

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2001**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 8, 2001 at 6:40 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. Dave Werdal joined the Board via teleconference.

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, Jim Taylor, Corey Rennell, 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

President Peggy Robinson announced upcoming meetings.

Superintendent Carol Comeau announced the dates of the community forums on the 2002-2003 budget presentations. She also encouraged the audience to look at the bulletin boards in the back of the Board Room that were designed by Bernie Helms, a sixth grade teacher at Tudor. The kindergarten students at Tudor Elementary School designed the flags.

Harriet Drummond announced that she received the Dimond High School newsletter and read the article on "working with the neighborhood." Ms. Drummond praised the Dimond students for reaching out to the community and informed the Board that West High School students are also reaching out to the neighborhood. Ms. Drummond stated that she is pleased that the high schools are making an effort to work with their neighborhoods.

Debbie Ossiander informed the Board that Larry Wiget, Carol Comeau, and she will be traveling to Norfolk, Virginia on October 17 to attend a

conference on national educational issues. Ms. Ossiander also spent the morning at Mears Middle School attending the Literacy Conference.

Tim Steele thanked the Board for recognizing Tudor Elementary. He spent the morning at the school and visited most classrooms. Mr. Steele thanked the principal, Lindsay Henry, for her cordiality and complete tour of the school.

Peggy Robinson announced that she was asked to give the welcome address at the Alaska Literacy Conference on Saturday, October 6. Ms. Robinson complimented the District and Teresa Johnson for their work on the conference, and said she appreciated the national speakers that were brought in for the conference.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Debbie Ossiander pointed out that she would like to offer amendments to ASD Memorandum #73 – 2002 Legislative Priorities and suggested that it be moved to the end of the agenda. The agenda was passed by unanimous consent with the noted change.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #64 – Helping Us Give School Supplies (HUGSS) and Coats for Kids

Two years ago, Catholic Social Services began a campaign to provide school supplies to under-privileged students at the start of the school year. In that first year, Helping Us Give School Supplies, or HUGSS as it became known, provided supplies to almost 600 students. Last year the HUGSS campaign gained momentum, gathered more donations, and was able to help nearly 1,700 students start the year with pens, pencils, paper and other supplies.

This year, the HUGSS campaign joined forces with the Salvation Army's Coats for Kids project, which collects coats and other winter apparel for the young people of Anchorage. The two organizations were joined by Lutheran Social Services, United Way, the Anchorage School District, and a host of other helping hands from across the city. These organizations, and the entire community, pitched in and donated school supplies, backpacks and cash throughout the summer. A tremendous volunteer effort organized the supplies by grade level. Applications to receive the

supplies were available to families during school registration and at many locations around town. In late August, the Mountain View Boys and Girls Club was prepared as the distribution headquarters.

On August 28th the Boys and Girls Club doors opened to begin the distribution to families. Three days later the doors closed and the results were in: HUGSS and Coats for Kids had given winter clothing and backpacks full of school supplies to more than 3,100 students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Carol Comeau also thanked Roger Fiedler, Communications Specialist, who the District's staff liaison person on this project.

2. ASD Memorandum #69 – UAA Recognition: Donation of Student Testing Facilities

For the last two years, Mark Hamilton, president of University of Alaska Anchorage, has arranged for Advanced Placement students from Dimond High School to take their national tests in the Business Education Building on UAA's campus. Typically this room rental would cost about \$800 a year, but thanks to the generosity of the University, the facility is provided free of charge.

This arrangement provides an optimal testing environment for students who would otherwise have to take their tests amid bells, moving students, and public address system announcements, all of which are quite distracting and disruptive. This arrangement also allows Dimond High School's top students to experience the UAA campus for themselves.

The University's donation has benefited many students, and is a perfect example of how collaboration and teamwork help the District in its mission to educate students for success in life.

It is requested the School Board recognize UAA for their support of Dimond High School and its Advanced Placement Students.

Chancellor Gorsuch thanked the Superintendent and the School Board for their cooperation on the pursuit of academic excellence.

E. PRESENTATIONS

1. BP Teacher of the Year

Tammie Anderson presented the 2001 Anchorage Teacher of the Year Award to Chuck Strauss, Chugiak High School. Mr. Strauss was honored for his excellence in education and received a standing ovation from the audience.

Ms. Anderson thanked the evaluation committee who has made this program such a success. She also encouraged everyone to nominate a teacher for this program.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTSStudent Advisory:

Corey Rennell announced that the Student Advisory Board met on September 28, 2001 with Mike Henry and Carol Comeau to discuss open/closed campus. The next meeting is scheduled for October 23 at King Career Center. The agenda includes election of officers, discussion on a resolution regarding extra curricular credit for youth court, setting up an e-mail group, and various state and local issues.

Military Delegate:

LTC Mulcahy was absent.

MECC

Mary Marks stated that the MECC will meet on October 18 to complete the mission and goals statement and enjoy a presentation from the First Summit on Native Education. Ms. Marks invited all executive directors to attend their meeting in November. The monthly MECC meetings are open to the public.

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

Jim Drake, resident of Anchorage and a super voter, has children attending Bayshore Elementary School. Mr. Drake suggested that the new registration program at the elementary level is not working at Bayshore because new classrooms have been added after the beginning of the school year. Ms. Comeau asked Patricia McRae to speak with him about early registration. She also stated that this is the first report they have

received this year on this problem. Ms. Comeau stated that some schools do have to make adjustments after the first day of school.

Steve Conn from AKPRG is concerned about the level of diesel that is being used in school buses and requested the School Board's help with this issue. He encouraged students, parents, and the School Board to lobby for change and health studies to allow us to make the switch even if the state does not make this a requirement.

Tim Steele understands that this is a statewide issue and asked if the higher grade diesel fuel is available. Mr. Conn responded that it is possible that it is available or could be imported from Canada where they are using a higher grade diesel.

Rita Holthouse inquired if this topic has been discussed with ASD personnel. Mr. Conn replied that it has been discussed several times, but now needs the support of the School Board. He encouraged a replication of studies that have been completed in California.

George Vakalis stated that the Purchasing Department prepared a RFP and has identified a firm that will complete the study. He also stated that the California model will be reviewed. Once the study is completed, the District will review and determine if there is a problem and what the magnitude of the problem may be.

Rita Holthouse commented that if there is a time frame for the study, she would prefer to wait until the weather gets colder.

Andree McLeod informed the Board and the Superintendent that East High School mailed out junk mail for K-Mart. She is interested in a competitive market in Anchorage and wants to make sure her tax dollars are put to good use. Ms. McLeod feels that East High improperly used a student mailing list and the principal should not be spending his time as an advertising executive for K-Mart. Mr. Henry will be looking into this situation.

Debbie Ossiander informed the Board that once the K-Mart card is swiped at the store, the school receives revenue.

Carol Comeau said that she will look into the cost of the postage and also commented that this could be a fundraising activity. There is also no policy, which states how an administrator can spend their time. Rita Holthouse also encouraged Ms. Comeau to review the policy on this issue.

Robert Hayes, parent of two school age children and a whistle blower, has a lawsuit against the District. Mr. Hayes feels that he has been attacked by the School District because of his testimony on defective fire alarms. He wants smoke alarms at College Gate.

Carol Comeau stated that Mr. Hayes has been making allegations against the District for a number of years. The fire alarms have been inspected regularly by the Fire Department, and we have a certificate of occupancy, which shows our schools to be safe.

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 – September 10, 2001
 - b. Regular Meeting – September 10, 2001
2. ASD Memorandum #74 – Resolution for School Bus Safety Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution recognizing the week of October 14 - 27, 2001 as National School Bus Safety Week.

3. ASD Memorandum #27 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Smaller Learning Communities Implementation Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to enable Anchorage's six comprehensive high schools to create or enhance Smaller Learning Communities.

4. ASD Memorandum #60 – Acceptance of Contract: Municipality of Anchorage Public Transportation Department and Anchorage School District

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a contract from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$31,900.

5. ASD Memorandum #61 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Safe and Drug-Free Schools Drug and Violence Prevention Coordinators for Middle Schools

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 in the amount of \$197,471.

6. ASD Memorandum #70 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Title I Delinquent & At-Risk Youth Continuation Application – Year V

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the Title I Delinquent & At Risk Youth Continuation Grant for the 2001-2002 school year for a total of \$111,892.

7. ASD Memorandum #63 – Award of Contract: Seven School Power and Data Upgrades in Support of Technologies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Seven School Power and Data Upgrades in Support of Technologies at Alpenglow, Birchwood, Campbell, Chinook, Ursa Major, Ursa Minor and Williwaw Elementary Schools to Redi Electric Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$577,560 and to accept Additive Alternate 1 in the amount \$16,780, for a total award of \$594,340.

8. ASD Memorandum #76 – Sale of Surplus Property

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the listed surplus property by sealed bid sale. Prior to the sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

9. ASD Memorandum #65 – Application and Acceptance of Recruitment and Retention Grant

It is the administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply and accept a

grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$444,600.

10. ASD Memorandum #72 – Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Bus Drivers and Attendants, 2001-2004

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the collective bargaining agreement between the District and General Teamsters Local 959, which will establish terms and conditions of employment for bus drivers and attendants during the period between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2004.

11. ASD Memorandum #73 – 2002 Legislative Priorities

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the 2002 Anchorage School District Legislative Priorities (Attachment A).

12. ASD Memorandum #80 – Revision to 2001-2002 School Year Calendar for Parent/Teacher Conferences

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the revision to the 2001-2002 school calendar in order to accommodate elementary parent-teacher conferences on November 7 and 8 and April 10 and 11 as approved by the Commissioner of Education and Early Development.

13. ASD Memorandum #90 – AASB Board of Directors Nomination

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board nominate Tim Steele for a seat on the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Board of Directors.

14. ASD Memorandum #89 – Nomination for AASB Outstanding School Board Member Award

The Anchorage School Board recommends that Board member Peggy Robinson be nominated for the Association of Alaska School Board's Outstanding School Board Member Award.

15. ASD Memorandum #77 – Personnel Report

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

16. ASD Memorandum #66 – Controversial Issues – It's Perfectly Normal

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to restrict access of *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie Harris, in the elementary schools to students who have written parental permission. It is further recommended that the book, *It's Perfectly Normal*, be allowed unrestricted access by students in grades 7-12, and as a teacher reference book in all school libraries in the Anchorage School District.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandums #74, #65, #66, and #73.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve the Minutes from the
seconded by Harriet Drummond Special Meeting on September 10,
2001; Regular Meeting on September
10, 2001;
Memorandum #27;
Memorandum #60;
Memorandum #61;
Memorandum #70;
Memorandum #63;
Memorandum #76;
Memorandum #72;
Memorandum #80;
Memorandum #90;
Memorandum #89; and
Memorandum #77.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #74 – Resolution for School Bus Safety Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution recognizing the week of October 14 - 27, 2001 as National School Bus Safety Week.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #74.
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Carol Comeau stated that this was an annual event when we have the opportunity to thank the bus drivers and attendants for a job well done and commend them for excellent safety procedures. This is an important resolution to send to schools and encourage them to continue to work on bus safety.

Robert Hayes said it is important to remind children to look both ways when getting off the bus. He would also like parents to be notified when school bus drivers act inappropriately.

Carol Comeau commented that appropriate action is taken if it is reported that a bus driver has acted inappropriately. The report is investigated by APD and the School District. Background checks are made and fingerprints are taken when individuals are hired by the District.

Tim Steele pointed out that he is amazed that we transport over 20,000 students twice a day. According to the National Transportation Board, a school bus is 2,000 times safer than a family car.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #65 – Application and Acceptance of Recruitment and Retention Grant

It is the administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply and accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$444,600.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele to approve Memorandum #65.
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that this is a grant we have discussed with the Department of Education and Early Development. They have notified us that we will qualify based on the number of new hires.

Tim Steele asked how this will help with recruitment when we do this after the fact. Carol Comeau responded that funds will be used for mentoring opportunities.

Teresa Johnson stated that the District will use some of the money for next year's recruitment in the spring.

Rita Holthouse is concerned about the number of sub days throughout this grant and asked if anyone is keeping track of the days. Carol Comeau has asked that this be completed. She stressed that teachers need professional development and that we struggle with the new teacher training each year. This particular grant allows one sub day for each mentor and mentee and would be taken in half day increments.

Rita Holthouse reaffirmed her concerns about the number of sub days used. Ms. Holthouse supports the grants, but is concerned about the number of days that teachers are out of their classrooms.

Debbie Ossiander also agreed that this topic is of great concern and will be addressed under the legislative priorities. She also pointed out that attracting teachers and getting them to stay with the District has been a challenge. There is a public hearing scheduled on October 23 with Representative Con Bunde to address teacher recruitment and retention.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #66 – Controversial Issues – It's Perfectly Normal

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to restrict access of *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie Harris, in the elementary schools to students who have written parental permission. It is further recommended that the book, *It's Perfectly Normal*,

be allowed unrestricted access by students in grades 7-12, and as a teacher reference book in all school libraries in the Anchorage School District.

Dave Werdal joined the meeting via teleconference.

ACTION:

Moved by Harriet Drummond to approve Memorandum #66.
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Superintendent Comeau reviewed the memorandum regarding her recommendation on the book. She explained that the District had received two parent complaints last spring on the book and because of the transition in the Curriculum Department, they were held over for action until the beginning of this school year. Ms. Comeau explained that the Controversial Issues Committee was reconvened and met on September 17, 2001 to review the book. After listening to testimony, the Committee members voted 10 to three to not restrict use of the book. She also stressed to the Committee that their recommendation would be in an advisory capacity to the Superintendent.

Ms. Comeau received written verbatim notes, read the book, and had numerous discussions with the community regarding their opinion of the book. She met with the principals who currently had the book in their library to get their thoughts on how the book is used in the schools and what their preferences were on the subject. Only one principal responded that she believed the book should be left in the library without restrictions. The majority of the principals felt that the book should be unrestricted at middle school and above. Ms. Comeau further explained that after raising three teenagers and teaching sixth grade for ten years, she decided to restrict the book for elementary students. She does not feel that this is a censorship issue. Superintendent Comeau emphasized that the majority of books in the library should support the instructional program and this book does not fit into the curriculum supported by the School District. The majority of the principals and librarians that are currently assigned to the schools that have the book in their libraries were not at the school when the book was purchased. Ms. Comeau feels that she did not undermine the Committee, but it was her professional responsibility as Superintendent to make the best recommendation to the School Board.

Both sets of complainants were given five minutes for a brief presentation to the School Board. Ms. Robinson asked that the audience refrain from applause, speakers make their presentations brief, and to be respectful of

everyone's opinion. She also requested the people testifying to be as non-graphic as possible in their testimony.

Debbie Ossiander reminded the audience that all Board members have read the book as well as all of the e-mail and correspondence received by the Superintendent.

Mr. & Mrs. Steele thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak on the book, It's Perfectly Normal. They stated that the American Library Association cooperates with building collections in libraries that support the development and maturity of children and the instructional program. Mr. & Mrs. Steele emphasized that this book does not come close to meeting this issue. They further stated that the real issue is selection not freedom of information.

Mr. & Mrs. Egeland thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. They stated that they are not against sex education in schools and their child participated in Human Growth and Development last year. Mr. Egeland commented that the pictures are not appropriate in the book. Censorship is often used to emotionalize a situation and never there to solve the issue. Educators often choose one set of information over another, but when parents do this, it is often referred to as censorship. Mr. Egeland further emphasized that it is a parent's responsibility to guide age appropriate materials for their children. Both Mr. & Mrs. Egeland asked the Board to deselect the book It's Perfectly Normal from open access in elementary schools. They urged the Board to make their vote the one that supports the community.

Tammy Hogge agrees that the book should be taken off of the elementary school library shelves. She heard about the book on Channel 2 and is offended by the pictures. Ms. Hogge feels the book is offensive and pornographic and is concerned that her seven year child has access to the book. Ms. Hogge wants her child to learn to read, write, and do math. She is uncomfortable with a librarian explaining morals and values and wants to be one to explain things to her child.

Cindy Crist is a parent of two in elementary schools, but is concerned for all children. Children look to teachers and parents for guidance and decency. She is concerned about the message we are sending to children inviting them to look at the book without the guidance of parents. Parents should work in partnership with schools and exposing children to this book is not considered team work. Ms. Crist wants the book pulled and parental consent added.

Theresa Langbert agrees with Superintendent Comeau's recommendation. Children will be drawn to the pictures, which is contrary to ASD curriculum. She feels a loss of innocence is something that we can never regain. Ms. Langbert feels that the District does an excellent job of providing the appropriate curriculum, and wants this book pulled from the elementary libraries.

Susan Ratcliffe has three children in Rabbit Creek Elementary School and agrees with Ms. Comeau's recommendation. She informed the Board that many people in the room support Ms. Comeau, but did not sign-up to testify. She asked those individuals to stand; over half the room stood. Ms. Ratcliffe commented that by leaving the book on the shelf, children will not have freedom to be able to explore other books in the library. Children do not need the information in the book at their young age. She urged the School Board to vote for Ms. Comeau's recommendation.

Nadia McGee asked if bisexual and homosexuality are acceptable life styles, why are they not part of the District curriculum. She also wondered by the committee was so unbalanced on promoting unrestricted access to elementary students when the community is so overwhelmingly against the book. She questioned why high school students are voting when it should be the taxpayers.

Tim Wright stated that he was angry and wanted the District to report to the Assembly. He would like the School Board to remove the book right now because it is unacceptable.

Debbie Arnold is concerned that the book is not age appropriate and only parents should decide if a book is appropriate for their child. Most parents are unaware that the computer system in the library alerts the librarian if a child is not suppose to check out a certain book. Unfortunately, that system is not infallible since so many of the libraries have volunteers that help out. In many schools, students even check out their own books. Ms. Arnold feels that student access to the book should be by parental permission.

Julie Cheverton is a registered nurse in the State of Alaska. She is concerned about a child checking out the book and taking it on the bus around her children. Ms. Cheverton expressed her concern over exposing children to adult issues. She wants the School Board to make the decision to remove the book. The School Board has a duty to protect children. Ms. Cheverton stated that this issue parallels the right to smoke; a parent does have the right to smoke, but not around her child.

Tim Buckmier personally feels there is no reason for the book to be on the shelf. Parents can always access it in a public library. He is also concerned with children taking the book home on the bus.

Charles Christian is the father of seven and a teacher at Hanshew Middle School. He believes that the book will hurt children rather than help. Mr. Christian does not agree with the author of the book on items she considered “perfectly normal.” He believes that children are too young to accept such knowledge.

Blythe Campbell has two children at Ocean View, and has been a parent volunteer for six years. She feels the best judge of information is the parent, and one group of parents should not be making the decision for all. She does feel that Carol Comeau is doing a good job even though they don’t agree on this issue.

Vickie Thompson stated that the book was passed around her fifth grade son’s classroom, but was unaware of this until this whole issue came up in the news. As a parent, she monitors what her son sees and reads. Ms. Thompson is the PTA President at Creekside Park Elementary School and did not know the book was in their school library. Ms. Thompson supports Ms. Comeau’s recommendation. She also stated that the library system does not protect students and is not foolproof.

Lynn Hallquist pointed out that she is a retired school librarian and selected the book It’s Perfectly Normal for the Klatt library in 1995. During her last four years at Klatt, many fifth and sixth grade students would check it out. One child told her that he doesn’t know how he would have gotten through everything without that book. He recommended it to other students as well. Ms. Hallquist said that if she found a student giggling over the book, she would tell them to put it back until they were ready for it. She doesn’t believe the book is pornographic, but shows a sample of the real world. Ms. Hallquist questioned why the book is not found in more libraries in Anchorage. She feels the honest approach is what is making this a challenged book. Curriculum should be enhanced, and she wants the School Board to retain the book on the shelves without unrestricted access.

Linda Masterson, Librarian at Goldenview, was on the Controversial Issues Committee. Being able to voice different points of view is a wonderful process. Ms. Masterson is very concerned over the media coverage and the community outrage that the book is pornographic. Restricted access is something she doesn’t understand—either you have

the book on the shelf or you don't. She encouraged the Board to be courageous and don't restrict the book.

Launi Hixsen does support restrictive access and would like the book removed from the shelves. She also doesn't agree that there is a small group of parents making this decision.

Davina Stallworth commented that she has listened to other people's viewpoint and reviewed the book herself. She was taken back by the graphic nature of the book. Ms. Stallworth agrees with sex education in the schools, but not where a child's moral character is affected. She feels this book is an example of why our nation has decreased morals and recommends the book be taken out of the District altogether.

Jennifer Rudinger, Executive Director for ACLU, urged the Board to respect the decision of the Controversial Issues Committee and keep this valuable book available to students who wish to use it as a reference. Ms. Rudinger stated that the Board's decision affects much more than the availability of this one particular book. She feels the recommendation to remove the book from general circulation would not only be unwarranted in the case of this particular book, but would also open up the floodgates of censorship to future challenges. The only way to prevent arbitrary censorship from taking hold of our school libraries is to establish neutral guidelines and to follow those guidelines in the selection of every book. Those guidelines exist in the Anchorage School District's Elementary Administrative Manual. The selection of It's Perfectly Normal fits well within the criteria established for book selection in those guidelines.

The Board took a break at 8:45 p.m. and returned for further testimony at 9:00 p.m.

Kim Burgess is a parent that does not have the book in her children's school. She was a minority member on the Controversial Issues Committee. Ms. Burgess pointed out that there was little discussion about the book, and most discussion revolved around censorship. She feels that this book is not appropriate in the hands of any child. Children are becoming sexually mature too early in their young life. She voted to recommend restricted access to elementary students, but would be in favor of banning the book.

Ruth Martinson commented that learning about sexual activity too early in life is not appropriate. The drawings in the book are not beneficial and are inappropriate for elementary students. She stated that we need to be cautious to accept adult behavior as "perfectly normal." Ms. Martinson

feels that male teachers should teach boys and female teachers should teach girls to make it less embarrassing for children. She commended Ms. Comeau for a good common sense decision.

Chris Keffalos has four boys that will attend public school. He feels the computer system is inadequate and infallible, and the manual process is not acceptable. He hopes that when his kids go to school they will not have access to the book. Mr. Keffalos also agrees that parents should decide what information children should see. He also agrees that children should have physical and intellectual access to materials in the libraries.

Phil Gordon stated that this book is excellent and has received many great reviews. He believes that books should be selected for their strengths and not for their weaknesses. Mr. Gordon believes that restricting the book is censorship. Students should be able to check out books that interest them.

Charles Springer thanked the Board for letting everyone speak. He is in favor of having this book unrestricted to six grade students in his son's school. The book can serve as a guide for parents. Putting the book in a restricted area bans the book. Mr. Springer encouraged the School Board to listen to the Controversial Issues Committee. He wants the children to make their choices, which is what the educational system is all about.

Janice Buck thanked the Board for allowing parents to speak. She feels the book is not appropriate for elementary school children. Ms. Buck informed the Board that her son was required to read this book in the sixth grade and that he was embarrassed. Ms. Comeau will follow-up on this allegation.

Sandy St. George, parent of two children in Ocean View wants the book left on the library shelf. This gives all children the opportunity to have their questions answered. Ms. St. George feels we are guilty of censorship if we support removal of the book.

Mary Jane Duncan has several concerns over the book. She is frightened over the impact on children and wants the right to limit exposure of books and television for her children. Ms. Duncan wants to keep this type of material out of the school and let parents have the right to decide what is appropriate for their children.

Nanette Stevenson has been a children's book art director for 20 years. She knows the author of It's Perfectly Normal; she is a wife, mother,

grandmother, and advocate for children's rights. Ms. Stevenson stated that the author felt children needed a good honest book on human sexuality. The book took five years to complete; the illustrations took two and one-half years. Ms. Stevenson explained how a ten year old child read the book and identified herself as a victim of child abuse. The case went to court and the abuser went to jail. She urged the Board to leave the book on the shelf.

Colleen Masterson asked the Board to restrict the book and ban the book at all grade levels. She is outraged over the accessibility of the book to young children. The book illustrates pornographic materials. Ms. Masterson asked the Board to establish stricter guidelines on what is available for students.

Joe Lariviere stated that most points about the book have been covered. He feels that if a parent wants to buy this book for their children, then they should do so. This book does not belong in a school library. Mr. Lariviere requested the Board look at the book and vote their conscience.

The Thompson family stated that with things like the book occurring in our community, they have decided to home school.

Marvin Moser stated that he feels the book is pornographic and does not want the book in school libraries.

R. D. Levino is a retired principal, superintendent, and teacher in Arizona and Alaska. She feels the book is wonderful and award winning, and should be accessible to students.

Kimberly Bryan reviewed the book and feels it is obscene and pornographic. She wants chastity taught and to respect the dignity of others. She shared a book Facts of Life by Dr. Brian Close, which gives all the facts about contraception and abortion. Ms. Bryan feels that teachers need to be more educated about these facts, and doesn't believe the materials in this challenged book tell the truth.

Glen Biegel stated that the upcoming Board decision has a high profile in the community right now. He would like to see more ABC schools and trade schools in our community. Mr. Biegel urged support of Ms. Comeau's recommendation.

Jesse Powell appreciates decisions the Board has to make, but feels the book should be removed from the libraries. He feels the book is entirely unacceptable as an instructional tool.

John Reed stated that the book is not perfectly normal in his years. He feels it should be banned from the schools.

Karen Barnes is a sub teacher at a private school. She read the article in the newspaper and was disturbed and bothered by the pictures. Ms. Barnes stated that there are ratings on movies and there should be ratings on books. She grew up in Anchorage and is a product of ASD schools. Ms. Barnes believes the book will not help students and supports Ms. Comeau's recommendation.

Ms. Comeau thanked everyone who took the time to come to the meeting to testify and especially appreciated the respectful way that everyone listened to each other's opinions. She further emphasized that she made this decision with a lot of thought. Ms. Comeau stated that we serve the public and it is our duty to listen to the community.

Harriet Drummond commented that she is generally supportive of the recommendation and has an amendment to the main motion.

Rita Holthouse inquired if the book could be restricted for K-3 and open for students in grades 4-6. Carol Comeau responded that it is not feasible to do this in elementary schools as it becomes difficult to section off libraries.

Rita Holthouse asked who ordered the book. Ms. Comeau explained that many of the librarians who ordered the book have transferred or retired. The present building principal and librarian in the majority of the schools are uncomfortable having the book in their library. She further reiterated that this book does not support the adopted curriculum. Ms. Comeau pointed out that the Health Education and Human Growth and Development has very strict guidelines that have been adopted by the Board. Parents are invited in for a preview of the Human Growth and Development curriculum and decide if they want their children to participate in the class.

Ms. Holthouse asked if parents could check out books in the library to use as a resource. Ms. Comeau replied that parents could check out books and could get their own bar code to use.

Jake Metcalfe asked if it was impossible for the librarian to separate the book from the rest of the collection. Carol Comeau responded that it would be difficult, but not impossible. Mr. Metcalfe further questioned how the book will be restricted at Polaris K-12, Birchwood K-8, Northern Lights K-8, and Mirror Lake 6-8. Ms. Comeau stated that the book would be restricted at Polaris for grades K-6, and most likely would not be a problem at Northern Lights and Birchwood because they did not have the book.

Debbie Ossiander spoke with professionals in the District and with several level headed fourth and fifth grade students. She asked them to read the book and then talk with her. Ms. Ossiander found the pictures were the message that the kids received. The majority of people in the community have significant values and they consider this to be a value free book. Ms. Ossiander strongly supports the Superintendent's recommendation.

Tim Steele commented that he is proud of this community and the people that have come forward both in favor and not in favor of the recommendation. He feels that the Committee did a good job and came up with a good recommendation, which was considered in depth by the Superintendent. All the information from the community was also made available to the School Board. Mr. Steele has two children, one in eighth grade and one in third grade. He asked his eighth grade daughter to read the book and tell him whether or not the book was appropriate for her third grade sister. Mr. Steele's eighth grade daughter informed him that the book was not appropriate for her sister to read. Mr. Steele stated that he hates to ban information to all students when there may be one student who needs it, but he has heard the community and thinks the Superintendent's recommendation is a good one.

Dave Werdal reported via teleconference that he supports the Superintendent's recommendation.

Peggy Robinson responded to the comment earlier in the evening that schools pass out condoms. She clarified the Board's position that this is not allowed and if it is happening, please let the Superintendent know.

Ms. Robinson asked why the recommendation was different for the book Sex and Growing Up than for It's Perfectly Normal. Carol Comeau stated that the book is not provocative like the current book, and there are very few illustrations in the book. She stated that it is a very different issue.

Jake Metcalfe commented that he was impressed with the civility among the audience over the comments made, and is proud of the community. Mr. Metcalfe announced that he took the book to work and showed it to several employees who are mothers. They in turn told him that if they had just looked at the pictures, they would have considered it obscene. Once they read the book, they thought it was excellent resource book. He further explained that some children can't talk with their mothers about sex and this book allows questions to be answered in a private way. Mr. Metcalfe commented that he agrees with the comment from Dr. Brazelton located in the back of the book, which states that he feels the book is not appropriate for most children, but the opportunity should be given to those children who are interested in the book. Mr. Metcalfe feels the book is appropriate for fourth grade and up.

Harriet Drummond commented that she will support an amendment to unrestrict the book for middle and high schools without identifying the grade and age. This will address the problem at Mirror Lake, where the population includes grades 6-8. She would like the community at Polaris K-12 to work out the access issue, and the Administration to work on the access issue in the K-8 schools.

Rita Holthouse's personal view is that this is an excellent sex education book and wished she had it when she was raising her son. Her personal view is that it should be allowed in schools, but as a School Board member, she will support the Superintendent's recommendation. Ms. Holthouse's main concern is that older students in elementary schools may need access to this book. She stated that most students will not take a note from their parents to school that gives permission for him/her to check out a book.

Corey Rennell stated that he is not afraid to make a decision on the book. He wants people to vote how they feel personally and that it should not be a political decision. Mr. Rennell commented that he spoke to over 100 high school students who told him that they wished they had a book like this when they were younger. He was not comfortable talking about sexual issues with his parents. Mr. Rennell feels children should know about sexuality before puberty, and hopes that this book is available for everyone. He also feels that if a child is not ready for the book, they will not read it. Mr. Rennell emphasized that books should be selected for their strengths and not their weaknesses.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Harriet Drummond
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to amend the Superintendent's recommendation to read: It is further recommended that the book, *It's Perfectly Normal*, be allowed unrestricted access by students in ~~grades—7-12,~~ middle and high school and as a teacher reference book in all school libraries in the Anchorage School District.

Jake Metcalfe stated that the book should be available for the appropriate age group. He prosecuted many sexual abuse cases when he was a District Attorney and remains very concerned about what kids have to go through. Mr. Metcalfe pointed out the child abuse reporting segment in the book was very good. He doesn't understand the reason for the amendment because it doesn't change the recommendation.

Debbie Ossiander stated that the Health Curriculum includes a section on good and bad touching.

Mr. Metcalfe commented that even though our current programs do very well, we shouldn't limit ourselves to one type of education. He believes the more information we have to offer students, the better we are.

Carol Comeau stated that nurses are very good and helpful to students who may be struggling. She also commented that there are other ways that some students can be helped without allowing grades 4-6 access to the book.

Peggy Robinson is supporting this amendment because it picks up a small group of kids that the book was written for. Trying to separate the book from sixth grade students in a middle school would be difficult to achieve. Ms. Robinson commented that most of the testimony heard tonight was from parents who were concerned about younger children looking at the pictures. She will support the amendment.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse,
Robinson, Drummond

Nays: Metcalfe, Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Jake Metcalfe
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to amend the Superintendent's recommendation to read: It is further recommended that the book, *It's Perfectly Normal*, be allowed unrestricted access by students in ~~middle and high schools~~ grades 4-12 and as a teacher reference book in all school libraries in the Anchorage School District.

Jake Metcalfe stated that the people who reviewed the book believe it is appropriate for that age group.

Debbie Ossiander stated that the Administration just told the Board that it is logistically impossible to restrict access in an elementary school library.

Rita Holthouse asked to take a short break before the vote is taken.

Peggy Robinson announced an at-ease at 10:45 p.m. The Board returned at 10:55 p.m.

Dave Werdal stated that he doesn't feel the book is appropriate and the community doesn't support this change. He will not support this amendment.

Corey Rennell stated that he feels removing the book from school libraries is censorship. He advocated the Board to not take education away from people who need it. Mr. Rennell supports the amendment.

Rita Holthouse stated that she wished the recommendation from the Superintendent had included some of these grades. Ms. Holthouse will support the Superintendent's recommendation, but not the amendment.

Carol Comeau commented that this decision was personally difficult. When she was a sixth grade teacher and saw a student having difficulty, she would try to help that student overcome his/her struggles. This is the grade level where she had difficulty with the recommendation. Ms. Comeau's belief is that good teachers will help young students who may be struggling in this area. Ms. Comeau reminded the Board that this book is not within the scope of the curriculum adopted by the School

Board, and by not supporting the recommendation, they are sending the wrong message to the community.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she has heard from the community and will not support this amendment.

Jake Metcalfe commented that he agrees on most issues with the Superintendent, but has heard that a parent and librarian can restrict access to the book. He feels this is adequate and does not see any contradiction.

Rita Holthouse commented that the community has paid a lot of attention to this issue. She stated that even though there are many community members in the audience who support removing the book from the schools, there are many in the community that have been silent and support leaving the book in the school libraries. Many members of the community thought the final decision on the book was made by the Controversial Issues Committee, and therefore did not come forward to testify.

Peggy Robinson thanked Ms. Holthouse for clarifying that issue.

VOTE:

Ayes: Metcalfe, Steele

Nays: Ossiander, Holthouse, Robinson,
Drummond, Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

VOTE:

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

Nays: Metcalfe

MAIN MOTION PASSES

Dave Werdal signed off on the teleconference.

ASD Memorandum #90 – AASB Board of Directors Nomination

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board nominate Tim Steele for a seat on the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Board of Directors.

Debbie Ossiander asked for a reconsideration of ASD Memorandum #90 – AASB Board of Directors Nomination because she did not have time to

ask each of the Board members if they were interested in applying for the AASB Board of Directors.

MOTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to reconsider Memorandum
seconded by Harriet Drummond #90.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse,
Robinson, Drummond, Metcalfe
Nays: None
Absent: Werdal
MOTION TO RECONSIDER PASSED

MOTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #90.
seconded by Harriet Drummond

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to amend the main motion to
seconded by Harriet Drummond add Jake Metcalfe as a nominee
for a seat on the Association of
Alaska School Boards (AASB)
Board of Directors.

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

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the 2002 Anchorage School District Legislative Priorities (Attachment A).

Debbie Ossiander thanked members of the School Board Legislative Committee and Tim Steele, who have been attending the meetings.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she has several amendments to the legislative priorities. Because we are using a standards based system and mandatory testing is covering specific knowledge, students need to attend school until the age of 17. One of the School Board's goals is to decrease the dropout rate.

MOTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to approve Memorandum #73

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to amend the recommendation on lower compulsory school age: The Anchorage School Board supports changing the mandatory age for school attendance from ~~7 to 16~~ 6 to 17 years of age.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to amend the recommendation on lower compulsory school age by adding the following sentence: Students are expected to attend school once registered. The compulsory education law applies to all students upon registration annually.

Rita Holthouse asked if this amendment mandates kindergarten. Carol Comeau responded that it does not.

Tim Steele stated that the amendments are good, but fear that the recommendation to lower the school age has now been modified a couple of times. The second amendment does not seem appropriate.

Carol Comeau stated that there is nothing the school can do if the students don't fall within the compulsory attendance law. This recommendation is a better way to strengthen the law and keep kids in school. Once they are registered, they should be attending school. Ms. Comeau commented on the developmental profile used in kindergarten, and how important attendance is for the success of the student.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to amend the recommendation on funding and add the following sentence: If inflation proofing is necessary for the Permanent Fund, it should also be viewed as necessary for funding our children's education.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

Tim Steele is concerned over the school designator law and questioned whether we should raise the issue or try to formulate a possible solution.

Debbie Ossiander pointed out that she has yet to see how anyone could suggest how the process would work to accurately say how our schools

are doing. She was surprised at how the fast the Assembly jumped on this issue. Ms. Ossiander urged the Board to be strong now and possibly come out against the school designator law.

Carol Comeau is concerned that we are lacking information on this issue. She suggested waiting until the committee makes a report within the next few weeks. The Department of Education and Early Development is putting this issue out for public comment, and the District may be negatively perceived if we make a statement before we have all of the facts.

Rita Holthouse is not interested in a major revision right now. She suggested discussing it at a later time.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MAIN MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #79 – Enrollment Status Update

Enrollment figures as of September 30, 2001, the official membership date for the District, indicate that the Anchorage School District has exceeded the September 30, 2000 membership by 156 students. The September 30, 2001 total of 49,676 students is the largest active enrollment in the history of the Anchorage School District.

Rita Holthouse commented that even with full-time kindergarten added in all the schools except Northern Lights ABC, we see a decrease in kindergarten students. Demographics show the immigration is slowing down.

Rita Holthouse asked when the Board would receive the individual school enrollments. Carol Comeau responded that the monthly membership report will go the Board on October 22, 2001 along with the Class Size Report.

2. ASD Memorandum #78 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of September 20 through October 4, 2001.

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL - PHASE I

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

Construction Status: Construction is complete except for punch list items. The business and photography classrooms are scheduled for move in the week of October 8, 2001.

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 roofing and mechanical rough-in is continuing. There are additional pre-existing structural issues being uncovered. These require correction prior to continuing with the project. The cost and schedule impacts of these issues are being evaluated. This project has been delayed two 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; painting has started. 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 the District review has been completed. The Design Development Construction Estimate exceeded the prior \$11.2 million construction budget estimate by \$160,000. Efforts are in progress to reduce project costs. 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 75 percent installed; all concrete footings are complete; fire proofing, exterior wall sheathing, mechanical piping, exterior veneer and ventilation duct rough-in is continuing.

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: Construction efforts are underway with continuing demolition. The concrete and structural steel work is progressing with shear walls being formed and poured. Additional Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) has caused a 10 – 15 day delay and \$100,000 cost increase.

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: The project is currently bidding, with a bid opening on October 31, 2001. It is scheduled to be presented to the School Board at the November 12, 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. The site plan was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 24, 2001. To be a good neighbor to the adjacent property owners, the District offered to install a perimeter fence on the north, south and west perimeter of the school site, and this was accepted by the Planning and Zoning Commission. 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 minor 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.

Debbie Ossiander noted under the Chugiak High School Renewal that there are additional pre-existing structural issues being uncovered. Ray Amsden commented that these issues related to CMU walls, which were salvaged and now prove to be inadequate. The District will see additional costs, which have a significant impact. Ms. Ossiander asked if there will be a report on additional costs for the next Board meeting. Ray Amsden stated that he can't promise that one would be available for the next meeting, but will provide an update as soon as possible.

Carol Comeau asked for a full report once the information is available along with a completion schedule for Ms. Ossiander.

Tim Steele noted that we are continuing to reduce the Denali Elementary School design and is concerned with the fact that we are nickel and diming the project. He further stated that this is a unique school on a unique piece of property.

Carol Comeau stated that we are not reducing the integrity of the design, but trying to reduce the cost.

Debbie Ossiander requested more cost information on the East High School delays and the schedule impact.

3. ASD Memorandum #62 – Charter School Update for 2001-2002

The Administration would like to update the School Board on 1) the applications submitted for charter schools to begin in the 2002 - 2003 school year, and 2) an update of the three charter schools currently in operation during this school year.

Arge Jeffery, former Executive Director for Elementary Education, and long-time Elementary Principal, continues to assist the Superintendent with the charter schools. He has established excellent working relationships with most of the charter schools and has been an effective liaison with the Department of Education and Early Development, the Administration, and the various charter schools.

APPLICATION UPDATE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2002 - 2003

School Board Policy 333 on Charter Schools requires all applications to be submitted no later than October 1 of the school year prior to the school year during which the charter school is proposed to begin operation. Proposals for charter schools to begin operations during the 2002-2003 school year were to be submitted no later than October 1, 2001.

No applications have been received for consideration by the Administration and the School Board for the 2002-2003 school year.

The Administration received two letters stating that applications would be forthcoming. Neither tentative proposer had a facility in which to provide a program.

One tentative proposer, representing the **Pioneer Charter School**, met twice with the Administration and consulted with the Department of Education and Early Development Charter School Liaison, Louie Yannotti. The proposers wanted to develop a K-6 school with a guaranteed class size of 16:1. In order to ensure adequate funding to provide this guaranteed class size, the proposers wanted to charge parents \$250.00 per month per student. The Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, and Attorney met with the proposers and told them that this was not legal and could not be supported. This was verified by the EED Finance Director and Charter School Liaison. The proposers did not submit a proposal.

The other tentative proposers were Cindy Stiegele and Kimball McIlvain, formerly of the Aquarian Charter School. This idea was for a **7-12 secondary school** modeled after the philosophy of the Aquarian Charter School which they helped design. They did not submit a proposal.

STATUS REPORT OF CURRENT CHARTER SCHOOLS FOR 2001-2002

Aquarian Charter School

Aquarian Charter School had a successful start to the school year at its location at the former Northern Lights ABC facility, now informally known at the Charter School Center. There are 231 students enrolled in grades K-6; this is within the limits established by the School Board. There is a principal at the school, Marguerite Cherry-Hao, who is beginning her first full year in that capacity; she has a Type B certificate and does all staff evaluations. She was appointed Acting Principal in January of 2001. The classroom teachers are supported by classroom teacher assistants and an Administrative Assistant and Secretary. The instructional program has an interdisciplinary thematic base strengthened with technology.

Aquarian occupies most of the Charter School Center space, including two relocatables on the site; a four classroom pod and one relocatable are used by the Village Charter School. The staff and APC of these two charter schools have been reminded that the ASD is reviewing the viability of maintaining this facility on an annual basis.

Family Partnership Charter School

The Family Partnership Charter School's enrollment is approximately 600 students in grades K-12. They are projecting approximately 650 students for the next school year. The enrollment is lower this year due to some restrictions placed on the allocations of District funds. This charter school's Academic Policy Committee authorized the addition of an Academic Facilitator to assist the principal with staff training and reviewing the individual educational plans of the students. The staff evaluations will be done again this year by the principal, Tim Scott, who has a current Type B certificate.

This charter school has a strong Academic Policy Committee and is operating very successfully. The school has leased additional space for meetings and storage of their extensive inventory at their office on Fairbanks Street. In addition to the Fairbanks Street location, this charter school uses many District classrooms and community locations; these arrangements are made on an individual basis by each family. Teaching staff are in three categories: 1) staff hired by FPCS, 2) currently employed ASD teachers on an after school and summer basis who are paid with contract addenda, 3) retired teachers on special activity agreements. This arrangement has been very successful and the program is in great demand.

The State Board of Education and Early Development upheld the Commissioner's ruling that programs such as the Family Partnership Charter School will be considered as a Correspondence School under the adopted regulations and definition of Correspondence Program/School. The ASD Administration had supported FPCS to be considered as an alternative school and not a Correspondence School for school funding purposes. FPCS successfully appealed a previous DEED ruling and the school was restored to 100% funding for the 1999-2000 and the 2000-2001 school years. The Department of Education and Early Development has now determined that the new regulation will require the funding of FPCS as a Correspondence program in the future. This charter school is funded at the Correspondence program level of 80% for the 2001-2002 school year under the School Funding formula. FPCS is appealing the ruling of the DEED and the State Board of Education. The ASD has chosen not to join the appeal.

Village Charter School

The Village Charter School was approved for 154 students in grades K-8. The current enrollment stands at 154 students in grades K-8. One of the teachers also oversees the special education program for identified students at the school. This program combines an interdisciplinary program with a strong emphasis on art and music and Norwegian and Spanish languages. Linda Sharp is the head teacher at the school.

The school currently occupies leased space in the Z Plaza Mall on Minnesota Street in two spaces renovated to meet E-1 occupancy codes which is paid for out of their annual budget. They also occupy the four classroom pod and one relocatable at the Charter School Center. They have worked out a joint-use agreement with the Aquarian Charter School for the custodial services and the use of the gym/multipurpose room and the playground. The Academic Policy Committee will have to contract with someone with a current Type B certificate to do the required staff evaluations again this year.

Carol Comeau announced that Arge Jeffery is continuing to work with the District on charter schools. She also informed the Board that discussions occurred with two groups this year, but they have not followed through with their proposals.

Ms. Comeau also stated that the enrollment at Village Charter School is 151, which is very close to the Board authorized number.

Family Partnership Charter School's enrollment is down due to changes in their charter. Once things are worked through, FPCS will return to the Board for further discussion.

Tim Steele asked if the District chose to join FPCS in their appeal. Ms. Comeau stated that the District supported the appeal, but when the Department of Education and Early Development changed their regulations, the District chose not to join their appeal.

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 October 8, 2001 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:55 p.m.

Peggy Robinson, President

Harriet Drummond, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved