

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 26, 2001**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, November 26, 2001 at 6:37 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Peggy Robinson presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present: Peggy Robinson, Tim Steele, and Rita Holthouse. Dave Werdal and Jake Metcalfe joined the meeting by teleconference. Harriet Drummond and Debbie Ossiander were excused from this meeting.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Pat McDowell, Mike Henry, Gail Opalinski, Patricia McRae, Jerry Sjolander, Duane Moran, Dale Cope, Marie Laule, Debbie Bogart, Lee Wilson, George Vakalis, Michelle Egan, Stan Syta, Ray Amsden, Marilyn Barbeau, Bill Mikawa, Arge Jeffery, Bob Henry, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

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

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Robinson announced that Board members would be attending the Alaska 2020 Conference and the Alaska Native Summit. Ms. Robinson also announced upcoming meetings and work sessions.

Rita Holthouse announced her visit at Government Hill Elementary and commented on the remodeled building. Tim Steele read a press release from the AK Heritage Center and congratulated Carol Comeau for being asked to serve as a member on the honorary Board of Directors.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as printed.

D. AWARDS/ RECOGNITIONSE. PRESENTATIONF. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Corey Rennell stated that the next meeting is Friday, November 30 at 11:30. If the Superintendent or Board members would like to attend, they will work on the resolutions from the Conference as well as new ones.

2. Military Delegate

No report this evening.

3. M.E.C.C.

Mary Marks stated that the First AK Native Education Summit committee spoke to the M.E.C.C. and members of the Mayor's Kitchen Cabinet Task Force returned to speak again to the group, which gave them a chance to explain to them what the M.E.C.C. is already doing. The Executive Directors also attended the meeting. Ms. Marks asked her members to visit with the different PTA's. Ms. Marks shared the committee's concerns and ideas with the Mayor. The Mayor will visit Williwaw Elementary School to read to the students. Carol Comeau said that Mary Marks did a very nice job speaking and being an advocate for children.

G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Robert Hayes spoke to the Board on school safety and stated his concern regarding a memo written about his safety concerns in the past. Peggy Robinson stated that the accusations are ones that have been fully investigated and the fire marshal and city ombudsman did not find any truths to these allegations.

Theresa Obermeyer commented on Ted Stevens' visit to O'Malley Elementary School. Ms. Obermeyer stated that she wanted to speak to the public to teach politics.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Special Meeting - October 22, 2001 4:30 p.m.
- b. Regular Meeting - October 22, 2001 6:30 p.m.
- c. Special Meeting - October 29, 2001 4:30 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #100 - Award Of Contract: Service High School Renewal Project - Phase 1B

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Service High School Renewal Project, Phase 1B to the lowest bidder, EBCO for the Base Bid in the amount of \$3,467,759 and to accept Unit Prices A and B.

3. ASD Memorandum #117 - Approval Of Polaris K-12 Educational Specifications

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Polaris K-12 Educational Specifications for use in planning an addition and renovations to this alternative school.

4. ASD Memorandum #123 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Russian Jack/ASSDHH Broadcasting Studio

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) in the amount of \$5,265. Grant funds will be used to provide equipment and training to set up a schoolwide closed-circuit television studio at Russian Jack Elementary School.

5. ASD Memorandum #126 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Statewide WIA School Youth Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award

from the State of Alaska's Department of Labor and Workforce Development in the amount of \$24,733. Funds will be used to provide vocational assessment, pre-employment skills development, and occupational skills training for youth at McLaughlin School.

6. ASD Memorandum #125 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Title VII Bilingual Program Development At Lake Hood Elementary School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA) in the amount of \$174,483 for the first year of a three-year project. The funds for the first year of this award will be used to provide comprehensive professional development for all staff members in order to improve bilingual services to ESL students in every classroom at Lake Hood Elementary School.

7. ASD Memorandum #131 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Aquarian Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds for Aquarian Charter School from Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$48,000. Funds will be used for support staff and specialists, release time, equipment, and teaching supplies.

8. ASD Memorandum #128 - Award Of Contract : SN01-805 Frozen Potato Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to the lowest responsive bidder as shown on the Recommended Awards by Vendor for Frozen Potato Products (Attachment B) in the estimated total amount of \$134,965.

9. ASD Memorandum #137 - Request For Increased Enrollment For Village Charter School For FY 2002-2003

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the request of the Village Charter School for an increase in enrollment to 220 students in grades K-8 for FY 2002-2003 as

requested by the Village Charter School (Attachment A). This addition would increase the budget of for the Village Charter School for FY 2002-2003 by \$326,466 to a total of \$1,365,855.

10. ASD Memorandum #113 - Revision To School Board Policy Section 213, Sections (b) and (1): Duties Of The Superintendent (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the proposed changes on Second Reading to School Board Policy 213 (h) and (i), Duties of the Superintendent, as shown on Attachment A.

11. ASD Memorandum #114 - Revision To School Board Policy Section 176.1 (b): Subject Matter Presentations (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading, the proposed revisions to School Board Policy 176.1 (b), Subject Matter Presentations, as shown on Attachment A.

12. ASD Memorandum #115 - Rrevision To School Board Policy Section 482: Emergency Notification (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading, the proposed School Board Policy 482: Emergency Notification as shown on Attachment A.

13. ASD Memorandum #121 - Personnel Report

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

The following memoranda were removed from the agenda: ASD Memoranda #117, #126, #137 and #121.

ACTION:

Moved by Harriet Drummond
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to approve: the minutes from Special Meeting of October 22, 2001; Regular Meeting of October 22, 2001; Special Meeting of October 29, 2001; ASD Memoranda #100, #123, #125, #131, #128, #113, #114, and #115.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #117 - Approval Of Polaris K-12 Educational Specifications

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Polaris K-12 Educational Specifications for use in planning an addition and renovations to this alternative school.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Tim Steele

to approve ASD Memorandum #117

Carol Comeau stated that the administration believes that the Polaris community and staff have come forward with a good viable plan. Ray Amsden spoke to the Board regarding the education specifications. Principal Denise Greene-Wilkinson stated that parents and staff commented that all felt they had been heard and Al Weinberg did a good job facilitating them through it. The education specifications fit safety at the school as well as their unique curriculum. She is very excited about the program.

Gail Opalinski added she was pleased to be a part of this process and was also pleased to see the participation of the community.

Jeff Friedman was a committee member that helped draft the proposal and urged the Board to support it. Mr. Friedman thanked the District and Board for their support during the process they went through.

The Board discussed the Education Specifications. Ms. Holthouse questioned an explanation of the need for the two separate instructional

storage rooms for alternating year instructional materials. Ms. Wilkinson explained that since they do multi-age classes and because of the constant rotation they needed the separate storage areas.

Harriet Drummond asked about the vacation of Ashwood Street. Mr. Amsden explained there is a hearing before the Planning Board scheduled in February and if there was an alternative way that people could get to the subdivision and businesses, there should not be an objection to it. Ms. Wilkinson further explained the route that the public uses and stated that it is working very well.

Debbie Ossiander stated her concern regarding the two 80 ft. practice rooms and questioned whether or not they are essential. Denise Wilkinson explained that because Polaris is a K-12 school she has band, orchestra and guitar operating simultaneously and they all need classroom space.

Ms. Ossiander questioned why there was a need for two gym offices. Ms. Robinson also stated her confusion with the two gym offices. Ray Amsden stated that the locations of the rooms are yet to be determined and it is possible to have only one gym office. The Board and Administration continued discussion of this matter.

Debbie Ossiander requested explanation of the need for two separate workrooms. Denise Wilkinson said that they added a larger work room for the teachers and parents and the other room would be for the parents to keep their coats and have meetings and run copies. Debbie Ossiander urged the administration to consider combining the square footage and feels the room is not large enough alone. Carol Comeau stated that it is important for the parents to be separated from staff some times. The square footage will allow some flexibility and later they may decide to recombine the rooms.

