

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 23, 2002**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Thursday, May 23, 2002, at 6:35 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, Jake Metcalfe, Tim Steele, Rita Holthouse, and Harriet Drummond.

Board Members Not Present: Debbie Ossiander and Mary Marks

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Pat McDowell, Mike Henry, George Vakalis, Gail Opalinski, Patricia McRae, Larry Wiget, Duane Moran, Jeff Wood, Pam Lloyd, Dale Cope, Marie Laule, Debbie Bogart, Lee Wilson, Mary Kay Sambo, Stan Syta, Ray Amsden, Chip Derrick, Arge Jeffery, Bob Henry, Corey Rennell, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

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

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Comeau requested the Board to let the Superintendent's office know when they were able to get together for a new Board picture.

C. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #314 - June Nelson Memorial Scholarship Winners

On April 20 ten Alaska high school seniors were chosen out of 162 applicants to receive a \$1,000 June Nelson Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship, named after a long-time Kotzebue School Board member, is an annual tradition of the Association of Alaska School Boards. Each year the association's members, students and district superintendents gather to raise money that will be awarded to graduating seniors in Alaska. This year enough money was raised to award ten scholarships.

Mike Henry, Executive Director of Secondary Education, read the memorandum announcing the winners of the scholarships. Sara Loski from Dimond High School, Amber Walker from East High

School, and Christopher Wintrode from Chugiak High School, received certificates and congratulations from Peggy Robinson.

2. ASD Memorandum #315 - Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship Recipients

The Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarships, given in cooperation with the American Association of School Administrators, recognize the outstanding achievements of exemplary high school juniors. Winners receive awards in one of three categories: Trade and Technical Studies; Arts and Humanities Studies or Science, Business and Technology Studies. Each state-level award carries with it a \$2,500 scholarship.

Gail Opalinski read the memorandum congratulating the winners and Peggy Robinson presented the certificates.

3. ASD Memorandum #317 - 2002 Presidential Scholars

The nation's 2002 Presidential Scholars have been announced, and this year three Anchorage School District students have been selected for this distinguished honor. This year's Presidential Scholars include Heather Craig and Hanna Craig from East High School, and Michael Crayton from Service High School.

Mike Henry read the memorandum congratulating the students and Peggy Robinson presented them with certificates.

D. SUMMARY OF 2001-2002 YEAR, Peggy Robinson, President

School Board President, Peggy Robinson spoke about the 2001-2002 school year and reminisced about her past nine years on the School Board. Ms. Robinson began her summary by recognizing Assembly member Cheryl Clementson and Ms. Clementson's comments after completing her term of office on the Assembly. Ms. Robinson used artifacts to symbolize memorable moments on the School Board. In honor of Cheryl Clementson Ms. Robinson brought a bag of chocolate chips because they would use chocolate chips to help "decompress" after a very emotional, long meeting. Some of the artifacts Ms. Robinson shared were the buttons which included the "I'm A Wise Guy" button (the first Districtwide committee Ms. Robinson was on), to the "Kid's Voting Button", her first election in April, 1993; minutes of the first Site Selection Committee she officially attended in March of 1993; photos from special events; files from controversial and long standing areas of interest; a video tape from Bartlett's 1997 graduation; a gavel from the first time she was president in

1995-1996, and a name plate from being on the ASAA Board of Directors. Ms. Robinson stated that most important were the memories and the lessons that she has learned and the people she has worked with. Ms. Robinson mentioned that when Dave Werdal gave his closing comments last month he referred to the top ten moments and took us on a memory walk through the past six years he was on the Board. Ms. Robinson decided she would use the "Twelve Nuggets of Wisdom." Nugget #1. "You can never please everyone, but you should listen to everyone." Ms. Robinson used a telephone receiver to illustrate this point. Ms. Robinson added that there should be twice as many holes in the hearing end than the speaking end because you really need to spend a lot of time listening to everyone. Gather as much information as possible and listening politely and open-mindedly. Ms. Robinson stated that she felt this Board has always prided itself on how it has treated guests that come to testify - even if we strongly disagree and expect the same respect from the audience as well. Remembering that those that speak do not necessarily represent the majority viewpoint or do they necessarily know everything you know on an issue. We also learned that you don't carry over a hot topic to subsequent weeks or months. When you have something to finish, hold a special meeting the next night and do not let it drag on where emotions can continue to expand. In budget areas especially where we have to make cuts, we often have strong supporters of certain programs advocating for their needs but may have not had the supporters of more important programs. There may be very important programs of which there are no politically active supporters here. You need to remember that just because you don't hear from people it doesn't mean that they don't care about an issue. Having public comment can change the outcome and bring in a different perspective and analysis. Ms. Robinson recalled during one meeting, while working on lottery procedures, an attorney mentioned that how it is written it isn't going to get you where you want to go and instead it should be written "this way" and he helped the Board make the needed changes. Now, we have those policies that have worked well ever since. So often there are very good things that we get from public comment. Nugget #2. Some good things take a long time to happen. You need to be patient. The environment needs to be correct to make the change happen. An example is the Muldoon Middle School. She made her first speech stating why a Muldoon Middle School is needed in 1992. Now, it will be built within the next five years. For about three years, ASD had a five-year program plan, similar to the six-year CIP that we were trying to use in program development. The first summer, there were four continuous work sessions as we talked about all the program changes and some of the additions the Board wanted to make. One of the changes that Ms. Robinson wanted was the option of having full day kindergarten in the District. There was neither the space in the schools or the support on the Board or in parts of the community. It wasn't until there were some

changes on the Board, some changes in the community perception and needed space in the schools that we were able to move forward with that option. Having elementary counselors in every elementary school was another item and with this upcoming budget year we are able to add a few more along with continuing to make progress. Nugget #3. Don't forget where we've come from." ASD has changed a lot in the last decade. Change does happen, even in large institutions. Lack of confidence in the School District and the School Board was what she entered into when she was elected to the Board. Public confidence in the Board was at an all-time low. Debbie Ossiander was appointed to the Board in November and Ms. Robinson and two others were appointed to the Board in February of 1993 because of a recall of three School Board members. The Board president lost his re-election and then the Board had five out of seven members that had less than six months experience. A few years prior to that the Anchorage Police Department had raided the Anchorage School District headquarters looking for information regarding a well publicized sexual abuse case between a teacher and a high school student. In fact, the case was so well known that it is actually included in a book, "Cases in Education Administration." It is used as a case study across the nation on how not to do things. The Assembly had also paid for a management audit of the Anchorage School District. Ms. Robinson was on the Facilities committee in 1992 where she met Ms. Ossiander and Ms. Drummond. Up to that point whether a school received construction money was largely a measure of how political that school was and able to advocate for their school needs. Through the committee, they ended up developing a retrofit study - a much more objective way with measures and point systems that is still used ten years later, as part of our process in determining what schools get on the bond. Ms. Robinson was on the year-round school committee. ASD was desperately overcrowded with elementary age students in the 1990s and moving into junior high. The Board was seriously looking at going to a year-round multi track calendar, or double shifting, or building more relocatables than ASD currently had if bonds for new construction couldn't be passed. The Board decided to put all of those projects - \$174 million dollars of them, four elementary schools and two middle schools on one bond, and worked very hard in a negative environment for school perception, in the community to get those passed, and of course, they did. Since Ms. Robinson has been on the Board, the Anchorage voters have approved over \$600 million dollars in school construction and major maintenance. Student to student harassment was another area. Ms. Robinson was appalled to hear that there was no student to student harassment policy. By the next year, there was a policy in place, and this last spring, sexual orientation was added to that policy. # 4. "Remember where the lines are between the Board's responsibilities and the Administration's responsibilities." Sometimes that line is not always clear and direct. It's not always easy and has generated much discussion. #5. Board members are not typical parents, nor are

their students typical students. Very few people in Anchorage are even willing to consider running for School Board. Therefore, it is important that your children also have some of the qualities that have put you in this position as well. And so what's right for your child is not always necessarily right for someone else's child. You are on the Board to advocate and speak for all children and especially for those who can't speak for themselves. #6. "Have a good relationship with the staff before you begin to bargain with them." In the spring of 2000 the NEA bargaining was not going well. The candidate forums that people were running were highly emotional at that time. #7. Don't burn bridges with anyone. This is way too small of a city and state. You can disagree on issues but don't be disagreeable and let everyone have every opportunity be heard. When it's over, you need to move on. People change as well. #8. Accommodate the media as much as possible. Try to be very flexible for interviews. Never pick fights with those who buy ink by the barrel. Over a couple of issues, including the fund raising policy issue, Ms. Robinson became the target of an attack by the Voice of the Times. It was relentless and vicious and impossible to defend against because they were buying their half page of the paper. She kept that file because she could not believe how bad it was, but Ms. Robinson made the decision to leave it here and it can be tossed and the anger will be let go. #9. "When in doubt, do it in an open meeting." The Anchorage School Board comes under great scrutiny, certainly more than the Assembly, and a lot more than the Legislature. #10. "Alaska is small and the Anchorage School Board members are education leaders in the State." Since 1994 there have been two Board members on the AASB Board out of 15. Debbie Ossiander is now President-elect and Carol Comeau is on the Board for the Superintendents' Association. We have to take advantage of the opportunities to get to know each other and to work with other educational leaders throughout the State. #11. "You make personal sacrifices." One is in time. Ms. Robinson never kept track of the hours spent being a good Board member. Becoming a good Board member goes way beyond attending the official meetings and reading the materials. It includes visiting schools and departments and programs to see what is actually happening and talking with the staff and the students. Being a good Board member is listening to the public about their perceptions of the School District, whether it's via e-mail or in the local grocery store. It's spending time reading, attending trainings and conferences and learning more about educational issues, statewide and nationwide. # 12. "Enjoy the celebrations." It's a great time of the year to enjoy and participate in the celebrations at the end of the school year. You see the results of the hard work of the 5,000 employees and almost 50,000 students. The large high school graduations are rewarding for just their sheer numbers and the excitement of seeing so many young men and women leave ASD to head off to the rest of their lives. But for the personal touch, you know that a school makes a difference to them when you attend small

