

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 2001**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, August 27, 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, Harriet Drummond, Jake Metcalfe, Tim Steele, Rita Holthouse, Debbie Ossiander and Dave Werdal.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Pat McDowell, Mike Henry, Gail Opalinski, Patricia McRae, Jerry Sjolander, Ed Conyers, Lee Wilson, Michelle Egan, Stan Syta, Mike Price, Bob Henry, Bill Mikawa, Mike Klawitter, Robin Siegfried, the press and other interested people.

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

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Peggy Robinson announced the upcoming meetings. Debbie Ossiander mentioned that the next Legislative Sub Committee would be held on September 4 at 12:00 p.m. Ms. Robinson also announced the addition of Persons to be Heard on Non Agenda Items at the beginning of future School Board meetings, after the Special Advisory Reports and before the Consent Agenda. There will be a time limit of 30 minutes; however, those who may not have an opportunity to speak then can do so after the Superintendent's Report.

Carol Comeau thanked the ASD employees and citizens who have donated items to the Catholic Social Services (HUGSS) Drive. Ms. Comeau also commended the nurses, staffs and principals for their efforts in encouraging parents to bring in their paperwork, proving immunization requirements.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda, with an Addendum to the Personnel Report, was approved by unanimous consent.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory:

None

2. Military Delegate:

Lt. Col. Mulcahy stated that all students at Fort Richardson were vaccinated at the conclusion of registration, and he believes that all students at Elmendorf completed their vaccinations as well.

3. M.E.C.C.:

Chairperson Mary Marks announced that the M.E.C.C. Board accepted Mary Marks as the new Chairperson and Richard Benavides as Parliamentary. Interviews are currently being conducted for the vacant seats on the Board, and a list of the new members will be presented at the next School Board meeting.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's office.**

1. ASD Memorandum # 21 - Appointment Of Minority Education Concerns Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board extend the appointments of the following individuals to the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) for terms expiring on June 30, 2002:

- Marilyn Andersen
- Talakai Finau

2. ASD Memorandum #24 - Appointment Of Controversial Issues Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board reappoint:

Bill Boyle, Minority Community Representative,
Louise Sagmoen, Minority Community Representative,
Sandra O'Brien, Member at Large,
Herbert Berkowitz, Member at Large,
Esther Cox, Member at Large,
Valerie Oliver, Elementary Librarian,
Linda Masterson, Secondary Librarian
Peggy Spencer, Elementary Teacher, and
Marcia Indahl, Secondary Teacher

to two-year terms expiring June 30, 2002, and reappoint

James Wright, Member at Large, and
LaTanya Williams, Member at Large

to two-year terms, expiring June 30, 2003. It is further recommended that

Frank Reuter, Secondary Assistant Principal,
Bonnie Wallace, Elementary Principal, and
Lori McNeil, PTA Representative

be appointed to two-year terms, expiring June 30, 2003, on the Controversial Issues Review Committee.

3. ASD Memorandum #14 - Award Of Contract: Four-School Power And Data Upgrades In Support Of Technology

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Four-School Power and Data Upgrades in Support of Technology to Consolidated Contracting and Engineering for the Base Bid in the amount of \$505,555 and to accept Additive Alternates 1,2,3 and 4 in the amount of \$71,849 for a total award of \$577,404.

4. ASD Memorandum #15 - Professional Services Selection: Girdwood Landfill Closure Design

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of URS Corporation for investigation and design services to develop corrective actions for closure of the dump adjacent to Girdwood School and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with URS Corporation for these design services.

5. ASD Memorandum #23 - Acceptance Of Continuation Grant Award: Title VII Comprehensive School Grant: William Tyson Elementary

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA), in the amount of \$192,418, to fund the continuation of the Title VII Comprehensive School Grant for Tyson Elementary School.

6. ASD Memorandum #26 -Acceptance Of Grant Award: Carl Perkins

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the Carl Perkins Grant in the amount of \$941,430 for 2001-2002.

7. ASD Memorandum # 38 - Increases To Self-Insurance

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve increasing the amount designated for self-insurance from \$7,000,000 to \$9,000,000 utilizing the undesignated fund balance of the General Fund.

8. ASD Memorandum #18 - Personnel Report

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memoranda #15 and #24.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to approve Memorandum #21;
Memorandum #14;
Memorandum #23;
Memorandum #26;
Memorandum #38; and
Memorandum #18.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse
Robinson, Drummond,
Metcalf, Werdal

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #24 - Appointment Of Controversial Issues
Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board
reappoint:

Bill Boyle, Minority Community Representative,
Louise Sagmoen, Minority Community Representative,
Sandra O'Brien, Member at Large,
Herbert Berkowitz, Member at Large,
Esther Cox, Member at Large,
Valerie Oliver, Elementary Librarian,
Linda Masterson, Secondary Librarian
Peggy Spencer, Elementary Teacher, and
Marcia Indahl, Secondary Teacher

to two-year terms expiring June 30, 2002, and reappoint:

James Wright, Member at Large, and
LaTanya Williams, Member at Large

to two-year terms, expiring June 30, 2003. It is further recommended that

Frank Reuter, Secondary Assistant Principal,
Bonnie Wallace, Elementary Principal, and
Lori McNeil, PTA Representative

be appointed to two-year terms, expiring June 30, 2003, on the
Controversial Issues Review Committee.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #24.
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau explained the process for selecting the members for the Controversial Issues Review Committee and stated that a controversial issue has been brought forward so there is a need to complete the committee membership soon. Debbie Ossiander expressed her concern regarding the need for a diversity of opinion among the committee. Dale Cope informed the Board that the applications were reviewed by two of the School Board members in January 2001. Peggy Robinson declared that she and Mr. Werdal were the two who reviewed the perspective members' applications. Ms. Robinson and Mr. Werdal assured Ms. Ossiander that they felt there was diversity among the members. Dale Cope also explained that under the first group of names in the memo, the sentence should read that it is a one-year term, not a two-year term and that the term expires June 30, 2002.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse
Robinson, Drummond,
Metcalf, Werdal

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #15 - Professional Services Selection: Girdwood Landfill Closure Design Revised

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of URS Corporation for investigation and design services to develop corrective actions for closure of the dump adjacent to Girdwood School and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with URS Corporation for these design services.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele to approve Memorandum #15.
seconded by Rita Holthouse

Ms. Comeau inquired if all of the Board members had received the revised memorandum. All members confirmed they had received it. Tim Steele expressed his concern that the District is spending a significant amount of funds on this parcel of land next to the school. Mr. Steele

hoped that when inviting others to participate in the closure project funding, the Administration would look to those same people for some of the design cost as well. Mr. Vakalis gave a brief history of the Girdwood Landfill Closure issue. Rita Holthouse asked if the Municipality would be one of the other stakeholders. Mr. Vakalis stated that the Municipality would be requested to participate in the funding of this project.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse
Robinson, Drummond,
Metcalf, Werdal

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #35 - Discussion Of Proposed Goals FY 2001-2002

The School Board requested the opportunity to discuss possible revisions to the FY 2000-2001 goals at this meeting. The Board requested an opportunity to review some of the available achievement data from the 2000-2001 school year done locally and in response to State assessment requirements.

Information previously provided to the School Board is included as attachments to this memo; also included is additional research information on student achievement provided by Ms. Robinson.

Superintendent Carol Comeau explained the attachments to the memorandum that were presented to the Board regarding student performance. Ms. Comeau stated that she appreciated all of the hard work that the teachers, principals, coordinators and supervisors in the Instructional Division have done in the past two years since the Quality School Initiatives were developed. Ms. Comeau feels that everyone in the District has become more focused on academic achievement. We are looking at teaching in a different way and are not afraid to be more accountable. We simply need more time in order to help the teachers to teach to standards as well as make sure that the curriculum and instructional program are aligned to the standards.

Teaching to the standards involves a different style of teaching. Students also need to get used to being accountable in different ways than simply completing a course or getting a certain grade on a test.

Ms. Comeau feels that we are focusing on everything we can do to help our students be more proficient.

Rita Holthouse requested information about the spelling goals and the success of the new method of measuring achievement. In past years, the CAT scores were used to learn how well they were spelling. Dr. Stofflet, Ray Fenton and Tom Straugh worked with a committee to develop, by grade level, a list of words and developed a pre and post test from that list. We are able to use this test as well as the CAT test and now we have a couple of measures, as well as looking at the mechanics that show up in the writing assessment. Patricia McRae stated that the administration of the test worked well and the data was useful, although there were concerns as to whether or not the words that were used were high frequency words. Pat McDowell and Gail Opalinski agreed with Ms. McRae's statement. Tim Steele stated that, as a parent, he thought the new spelling test system was very helpful for his child and it worked well. Carol Comeau stated that the Administration should define some kind of a target to strive for and bring a recommendation within the next few weeks.

Rita Holthouse was delighted to see the statement that the high schools would make more of an effort to discourage students who are not proficient or successful from requesting classes that would not be as likely to help them graduate. Carol Comeau stated that there is a need for the District to be more directive with students and direct them to classes that will help them succeed.

The Board and Administration further discussed the efforts of the District to help students succeed. Mike Henry reviewed the successful efforts of the High School summer school program. Gail Opalinski and Patricia McRae also discussed the Middle School and Elementary School summer programs. Jerry Sjolander explained the efforts from Special Education in helping students succeed.

Fees and waivers for summer school were discussed. Carol Comeau expressed her feeling that the fee was not necessarily the issue but the students were not interested in giving up their summers to go to summer school. Ms. Comeau also stated that the District should continue to educate families and students the critical need to continue to make progress through the year as well as everything we can in the summer to assist them. Rita Holthouse requested a legal reading on the issue of these requirements.

Pat McDowell briefed the Board on the GSS (Graduation Support Services) program that allows the student to make up grades for courses that have not been passed successfully. It requires a certain sacrifice on

the part of the student. Ms. McDowell also stated that there is a request to change the name to Extended Day. Ms. Comeau agreed with the change of the name of the program.

Debbie Ossiander stated she was pleased to learn of the development of software for the Districtwide student reporting system to track the data on the students and have it available when doing remediation. The Board members requested Pat McDowell to brief them on the progress of this program. During the briefing, Ms McDowell announced that they are in the process of developing the program. Patricia McRae informed the Board of the progress that the Instructional Technology department has made for the Elementary Education program.

Regarding the new school designator regulations, Debbie Ossiander requested the Administration to define how the District will respond to schools that have a large number of students below proficiency and the fact that there will be "labellings" that (special educators will feel) will not be reflective of all that's going on in the school. Ms. Ossiander feels it is important that the Board hear from the Administration on this topic now (before the regulation is in effect) to further inform the legislators about what is coming. Ms. Ossiander feels there is currently a small window of time where we can, in speaking to the legislators, make this be the best thing for students. Carol Comeau described the development of a School Designator committee. Ms. Comeau stated that it is in statute that there needs to be a system in place to show failing schools as well as other categories. It is critical that we identify statistics that make a difference but also shows growth. Ms. Comeau further expressed her opinion of the development of this program.

Some schools may look like they are not making progress because they have a very transient population. The Administration is working with the principals to develop a way to look at data at their schools, analyze it and see what they need to do differently. This will take a lot of people changing the way they teach. The schools will need to develop a plan on how to identify students struggling; how to look at the schools' trends; and is their curriculum sequencing right, i.e. math. It is a matter of using data to drive instruction for the first time - not teaching to the test. It is getting standards into the curriculum and making sure we are teaching those standards. Mike Henry explained what they are doing in the high schools to identify struggling students. Gail Opalinski described what the Middle Schools are doing to identify these students. Patricia McRae also explained Elementary Schools' process, which includes each principal analyzing data and charting it in each building. Dale Cope reported that the Curriculum coordinators could target their inservices to

the literacy and math standards and instead of providing large inservices, perhaps do more to help the needs of individual schools. Ms Comeau confirmed the need for more data. Further discussion was brought forth on this subject. Tom Straugh was asked to brief the Board on the API (Alaskan Performance Index). The API is a scale that runs from zero to 100 and reflects the percentage of points earned for a particular standard.

Peggy Robinson asked if there is a need for a statewide student ID. Carol Comeau stated that the state could indeed mandate a statewide student identification number.

Debbie Ossiander asked if there would be a districtwide exam of the math curriculum due to the test scores results. Carol Comeau confirmed that there is a need for an analysis.

Rita Holthouse commented on remedial classes and the fact that some will have to occur during the school day. Ms. Holthouse suggested that the Board also have a goal of protecting elective programs and some of the other core curriculum i.e., social studies and physical education. Ms. Holthouse also expressed her concern of the current student dropout rate and the fear that if the students are required to take more District directive classes that more students will drop out of school. Carol Comeau agreed with Ms. Holthouse's concerns.

Debbie Ossiander expressed her concern of the breakdown of benchmark and exit exam scores that showed the difference in scores with lower socioeconomic and transient students, as well as gender and ethnicity and how to lessen differences in scores.

Peggy Robinson spoke on the Child Trends Research Brief and thought that it was a great synopsis on a number of different factors that are involved in making students successful. Rita Holthouse thought it was interesting that it talked about the readiness of the child as well as the readiness of the school.

Debbie Ossiander commented on the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam results that included a drop in reading scores and an increase in math scores. The assessment is putting a lot of emphasis on timings of the test as well as political climate when they were taking the test. Ms. Ossiander requested how they can get more definitive information. Tom Straugh stated the tests are going to be rotated each time. The comparability is not the same when not given in the same order. Carol Comeau stated no matter what the rationale might be about the rotation

we have to look at this data as what we have and do what we can to help the students become more proficient.

Tim Straugh mentioned the field testing of additional items this spring. The students were given an extra hour of field tests and by the end of the second day, they were tired. Carol Comeau stated that she spoke to Commissioner Holloway and they are still exploring the idea of doing one test one week and another test another week, although it would have a disruptive affect on the schools.

The Board recessed at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Werdal excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

ASD Memorandum #25 - Federal Legislation Update

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) comprises the majority of the federal government's commitment to K-12 education.

H.R. I, the House ESEA bill, was passed on May 23rd by a vote of 384 to 45. The Senate bill, S. 1, was approved by a vote of 91 to 8 on June 14th. The bill that will ultimately reach the White House in the fall will be composed of elements from both the House and Senate versions.

The conference committee responsible for resolving differences between the House and Senate bills is scheduled to resume meeting in September, following a month-long August recess.

Debbie Ossiander commented on the House and Senate bills mentioned in the memorandum. It was suggested that the Board take a position on several of these items which included full funding of IDEA and concern over the testing requirements. Tim Steele also suggested a testing regime and Rita Holthouse was concerned about the discipline amendments. Carol Comeau informed the Board that Larry Wiget could draft a memorandum for the Board to review at the next Board meeting. Jake Metcalfe suggested that Mr. Wiget draft a resolution and the Board could add or subtract statements. It would be added to the September 10, 2001 School Board meeting. Rita Holthouse appreciated the memo and thanked Dr. Wiget.

Peggy Robinson stated that budget projections are worse than predicted last week, and felt that there is a need to encourage funding for these items. It was also mentioned that the Board should thank Senator Stevens for co-sponsoring the bill for full funding of IDEA.

ASD Memorandum #16 - Facility Project Report And Change Order Report For The Months Of June And July 2001

The monthly Facility Project Report Update And Change Order Report for the months of June and July is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

ASD Memorandum #17 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the two-week period of July 27 through August 10, 2001.

At Peggy Robinson's request, Mike Price informed the Board that the design status for Denali Elementary was presented to the Urban Design Commission on August 9th. It passed there and at Planning and Zoning. The next level is design development, which is due next month. The public hearing on the South Anchorage Area High School at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting was postponed until September 24th, 2001.

ASD Memorandum #4 - Operating Budget Transfers - June Monthly Report FY 200-2001

The attached report of budget transfers for June 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: The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of June 2001 normally attached to this Board Memorandum is 75 pages in length. Budget transfers in the month of June were great in number due to Learning Opportunity Grant money being transferred, distribution of summer school funds, and approved Board Memorandum funds. In order to conserve paper, this schedule is available for interested parties in the Budget Department.

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

Peggy Robinson requested information regarding the warehouse courier services and whether or not that position had been contracted out. Lee Wilson informed the Board that the Administration agreed with the Teamsters Union to reclassify the courier position to a M-3 position. The rate is comparable to the price of an outside courier.

ASD Memorandum #32 - Out-Of-District Travel - First Quarter FY 2001-2002

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the fourth quarter of FY 2000-2001 for both in-state and out-of-state travel. This report complies with the travel procedures established with the revision to School Board Policy Sections 156, Board Member Travel, and 526, Staff Travel.

ASD Memorandum #22 - Conflict Of Interest: Fourth Quarter Report FY 2000-2001

The attached listing of employee Conflict of Interest Waiver and Disclosure actions is forwarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.44. This information is provided as the fourth quarter report for the FY 2000-2001 school year.

H. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Alex Slivka represented the Turnagain View Estates Homeowners Association. Mr. Slivka welcomes placement of the new South Anchorage Area High School on the site. Mr. Slivka asked the Board to approve the installation of a chain-linked fence as a buffer.

Alice Gommell, a homeowner in Turnagain View Estates stated her concern about security and safety and requests that the Board approves constructing a fence around the SAAHS.

Carol Comeau responded to the speakers and mentioned the meetings between Mr. Slivka and Turnagain View Estates homeowners earlier, as well as Assembly members Tremaine and Shamberg. Ms. Comeau stated that the Administration would proceed at this point and was not comfortable with the suggestion of an installation of a fence. George Vakalis explained the ramifications of installing the fence. Mike Price explained the buffer that would include 40 ft. of utility easement and Mr. Slivka and Ms. Gommell's wish for a fence at an additional 40 ft. away.

I. COMMUNICATION & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

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

The Regular Meeting of August 27, 2001 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:35 p.m. August 27, 2001.

Peggy Robinson, President

Harriet Drummond, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved