

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2001**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, September 10, 2001 at 6:50 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: Debbie Ossiander, Tim Steele, Rita Holthouse, Peggy Robinson, Harriet Drummond, and Jake Metcalfe

Board Members Excused: Dave Werdal

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Pat McDowell, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Henry, Gail Opalinski, Patricia McRae, Jerry Sjolander, Duane Moran, Dale Cope, Larry Wiget, Michelle Egan, Bob Henry, Stan Syta, Ray Amsden, Bill Mikawa, Mike Kerosky, Bonnie Hardy, Ray Fenton, Jim Taylor, Corey Rennell, Lt. Colonel Peter Mulcahy, Mary Marks, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and interested people

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

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Robinson welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologized for the delay in the starting time.

President Robinson announced the upcoming meetings.

Carol Comeau stated that she appreciated and wanted to publicly acknowledge the work that the nurses, counselors, clerical workers, principals, and the Public Relations Department did on the hepatitis immunizations. The District did not have a final number of students that were excluded on the first day, but knew that it was very low. It was reported that Dr. John Midaugh, State Epidemiologist, also commended everyone for the leadership role they took in the immunization process.

Superintendent Comeau informed the Board that the student enrollment for Monday, September 10, 2001 was 49,279 students.

Carol Comeau informed the Board that the Administration is not going to recommend a fall bond election, but will bring forward a recommendation in early December.

The Controversial Issues Committee will meet in the Board Room on September 18, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss It's Perfectly Normal and hear from the complainants. The Superintendent will make a recommendation to the School Board on October 8, 2001 regarding the status of the book in school libraries.

Carol Comeau also informed the School Board about a press conference scheduled on Friday, September 14 at 11:00 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room with the Anchorage Police Department and the Mayor on the K-9 unit that has been trained to sniff out weapons.

Debbie Ossiander, Tim Steele, and Peggy Robinson each gave a brief overview of their visits to schools on the first day. Mr. Steele also was able to attend one of the crisis training presentations by APD and felt it was a good discussion. Carol Comeau stated that the principals will be surveyed on Wednesday, September 12 for feedback on the crisis training.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Robinson stated that the first page of the August 13, 2001 minutes from the regular School Board meeting were revised as well as ASD Memorandum #43 – Appointment of Additional Minority Education Concerns Committee Members and ASD Memorandum #36 – School Board Mission Statement and Goals for FY 2001-2002 – Attachment A. Carol Comeau withdrew ASD Memorandum #29 – Denali Award Recipients, Spring 2001 and rescheduled it to the September 24, 2001 School Board meeting. There were no objections and the agenda was approved.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

Memorandum #29 was rescheduled to September 24.

E. PRESENTATIONS

1. Volunteers of America

Beau Bassett gave a presentation on America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth. He stated that America rallied behind one formula designed to equip young people with five basic tools and

resources that create opportunities for success. The five America's Promise fundamental resources are: an ongoing relationship with a caring adult, mentor, tutor, coach; safe places and structured activities during non-school hours; a healthy start; a marketable skill through effective education; and an opportunity to give back through community service.

Volunteers of America has been involved in America's Promise and has entered into partnerships with Wendler Middle School and Lake Otis Elementary School to work collaboratively to ensure that these two schools are Schools of Promise and that all their students have essential resources in life to be successful.

The Prudential Insurance Company sponsors the Spirit of Community Initiative, which Volunteers of America implements in Alaska. It involves award recognition for community service in middle and high schools, 4H Councils, and Girl Scout Councils and commits to bring the Prudential Youth Leadership Institute training to new communities, and increases the distribution of the "catch the spirit" youth community service guide.