Debbie Ossiander requested to amend the memorandum by calling for one gym office instead of two.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to amend the memorandum to
seconded by Harriet Drummond delete one gym office so there
would be one instead of two.

Debbie Ossiander explained her request for amendment and urged support for the motion. Ms. Ossiander also suggested that if the motion

for the amendment failed she would be amenable to somehow making this flexible so that there would be some way to address the supervision and liability issues but not cut into valuable education space by building offices that are not needed. Rita Holthouse stated that she would not support the amendment because she feels the staff, students and community put a lot of thought into the plan and feels they need two offices.

Ms. Comeau and Mr. Metcalfe agreed with Ms. Holthouse. Peggy Robinson stated that she would be more interested in changing the amendment to state that there would be one/two gym offices and then they would have the flexibility there since it hasn't been decided where the office or offices would be. The Board discussed changing the amendment to read "one/two gym offices." Mr. Steele stated that he would support the change to the amendment.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to amend the memorandum #117 to
seconded by Harriet Drummond read "one/two gym offices."

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: Metcalfe

AMENDMENT TO MAIN MOTION PASSED

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #126 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Statewide
WIA School Youth Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the State of Alaska's Department of Labor and Workforce Development in the amount of \$24,733. Funds will be used to provide vocational assessment, pre-

employment skills development, and occupational skills training for youth at McLaughlin School.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele to approve ASD Memorandum #126
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Carol Comeau commented that this has been a long-going grant that has been in place for a number of years with McLaughlin and the Work Force Investment Act funds and recommended support of it.

Theresa Obermeyer stated that she used to work at McLaughlin and thinks the WIA School Youth Program sounds like a great program.

Jake Metcalfe asked for background information on the wages and benefits. Carol Comeau stated that she believes it is minimum wage and the administration would verify the information for him.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #137 - Request For Increased Enrollment For Village Charter School For FY 2002-2003

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the request of the Village Charter School for an increase in enrollment to 220 students in grades K-8 for FY 2002-2003 as requested by the Village Charter School (Attachment A). This addition would increase the budget of for the Village Charter School for FY 2002-2003 by \$326,466 to a total of \$1,365,855.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve ASD Memorandum #137
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated her concern that October 1st is the date where enrollment increase requests should come forward so they can be factored into the projections and the budget development process. Ms. Comeau is also concerned about their decline in enrollment. The Superintendent cautioned that if approved and something happens with enrollment, the District would not be responsible for paying off the lease as noted in the memo.

Linda Sharp, founder of the school, spoke to the Board regarding the request to increase enrollment. Ms. Sharp explained the plan for the increased enrollment. Peggy Robinson asked if the terms of the contract for the added space are exactly the same as the current contract. Ms. Sharp assured the Board that the terms are the same.

Michelle Todd, a parent at Village Charter School and volunteer of the year and member of the academic policy committee stated that safety of the students is a high priority. Ms. Todd requested that the policy for problem solving would be followed and she would continue to help further enrollment in any way she could.

Mike Boots, Village Charter School's CPA spoke to the Board regarding the school's budget.

Caprice Musty, an APC member and office staff member as well as parent of a 6th grade student is very happy with the education her child is receiving at the Village Charter School. Ms. Musty feels that the 220-student body number is attainable and will help in every way.

Jim Sharp read a letter regarding the enrollment at the school as well as the questionnaires regarding the performance of the school.

Carol Comeau feels her concerns were addressed and had been responded to in the comments of Ms. Sharp and others. Ms. Comeau stated that she can go along with whatever the Board decides and will support the school as best as she can and hope enrollment continues to grow.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Ossiander

MOTION PASSED

Harriet Drummond stated that she was very pleased with auditor's report. Ms. Drummond stated that she has known about changes in GASB and the administration is prepared to deal with changes without costing the District significantly more money or greatly upsetting the financial process. The Audit Sub Committee was pleased.

Debbie Ossiander expressed her concern over portions of files that were missing and not accounted for. Ms. Ossiander asked how the administration is dealing with that issue. Lee Wilson explained that the issue wasn't that the files were missing, but the auditors could not access information in a format that they are not accustomed to. The information is there but they could not access it readily. Harriet Drummond mentioned that one of the options talked about was adding a terminal so people could review their file. Software, scanning, and hardware issues were problems, as well as a privacy issue.

ASD Memorandum #119 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of November 1, through November 19, 2001.

Carol Comeau stated that this memorandum is the update for this time and Ray Amsden will respond to any questions. We continue to be challenged by the Chugiak project and they are moving the project as fast as they can. Debbie Ossiander commented that she continues to hear concerns about noise level from teachers and staff. Regarding South Anchorage High School and the appeal with access along Leyden Drive, Ms. Ossiander is hoping the Board can stay updated to make sure it doesn't impact the timeline. Peggy Robinson asked Mr. Amsden if the appeal would delay the timeline. Ray Amsden stated that it's not critical to the delivery of the project.

ASD Memorandum #124 - Facility Project Report And Change Order Report For The Month Of October 2001

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

ASD Memorandum #120 - End-Of-Month Membership Summary For October 31, 2001

The end-of-month membership report for October 31, 2001 is attached. The total active enrollment at the end of October was 49,543, an increase of 120 students from the October 31, 2000 total of 49,423. Table 1 compares the membership on October 31, 2001 with the totals from October 31, 2000.

Carol Comeau informed the Board of a couple of corrections on the chart concerning Northern Lights Kindergarten capacity, which should say 546 instead of 448 and it changes the totals to 27, 761 and 95.6 percent. The chart will be updated. Ms. Comeau stated that this will be helpful information for the Board and the administration will be adding the DEED capacities in the future monthly membership reports. Both Ms. Ossiander and Ms. Drummond expressed their concern with capacity issues and asked that the membership report run the ASD capacity totals and DEED capacity totals side by side for a while.

Carol Comeau assured the Board that the administration would do a better job of showing how the square footage is used. At this time, the computer program that is used does not have the ability to list the two capacity totals.

Peggy Robinson reminded the Board that the reason the DEED capacity total needs to be used is that when going to the State for reimbursement they are going to look at their numbers, not ASD numbers. It avoids confusion and it is the honest way to look at it.

Debbie Ossiander commented that what's most important is the instructional program that is delivered in the schools. Carol Comeau stated that the District's credibility with bond issues has been poor because of the numbers not matching. The District will have to work hard to educate the public and will have to explain and do more to advocate for DEED to give more square footage for those programs.

Tim Steele stated that at the last meeting the Board discussed providing both figures and they would be helpful when reviewing the numbers and making decisions.

ASD Memorandum #118 - Operating Budget Transfers - October Monthly Report FY 2001-2002

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

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

Attachment B: In order to conserve paper, the schedule of
monthly budget transfers processed for the months of October 2001
normally attached to this Board Memorandum is available for
interested parties in the Budget Department.

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

Rita Holthouse questioned the Older Learners Transition Program budget
transfer. Gail Opalinski explained that the Learning Opportunity Grant
funds helped them put together a program for students above 15 years of
age and in 10th grade who need assistance in math and language arts. If
they were successful they were able to receive some credit and go on to
high school. Ms. Holthouse also asked about the Measure of Documented
Progress. Ms. Opalinski explained the program (also funded with
Learning Opportunity Grant funds) helps with appropriate placement
and it is a computerized assessment program coordinated with the Alaska
Standards. Ms. Holthouse asked about the money that had been
transferred over for the Special Education school year. Jerry Sjolander
responded by stating that this is due to the amount of Special Education
students over the summer months. A special cost center was developed
for funds expended during July and August. We don't have the
availability of grant funds during the month of July and August so they
need to come out of the general fund. These funds cover the cost of the
on-sight services and also itinerant services, depending on student needs.

Tim Steele requested that the executive directors meet with him to explain
the different reading programs.

ASD Memorandum #122 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap:
October 31, 2001

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

- J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- K. COMMUNICATION & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

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

- M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of November 26, 2001, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:04 p.m. November 26, 2001.

Peggy Robinson, President

Harriet Drummond, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved