whole Board.

Debbie Ossiander complemented Ms. Robinson for her work on the Special Education Bill.

Peggy Robinson announced the second Alaska School Board legislative fly-in is scheduled for April 22 - 24th. The Board Meeting of the 23rd will be cancelled and a Special Board meeting will be held on April 30th.

The possibility of a run-off election was discussed along with the possibility of changing Board policy since it states that the new members need to be sworn in within 7 days of the election.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION -  
(PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)

K. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of March 12, 2001 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:50 p.m.

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Peggy Robinson, President

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Debbie Ossiander, Clerk

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Date Minutes Approved