Mr. Bassett encouraged a member of the School Board to be a representative to America's Promise. He also invited the Board and the Administration to a breakfast at Wendler on Friday, October 12 from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Bassett explained the red wagon as a metaphor symbol of America's Promise. The wagon is full of hopes and dreams and does not move by itself. Volunteers need to pull the wagon for them and it is the community's obligation to reach across the community to pull the wagon for students.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

Student Advisory:

Corey Rennell announced that the first Student Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 28 at 9:00 a.m. The location has not been determined. The Superintendent will join the group to talk about closed campus. Ms. Ossiander invited Corey to attend the AASB Youth Leadership Conference in November.

Military Delegate:

LTC Peter Mulcahy informed the Board that he visited several elementary schools over the past few weeks and found them to be operating very smoothly. LTC Mulcahy also has met with the Administration over the past several weeks concerning housing on EAFB. Both installations have conducted workshops for school staffs about the unique aspects of working on a military base and military life. He has received positive feedback from the schools.

#### MECC

Mary Marks informed the Board that the interviews for additional candidates have been completed; eight were interviewed and three selected. MECC meeting dates will be advertised on Channel 43 and information will be placed on the Web site. Ms. Marks also visited her children's school (Williwaw) on the first day and reported that it was running very smoothly. She will also attend PTA on September 11.

#### G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – (30 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

Theresa Obermeyer announced that she is very pleased about having persons speaking on non-agenda items placed at the beginning of the agenda. This will work well for parents who now don't have to hire a babysitter so they can attend a Board meeting.

Robert Hayes is a parent of two children in the District and appreciates the persons speaking on non-agenda items back at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Hayes requested that the Board review his lawsuit and the letter written by maintenance personnel; he feels that the lawyers are getting rich. Carol Comeau emphasized that his claim has been investigated, and it is his decision whether or not he continues to pursue his lawsuit.

#### 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 – August 13, 2001
  - b. Special Meeting – August 13, 2001

2. ASD Memorandum #43 – Appointment of Additional Minority Education Concerns Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint the following individuals (Attachments A, B, and C) to the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) for terms expiring on June 30, 2003: Reality Canty, Victoria Parham, Clarissa Ridgway.

3. ASD Memorandum #52 – Appointment of Controversial Issues Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint Kimberly Burgess – PTA Representative, and Corey Rennell – Student Representative to the Controversial Issues Review Committee for two-year terms expiring June 30, 2003. It is further recommended that the School Board appoint Emily Dziejic - Student Representative to the Controversial Issues Review Committee for a one-year term expiring June 30, 2002.

4. ASD Memorandum #42 – Acceptance of Supplemental Grant Award: Safe and Drug Free Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a supplemental grant award to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, from the Alaska Highway Safety Planning Agency, in the amount of \$43,986.

5. ASD Memorandum #39 – Acceptance of Foreign Language Assistance Program Continuation Grant Award: MMIC (Moshi Moshi is for Community)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs, Foreign Language Assistance Program in the amount of \$116,002.

6. ASD Memorandum #40 – Acceptance of Foreign Language Assistance Program Continuation Grant Award: TROIKA

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of

Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs, Foreign Language Assistance Program, in the amount of \$119,994.

7. ASD Memorandum #41 – Award of Contract: Facility Maintenance Boiler Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Facility Maintenance Building Boiler Replacement to Consolidated Contracting and Engineering for the Base Bid in the amount of \$228,060 and incorporate Allowances 1 and 2 in the amount of \$28,162 for a total award of \$256,222.

8. ASD Memorandum #36 – School Board Goals FY 2001-2002

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals as shown on Attachment A.

9. ASD Memorandum #31 – 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: Regular Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2001; ASD Memorandums #43, #42, and #36.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander	to approve the minutes for the
seconded by Harriet Drummond	special meeting of August 13, 2001;
	Memorandum #52;
	Memorandum #39;
	Memorandum #40;
	Memorandum #41; and
	Memorandum #31.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele  
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to approve the minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting on September 10, 2001 with an amendment.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Tim Steele  
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to amend the minutes from the Regular School Board Meeting on September 10, 2001 to read:

Tim Steele asked if a key code could be provided for the categories on the report. Also, he stated that with the policy change on sexual harassment, it would be good to track any disciplinary suspensions over the year to understand what is happening.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MAIN MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #43 – Appointment of Additional Minority Education Concerns Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint the following individuals (Attachments A, B, and C) to the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) for terms expiring on June 30, 2003: Reality Canty, Victoria Parham, Clarissa Ridgway.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #43.  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Jake Metcalfe announced that the interview committee had chosen the top three candidates for the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) and urged the Board to support the motion.

Theresa Obermeyer thanked Mr. Metcalfe for asking about her application because if he hadn't asked, she would not have received an interview. She is concerned about the way she is treated and is concerned that the children in our schools are treated unfairly. Ms. Obermeyer commented that she will attend some of the MECC meetings this year and hopes that the front door will not be locked

Robert Hayes expressed his appreciation for this committee and hopes that they will look at all minorities such as handicapped, gay, outcasts, etc.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #42 – Acceptance of Supplemental Grant Award: Safe and Drug Free Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a supplemental grant award to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, from the Alaska Highway Safety Planning Agency, in the amount of \$43,986.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #42.  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that Mike Kerosky is in the audience to answer any questions by the Board.

Robert Hayes stated that he saw police cars around East High School recently and thinks that the District should inform the students about what is going on in the schools.

Carol Comeau stated that the Police Department use our schools all the time for training opportunities.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #36 – School Board Goals FY 2001-2002

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved Harriet Drummond to approve Memorandum #36.  
seconded by Rita Holthouse

Carol Comeau stated that the Administration's recommendation is to continue with the current mission statement that was earlier approved. Input gathered from other departments also indicated that the Board should keep their focus on the current goals and not make major changes. Information from the August 27 School Board meeting, when the proposed goals were discussed, was also considered in the Superintendent's final recommendation.

Superintendent Comeau reported that the main focus will be to report data on student achievement, which will show if our students are proficient in the Benchmarks and the HSGQE. Two additional grades are being tested this year. This will help to compare how our students are doing nationally as well as statewide. Ms. Comeau also wishes to continue the use of the Anchorage Writing Assessment as a training tool to help assess our student's writing ability.

Corey Rennell asked if an assessment would be made at the end of the year to see if we actually met our goals. Superintendent Comeau responded yes, the Profile of Performance is a measurement of our goals.

Theresa Obermeyer stated that testing makes every child feel demoralized and fearful. She feels testing has become political and is positive that EXON is behind the HSGQE. Ms. Obermeyer does recognize that professionals try to put children at ease when taking exams, but tests terrorize children.

Rita Holthouse stated she is pleased to see a recognition in the goals on potential dropouts. Ms. Holthouse emphasized that both she and Ms. Ossiander would like to see a decrease, but just keeping it even would also be an accomplishment.

Superintendent Comeau expressed her concern over not including a decrease in the dropout rate as one of the goals. Even knowing that we have so much transiency within the District, we should be striving to decrease the dropout rate. Ms. Comeau further stated that with everything the Instructional Division and schools are presently doing with early intervention, we should see more successful middle and high school students. After-school programs, weekend programs, and summer school are just a sample of what is available to help students succeed early in their careers.

Rita Holthouse questioned the meaning of “all students will demonstrate high level.” Carol Comeau responded that students should be proficient and meet or exceed what we are presently doing. Ms. Comeau stated that this is not well-defined and asked the Board for suggestions as to what it means to them. Pat McDowell commented that they would like to track students to see if their test scores have improved. Ms. Holthouse commented that she sees that as growth not demonstrating a high level.

Ray Fenton stated that the State of Alaska has given us a definition of what a high standard is in setting the scores or cut-off scores for the Benchmarks and the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. There is a standard for mathematics, but not for spelling. Norm referenced tests have been used for years as an index of spelling performance. The 50th percentile would be the national average of any norm reference tests. Anchorage performance, not in spelling, has generally run around the 60th percentile. Dr. Fenton explained that if you have an expectation for performance on a norm reference test, you should look around the 60th percentile based on our history. Ms. Holthouse commented that it would be difficult to know whether or not we meet that expectation in spelling

Carol Comeau restated that this is difficult to define and the Administration would be agreeable to a change in the wording.

Corey Rennell commented that we can always have a goal of gaining percentile points, but is there an action plan to actually show how we are going to meet that goal.

Carol Comeau stated that each school, through their School Report Card and Learning Opportunity Grant, must come up with a plan to address those students who are not proficient in meeting the standards.

President Robinson asked if it is possible, knowing that there are a mixture of exams, to show at least a growth of one year.

Tom Straugh stated that one of the things you could look at with the new testing is that if a student does not increase but stays the same on the percentile, the student has made one year's growth; if the student increases, more has been accomplished. There will be comparisons available between fourth and fifth grades and other comparisons through the Benchmarks and the HSGQE.

Debbie Ossiander mentioned information that she has gathered shows districts experienced increased dropout rates when they move to high stakes testing. She is interested in knowing how other districts are handling this and how the community is responding to this issue. Ms. Ossiander would be interested in doing some focus group work to see where our community standards are on this topic. Carol Comeau asked Ms. Ossiander to share the information she has gathered.

Carol Comeau indicated that she wants to do a survey this fall with the community on a number of issues. She plans to ask the community what their major priorities are for our instructional program and would also address questions regarding other issues. Ms. Comeau plans to put together some public engagement focus groups to reach out to the community. The military community had a forum last spring on a number of issues and would be a good model to pattern. Debbie Ossiander suggested that the community rank what is most important to them in the District on the survey.

Ms. Ossiander commented that one of the items that was omitted from this revision to the goals was that we should develop additional math classes for those students who wish to continue with their mathematics without taking calculus.

Carol Comeau stated that the Administration did develop two additional math classes last year that the Board approved. Two classes were developed for 11th graders who had passed algebra and geometry. The Administration feels that the goal has been met.

Pat McDowell commented that some of our high school classes have not attracted enough students. The District has been talking with the

university to see if students could take classes; grouping has been discussed so students could stay in their own schools; and they are also looking into some electronic type classes.

AMENDMENT:

Moved Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Peggy Robinson

to amend the wording in the second bullet under math #3 to read: The percentage of students who have been successful in completing Algebra 1 in grade 8, Geometry in grade 9, and Algebra 2 in grade 10 will increase. Grades earned in each class will also be reported.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she hopes the Board will support this amendment.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

AMENDMENT:

Moved Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to amend the wording in the first bullet under #3 to read: The percentage of students meeting state standards in mathematics as indicated on Alaska Benchmark Examinations, Terra Nova, and the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam will increase.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION PASSED

AMENDMENT:

Moved Rita Holthouse to amend #4 – Spelling to read: All students will demonstrate at least one year growth in spelling at the end of each grade level in grades 2 through 10.  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Dr. Ray Fenton commented that growth scales will be available in reading, writing, and math. Next year, we will have a percentile rank in spelling, which will show the percentile growth from fourth to fifth grade.

Rita Holthouse commented that she thought we had an opportunity to measure a student's growth by using the pre- and post-spelling test in grades 2-10 on our own developed spelling list of 100 frequency spelling words by the end of each grade level.

Tom Straugh replied that we are measuring one set of words one year and another set the next year. The District does not have a comparison that shows if a student gets 15 percent right one year and gets 15 percent right the next year, the student would have made one year's growth in spelling.

Further discussion followed on how to word the amendment to show an increase or growth in spelling and how it would be measured.

Rita Holthouse asked if the District has the information on the pre- and post-test on the 100 words for each student from last year. Dr. Fenton stated that we test 100 words at every grade level, but we do not test each child on the same 100 words.

Patricia McRae stated part of this goal revolves around kids using spelling in their writing. She feels that Assessment and Evaluation came up with the most efficient method of tracking this goal. It would be difficult for teachers to give an additional spelling test on the 100 words. We need to be looking at other measurable items now being used instead of adding another test.

Debbie Ossiander indicated that she agrees with Ms. McRae. We should not be directing the Administration to add another measure. Ms. Ossiander respectfully asked that we table this amendment until the Administration has an opportunity to talk with us about an approach that correlates this to the state standards.

AMENDMENT:

Moved Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Tim Steele

to table the amendment on #4 –  
Spelling to read: All students will  
demonstrate at least one year growth  
in spelling at the end of each grade  
level in grades 2 through 10.

Mr. Steele suggested that the goal be to develop a measure so we have it for next year. We are looking for a way to measure the improvement.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO TABLE THE AMENDMENT PASSED

The School Board recessed at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

AMENDMENT:

Moved Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to amend both bullets under #4 –  
Spelling to read: The number of  
students achieving proficiency in the  
conventions of writing (spelling,  
punctuation, capitalization usage)  
will increase as measured by the  
Alaska Student Assessment System in  
grades 3-10 and the Anchorage  
School District Writing Assessment in  
grades 5, 7, & 9.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO MAIN MOTION PASSED

AMENDMENT:

Moved Tim Steele  
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to amend #2 – to read: A higher percentage of students will acquire basic skills and strategies to read independently by the end of the third grade as indicated by:..

and to amend #3 – to read: A higher percentage of students will demonstrate a high level of math skills at the end of each grade level in grades three through ten.

Mr. Steele stated his reason for the amendment was to make the goals attainable.

Carol Comeau is concerned that the community will think we do not expect all of our students to demonstrate a high level of skills. Debbie Ossiander concurs with the concern and doesn't want the community to think the District has stepped back on this issue.

Harriet Drummond stated that she is not supportive because she feels that all students should be expected to improve. A higher percentage of what does not make sense unless it is compared to something. Carol Comeau explained that she interprets it to mean better than last year or implied growth.

Mr. Steele stated that we must be accountable for our goals. This particular goal is not realistic and the District will not be able to meet it.

Peggy Robinson asked if we have a baseline for these goals.

Tom Straugh stated that we do have the number of kids in grade 3 who are proficient in reading and math and on the Benchmarks. We do not have the algebra/geometry scores.

Peggy Robinson also feels that our goals needs to be attainable.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Metcalfe

Nays: Drummond

Absent: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

AMENDMENT:

Moved Peggy Robinson  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to amend the second bullet under #2 and delete the third and fourth sentences. ~~Teachers have been trained in using these assessments through the reading initiative. Each school has a plan in which each grade level uses selected assessments to determine whether each student is struggling or proficient.~~

President Robinson explained the reason for the amendment was that she feels the second and third sentences are not part of the goal, but actually explains how the goal will be met.

VOTE:

Passed by unanimous consent.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse  
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MAIN MOTION PASSED

Carol Comeau thanked the School Board for their input to the goals.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #30 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the two-week period of August 10 through August 28, 2001.

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL - PHASE I

Design Status: Design of additional phases pending additional bond funding.

Construction Status: Construction is continuing on schedule with interior turnover of IMC area to the school the week of September

4, 2001. The business and photography classrooms are on schedule to be ready for occupancy at the end of September.

CHUGIAK HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL - PHASE I, II & III

Design Status: Gym/Cafeteria Modifications – The Design Development Phase is in progress.

Construction Status: House 2 – The structural steel erection is complete, and roofing has started. This project has been delayed two (2) months, with a revised completion date of February 14, 2001.

House 3 – Construction is continuing in this area. Walls are being sheet rocked, plumbing and electrical are being roughed in. This project has been delayed three (3) months with a revised completion date of November 27, 2001.

DENALI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

Design Status: The Design Development documents were received August 29, 2001 and District review is in progress. A revised Construction Estimate is due late September. The project was presented to the Urban Design Commission on August 9, 2001, and received preliminary approval. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the Public Facility Site Plan on August 13, 2001. The project exceeds available funding by approximately \$2.8 million.

DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

Design Status: The design of Phase 2 of the project (demolition of the existing school and completion of site work) will continue in the fall, after the District reviews alternate contract methods for potential cost savings and identifies the lowest cost alternative. The projected project deficit is \$3 million.

Construction Status: The construction continues on schedule. The structural steel is 70% installed, fire proofing, exterior wall sheathing, and mechanical piping and ventilation duct rough-in is in progress.

EAGLE RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Design Status: The timing or phasing of design work on this project is under review at this time, following the failure of the Bond proposition on April 3, 2001.

#### EAST HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL – PHASE 1

Design Status: Design of additional phases pending additional bond funding.

*Construction Status: Initial construction efforts are underway with asbestos abatement complete and demolition is ongoing. The concrete and structural steel work is progressing. This additional Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) has caused delay with schedule and cost impacts now being evaluated. The construction area is secure from student population.*

#### SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL

##### PHASE 1A – Exterior Sitework

*Construction Status: Sitework is complete with only minor landscaping to finish.*

##### PHASE 1B – Remodel Building H (Science Wing)

Design Status: Architects Alaska's 95 percent Construction Drawings are under review by ASD staff. The project is scheduled to bid September 25, 2001 and be presented to the School Board at the October 8, 2001 meeting. Design of additional phases is pending additional bond funding.

Construction Status: Construction of Phase 1B will begin in the spring of 2002.

#### SOUTH ANCHORAGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Design Status: The Construction Documents Design Phase continues with completion scheduled for mid October. A Public Facility Site Plan Review Hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled for September 24, 2001. Coordination continues with the Municipality's Elmore Road Upgrade project. A "round-about" is being recommended for the intersection with the school's main driveway to student parking. It is hoped that this will encourage traffic towards DeArmoun Road. The current estimates show that the project is under budget by \$1.2 million.

WENDLER RENEWAL - PHASE 1

Sitework Status: Project is on schedule and complete with the exception of ongoing landscape efforts.

Building Renovation Design Status: The review of the A/E design development submittal is in progress, with comments to be resolved by October 2001. At completion of this phase the construction cost estimate will be finalized.

School Board member Debbie Ossiander asked if parents have been notified of additional parking places. Mike Henry stated that an additional 20 parking spaces were opened today. They will also allow a few more students to park in the teachers' lot. The Administration is receiving calls from residents in the adjacent neighborhood about kids parking in front of their houses and leaving trash in the street.

Rita Holthouse inquired about the Dimond High School tennis courts. Carol Comeau responded that she appreciates the contact, but the coach and staff knew the courts were not going to be available this school year. The Administration is currently assessing the cost of repairing the Mears Middle School tennis courts. Ms. Comeau will bring this information back to the School Board. The students are currently being bussed to downtown courts.

2. ASD Memorandum #34 – Budget Review Process FY 2002-2003

Last fall the Anchorage School District reinstated the Budget Review Team process to gather recommendations from the community, Anchorage School District staff and students in order to prepare a General Fund budget for the FY 2001-2002 school year that reflected a balance between revenues and expenditures. More than 200 community members, school district employees and students volunteered to help with the extensive review of the budget.

Beginning in August, each review team spent six weeks reviewing a specific area of the budget. At the end of the process, the teams presented a prioritized list of budget reductions. The process was similar to ones used in previous years and involved a two-tier approach to identify significant program/service reductions for the

FY 2001-2002 school year. Tier One identified \$20 million in reductions and was based on projected revenue shortfalls for FY 2001-2002. Tier Two identified an additional \$39 million in reductions from which reductions could be made if the "Tax Cap Initiative " passed in November.

The "Tax Cap Initiative" failed, and with the passage of Senate Bill 174 by the Alaska State Legislature, the District was able to reinstate many of the reductions that were made in prior years and address critical needs.

The Budget Review Team process played a significant role in the development of the preliminary budget prepared by the administration, in the approval of the budget by the Anchorage Municipal Assembly and in our efforts to secure additional funding from the Alaska State Legislature. It was also instrumental in the defeat of the "Tax Cap Initiative."

#### Budget Review Process FY 2002-2003

This fall, the District will continue with its efforts to seek input from the community, employees and students in the development of its preliminary budget recommendations.

The input being sought will target the following areas:

- \_ Economies and efficiencies in delivery of programs and services
- \_ Additions to programs and services
- \_ Reductions in programs and services

The budget review teams formed last year will meet once in early October to review last year's recommendations, receive a status report on these recommendations, and to provide additional input.

In October, the superintendent and the administration will conduct four town meetings to gather additional community and employee input. One meeting will be held in Eagle River, one in Girdwood and two in the Anchorage Bowl. The town meetings will be videotaped and rebroadcast on Channel 43.

The District Web site, ASD Online, will also carry a suggestion box to which community members may submit their recommendations. For those without access to the Internet, suggestion forms will be

available from the District through the schools and the Public Affairs Department. In addition, input will be solicited from the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC), various advisory committees, and the Anchorage Council of PTAs.

The Superintendent and the School Board will use input from all these sources as they work through the budget process.

The critical timeframe for obtaining community input into the preliminary budget is October, prior to the October 29 Board work session on the Proforma FY 2002-2003 Budget. The Budget Department will release preliminary projections on next year's revenues and expenditures for use in the budget review process by the end of September.

An outline of the Budget Review Process for FY 2002-2003 is attached.

Carol Comeau pointed out that she wants to continue the good will that was developed by the Budget Review Team last year and feels it made a huge difference with the community and staff. She further stated that this year's process will be somewhat modified. Last year's Budget Review Teams will be brought back together to discuss which of their recommendations were used or reinstated, and if they have additional recommendations for us to consider.

There are four community forums planned for gathering information by the Superintendent and the Administration. The meetings will be taped and rebroadcast on Channel 43.

3. ASD Memorandum #37 - First Week of School Enrollment Update  
Enrollment figures for the first three days of the 2001-2002 school year exceeded the prior year's figures by an average of 217. The total membership on the third day of school, September 6, 2001, was 48,969, which is a gain of 288 students from the third day total in 2000. Kindergarten enrollment figures are based on the number of activations to date since Kindergarten students do not start classes until September 10, 2001.

It is estimated from historical trends that the total membership will grow to approximately 49,900 by September 30, 2001. If the active enrollment reaches 49,900 by September 30, that total would be the largest membership in the history of the Anchorage School District, exceeding the previous high year (2000-2001) by 380.

Enrollments in the schools have reached over 98 percent of what can be expected by the official membership date of September 30. Elementary, Middle and High School staffing adjustments are being made based upon the actual enrollments in each school.

The increase in membership this year continues the trend observed last school year. Preliminary analysis indicates that most of the increase in population over last year has occurred in the middle school grades.

Carol Comeau explained that daily student counts will be taken through next Monday.

Peggy Robinson stated that this is the first year that no one has called her to complain that there were too many kids in their child's classroom. Patricia McRae responded that elementary registration, in its second year, has made a significant difference. Most staffing adjustments were made early without disruption to the classroom. Gail Opalinski stated that Mears and Hanshew are above projections and working through their additional staff that has been allocated. Mike Henry stated that Dimond High School enrollment came in over projection. Jerry Sjolander reiterated that he doesn't have any big surprises, but is reviewing some staffing problems in middle schools.

Mr. Steele inquired about a transportation update. Carol Comeau emphasized that this has been the smoothest start of school she has seen in her 11 years in Administration. Ms. Comeau stated that the biggest challenge has been hiring bus drivers. Activity buses for students continues to be a concern and the schools are looking at other alternatives.

- J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
- K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS
- L. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)
- M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of September 10, 2001 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:30 p.m.

---

Peggy Robinson, President

---

Harriet Drummond, Clerk

---

Date Minutes Approved