graduations. AVAIL, McLaughlin, SAVE, Whaley, Benny Benson, ACE, ACT and Crossroads are where you hear the stories of how ASD has made a difference in those lives and then you know you made a difference. Ms. Robinson thanked everyone that she has had the pleasure of working with over the past nine years. There have been 19 other Board members and two superintendents and many staff members. Ms. Robinson thanked her sister-in-law for convincing her that she should run for the School Board. It has been an experience of a lifetime, but Ms. Robinson is glad her time is up. It's time for new people with new ideas and new energy to build on from where we are today.

E. ADJOURNMENT OF 2001-2002 – SINE DIE

Peggy Robinson moved to adjourn the last School Board meeting of 2001-2002. Jake Metcalfe second the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The board recessed at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

F. OATH OF OFFICE OF NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

Judge Sigurd Murphy administered the Oath of Office to John Steiner, who was sworn into office as the new School Board Member of the Anchorage School District.

G. ORGANIZATION OF 2002-2003 SCHOOL BOARD

Superintendent Carol Comeau will preside as temporary chairman until a new president is elected.

Debbie Ossiander and Mary Marks joined the meeting via teleconference for the election of the School Board officers.

a. **President**

The Board unanimously elected Jake Metcalfe as the president of the Anchorage School Board for the 2002-2003 school year.

b. **Vice President**

The Board unanimously elected Tim Steele as the Vice President of the Anchorage School Board for the 2002-2003 school year.

c. **Clerk**

The Board unanimously elected Mary Marks as the Clerk of the Anchorage School Board for the 2002-2003 school year.

d. **Treasurer**

The Board unanimously elected Harriet Drummond as the Treasurer of the Anchorage School Board for the 2002-2003 school year.

H. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele to approve the Agenda of the Special
seconded by Harriet Drummond School Board Meeting of May 23, 2002.

The Board recessed at 8:10 to reorganize the seating arrangement of the Board.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steele, Holthouse,
Drummond, Metcalfe,
Steiner

Absent: Marks, Ossiander

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Theresa Obermeyer congratulated the School Board members for being in a very illustrious group throughout the nation. Ms. Obermeyer also spoke to the Board regarding fair municipal elections.

Cass Ariez spoke to the Board regarding the teacher buyout/service recognition program and feels it is a bad thing for students to lose good teachers. Carol Comeau explained AEA's request for service recognition in order to pay for the three-year contract. Lee Wilson added that in 2002-2005 there is no service recognition program planned in the agreement. Ms. Comeau also mentioned that teacher recruiting is going very well and the principals are pleased with the candidates who are available to fill the positions. Tim Steele stated that he is was also concerned about the newspaper article regarding the teacher service recognition program and the loss of many good teachers. Mr. Steele stated that it was necessary during the times that the Board had to implement it because of the of the

budget cuts the District was going through and it helped the District get through those rough times.

J. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum #289 - Award Of Contract: Service High School Renewal Project, Phase 1 Deferred

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 1 Deferred to the lowest bidder, EBCO, for the Base Bid and Alternate 1 in the amount of \$1,127,900; and accept Unit Prices A, D, E, F, G, H, I, J and K.

2. ASD Memorandum #290 - Award Of Contract: Bear Valley, Klatt And Spring Hill Elementary Schools Power And Data Upgrades In Support Of Technology

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Bear Valley, Klatt, and Spring Hill Elementary Schools Power and Data Upgrades in Support of Technology to Arctic Lights Electric, Inc. for Base Bid A in the amount of \$326,101 and to accept Additive Alternates 1, 2 and 3 in the amount of \$40,650 for a total award of \$366,751.

3. ASD Memorandum #291 - Award Of Contract: King Career Center Code Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for King Career Center Code Renovations to the low responsive bidder, Janssen Contracting Company, Inc. for the Base Bid and Allowance Assignment in the amount of \$4,161,392.

4. ASD Memorandum #292 - Award Of Contract: Fire Lake Elementary School Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Fire Lake Elementary School Roof Upgrades to the low

responsive bidder, Anchorage Roofing and Contracting, for the Base Bid in the amount of \$182,945. Unit Prices are not accepted.

5. ASD Memorandum #313 - Award Of Contract: Ravenwood Elementary School Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Ravenwood Elementary School Roof Upgrades to the low responsive bidder, Universal Roofing, for the Base Bid in the amount of \$428,500, and accept both Unit Prices.

6. ASD Memorandum #294 - Professional Services Selection: Emergency Preparedness Planning Study

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of Emergency Planning Services, Inc. to conduct an Emergency Preparedness Planning Study, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with Emergency Planning Services, Inc.

7. ASD Memorandum #319 - Prior Approval: Title VI-B Individuals With Disabilities Education Entitlement and Preschool Disabled Incentive Grants

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the Title VI-B Individuals with Disabilities Education Entitlement Grant and the Preschool Disabled Incentive Grant for FY 2002-2003. The total amount for both grants combined is \$7,542,637 based on the attached budgets (Attachments A and B).

The following memoranda were removed from the agenda: ASD Memorandum #290.

ACTION:

Moved by Harriet Drummond
seconded by Tim Steele

to approve: ASD Memorandum #289;
Memorandum 291#; Memorandum
292; Memorandum #313;
Memorandum #294; and Memorandum
#319.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steele, Holthouse,
Drummond, Metcalfe,
Steiner

Absent: Marks, Ossiander

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #290 - Award Of Contract: Bear Valley, Klatt And Spring Hill Elementary Schools Power And Data Upgrades In Support Of Technology

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Bear Valley, Klatt, and Spring Hill Elementary Schools Power and Data Upgrades in Support of Technology to Arctic Lights Electric, Inc. for Base Bid A in the amount of \$326,101 and to accept Additive Alternates 1, 2 and 3 in the amount of \$40,650 for a total award of \$366,751.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner to approve ASD Memorandum #290.
seconded by Harriet Drummond

John Steiner asked Ray Amsden if the upgrades will follow the plans of the District's new instructional technology plan and asked him to address any differences that are relevant to the project.

Ray Amsden stated that the plan speaks more to implementation issues of how to apply technology to the instructional environment. The infrastructure in the plan is consistent with what was in the previous plan. The new plan validates some of what we were doing in previous to this upgrade. The 5-1 ratio has been provided as well as the needed data connections for laptop settings. Mr. Steele asked if Cat 6 wiring was being used in the upgrades. Mr. Amsden stated that this project is not recommending award for Cat 6 wiring. It is a Cat 5e, which is the upgraded cabling being used up until this spring. In the secondary schools, we have upgrades to Cat 6. The need for higher capacity networking relates to video streaming, etc. which is seen in the secondary level and is not being seen in the elementary level.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steele, Holthouse,
Drummond, Metcalfe,
Steiner

Nays: None

Absent: Marks, Ossiander
MOTION PASSED

K. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

L. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no other speakers.

M. COMMUNICATION & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Rita Holthouse commented on the ACE luncheon that was held for students who are graduating from that program and urged everyone to attend next year.

Carol Comeau agreed that the luncheon was very nice. The program is for young adults up through their 22nd birthday. Each graduate gives a speech and it is a marvelous celebration of how far they have come.

Tim Steele stated that he attended the Go For It Road Show and thought the message was presented well. Carol Comeau thanked Pat McDowell and her Executive Directors, Steve Kalmes, and George Vakalis for their help in making the program successful. Funds were donated by local community sponsors, Coke and Health South.

John Steele expressed his appreciation for his warm welcome by the other members of the Board. Mr. Steiner also recognized his daughters and thanked them for their support as well as Jeff Friedman, all of whom were in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Jake Metcalfe thanked the Board and Administration for their support and looked forward to working with everyone. Mr. Metcalfe also thanked Peggy Robinson and Dave Werdal for their time and effort put in over the years.

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION –
(PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)

O. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 23, 2002, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:40 p.m. May 23, 2002.

Jake Metcalfe, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved