

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2002**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, September 9, 2002 at 6:40 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Jake Metcalfe presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present: Debbie Ossiander, Mary Marks, Tim Steele, Jake Metcalfe, John Steiner, Rita Holthouse, and Harriet Drummond

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Jeff Wood, Dale Cope, Eric Tollefsen, Bob Henry, Stan Syta, Larry Wiget, Ray Amsden, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people.

B. PERFORMANCE

The members of the Chugiak High School Men's Choir performed for the School Board and audience.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members of the Board announced the upcoming meetings for the Policy, Legislative, and Audit Subcommittees as well as provided information on the AASB Leadership Forum scheduled for September 13-15 at the Marriott Hotel.

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Debbie Ossiander moved to approve the agenda as submitted; Mary Marks seconded. Unanimously passed.

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Corey Rennell announced that it was a smooth transition for students returning to school. He encouraged the Board members to attend the Student Advisory Board Retreat on September 24 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Steller Secondary School. Mr. Rennell

encouraged the Board and Administration to bring any issues to the retreat.

2. Military Delegate

Colonel Peter Mulcahy announced that he had the pleasure of attending a ceremony honoring the "Troops to Teachers" program in late August with Lt. General Norton Schwartz and Commissioner Shirley Holloway. This is the first office in Alaska, and will assist military personnel transitioning out of the military into the education field. Colonel Mulcahy feels this is a tremendous program and an asset to Alaska.

Colonel Mulcahy commented that the Military Education Coalition recently released a study that looked at issues and concerns of students transferring schools during their high school years. He explained the recent Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Military, which addresses the transient issues of the military student. Colonel Mulcahy presented a framed Memorandum of Agreement to the Superintendent and the School Board.

3. MECC

The MECC representative was absent.

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

Theresa Obermeyer asked Mr. Metcalfe for the 16 names of the educators who served on the Curriculum Audit Team as well as the actual report. Mr. Metcalfe deferred her question to Superintendent Carol Comeau. Ms. Obermeyer asked that Mr. Metcalfe respond instead of Ms. Comeau.

Russell Mjolsnes commented that our community and nation need to respond to the September 11 tragedy in a true spirit of patriotism and cohesion. Mr. Mjolsnes stated that we must protect our country from foreign enemies and put an end to treason in our country.

Carol Comeau stated that many activities are planned in schools in observance of September 11. Each school is choosing which approach they will take. Ms. Comeau announced that she has been invited to speak at the memorial service on September 11. She encouraged students

to attend activities with their families. Resource materials have been set to all schools.

Bob Roses commented that he was disappointed with the curriculum audit, but was not surprised. He stated that the District has a daunting task in front of them, but has a wonderful staff available to assist as well as the Anchorage Education Association. He is very excited about the changes coming forward and promised that the Association will work very hard to put in the time to make this work. Mr. Roses further commented that ESEA mandates these changes regardless of what the curriculum audit reports. There is also strong support from NEA Alaska.

Carol Comeau thanked Mr. Roses for his comments and assured him that she will be calling on him when the Administration reviews the recommendations in the audit report.

John Steiner commented that he appreciates Mr. Roses' comments on the teaching staff. He thinks our community should be happy with our excellent school district even with the recommended changes. Mr. Steiner believes that we have high achieving students and are currently above average. Other students need to be brought up to that level. Mr. Steiner further commented that this is a good opportunity to address these changes in a positive way.

Harriet Drummond stated that the curriculum audit is on the School District Web Site.

Rita Holthouse commented that she feels Theresa Obermeyer is out of line and should not be allowed to continue with her testimony on the next items. Mr. Metcalfe responded that if a person is polite, he/she should be allowed to speak and address their issues.

Bob Henry clarified Ms. Ossiander's question on what "furnish" means in terms of procurement. He stated that furnish means the same as provide, deliver, acquire, and that the item is delivered to Anchorage.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Minutes:

a. Special Meeting                      August 12, 2002                      4:30 p.m.

b. Regular Meeting August 12, 2002 6:30 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #49 – A Resolution Designating September 6-17, 2002, As American Character Week in the Anchorage School District

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating September 6-17, 2002, as American Character Week in the Anchorage School District.

3. ASD Memorandum #37 – Resolution in Support of Proposition C: State G. O. Bonds for Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution in support of Proposition C, entitled State General Obligation Education and Museum Facilities Design, Construction, and Major Maintenance Bond.

4. ASD Memorandum #48 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Wendler Youth Service

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Alaska State Community Service Commission, in the amount of \$19,998. Funds will be used to continue the service learning initiatives begun in years one and two of this grant.

5. ASD Memorandum #50 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: RARE-T HIV/AIDS Prevention Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the HIV/AIDS Prevention RARE-T continuation grant in the amount of \$18,000 from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. This ongoing program prepares peer educators to inform and influence their peers to make positive and healthy behavioral choices.

6. ASD Memorandum #51 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Technology Literacy Challenge Fund

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 in the amount of \$16,912. Funds will be used to implement online staff development for elementary teachers receiving iBooks in September.

7. ASD Memorandum #31 – Award of Contract: Gruening Middle School Power and Data Upgrades in Support of Technology

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Gruening Middle School Power and Data Upgrades in Support of Technology to Consolidated Contracting and Engineering for the Base Bid in the amount of \$382,222 and to accept Additive Alternate 2 in the amount of \$10,000, for a total award of \$392,222.

8. ASD Memorandum #38 – Award of Contract: Furnish Two Regenerative Air Street Sweeper Blades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Furnish Two Regenerative Air Street Sweeper Bodies to TK Services for the Base Bid in the amount of \$137,103.76.

9. ASD Memorandum #39 – Award of Contract: Furnish and Deliver Two New International Tandem Trucks

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Furnish and Deliver Two New International Tandem Trucks to the low and responsive bidder, Alaska Truck Center, for the Base Bid amount of \$159,988.00.

10. ASD Memorandum #40 – Award of Contract: Furnish and Deliver Ten New 81 Passenger, Type D School Buses

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Furnish & Deliver Ten New 81 Passenger, Type D, School Buses to Alaska Truck Center for the total amount of \$828,000.

11. ASD Memorandum #41 – Award of Contract: Furnish Six Super Cargo Vans

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Furnish Six Super Cargo Vans to the low and responsive bidder, Alaska Sales & Service, for the Base Bid amount of \$129,912.00.

12. ASD Memorandum #43 – Personnel Report

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandums #49, #37, #48, and #38.

ACTION:

<p>Moved by Harriet Drummond seconded by Rita Holthouse</p>	<p>to approve minutes from the Special Meeting of August 12, 2002 – 4:30 p.m.; Regular Meeting of August 12, 2002 – 6:30 p.m.; and Memorandum #50; Memorandum #51; Memorandum #31; Memorandum #39; Memorandum #40; Memorandum #41; and Memorandum #43.</p>
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VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele, Metcalfe,  
Steiner, Holthouse, Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #49 – A Resolution Designating September 6-17, 2002, As American Character Week in the Anchorage School District

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating September 6-17, 2002, as American Character Week in the Anchorage School District.

ACTION:

<p>Moved by Debbie Ossiander seconded by Mary Marks</p>	<p>to approve Memorandum #49.</p>
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Carol Comeau stated that information has been sent out to schools and each school is coming up with ideas on how they will recognize September 11. Ms. Comeau commented if the Board passes this resolution, she will request each Executive Director to send it out to principals and their schools. She emphasized that it is very important for the Board to recognize this time in our history and many of the phrases in the resolution are meaningful.

Harriet Drummond stated that she would like the Board to read the resolution for the record. Each Board member read a section of the resolution.

Theresa Obermeyer commented how nice it was to see young men singing under the direction of Ron Lange. Ms. Obermeyer further commented that she wants people to remember September 11. Good citizenship is the responsibility of each individual and she is trying to do her part.

Corey Rennell stated that Bartlett and Steller are involved in "Freedom's Answer," which is nationwide program encouraging students to vote.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele, Metcalfe,  
Steiner, Holthouse, Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #37 – Resolution in Support of Proposition C: State G. O. Bonds for Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached resolution in support of Proposition C, entitled State General Obligation Education and Museum Facilities Design, Construction, and Major Maintenance Bond.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #37.  
seconded by Tim Steele

Carol Comeau passed out a revised ASD Memorandum #37 to the Board members. She commented that after review with the administrative staff and our attorney, the Administration is recommending the revised version. Ms. Comeau explained that this resolution is similar to what the

State Board of Education recently passed. She stated that the attorney for the District, Howard Trickey, reviewed both the original and revised resolutions and advised that both are acceptable. The Administration chose to offer two alternatives to the Board for their preference.

Theresa Obermeyer commented that she doesn't feel that the State of Alaska has fair elections. She feels getting elected is all about name recognition. Ms. Obermeyer wished Corey Rennell success in getting students registered to vote.

Debbie Ossiander commented that the Superintendent, very appropriately, directed the first memorandum be prepared based on her knowledge of Board discussion at previous times regarding construction needs in this state and in this District. There is nothing that prohibits this body from taking a strong position in support of this particular resolution. Ms. Ossiander believes it is essential for the Board to support the original memorandum. This resolution will superficially be used as benefiting only schools in rural Alaska. Ms. Ossiander fears that voters will quickly dismiss it and not realize its vital importance. There is a considerable backlog of construction in rural Alaska that must be addressed. Additionally, there is a provision that says that if this resolution passes, a specific large amount of dollars will be made available to Municipalities that have the ability to bond to provide a state match. Ms. Ossiander stated that this Board is very aware of our construction needs in the future, and this Board must publicly endorse and support not only this resolution but spread the information to voters in the state about that provision and its direct applicability for Anchorage schools. She stated that she will not be supporting or voting for the revision.

John Steiner raised the original question regarding the resolution because he was not sure if the School Board could take a position as an official act. Since there has been legal advice indicating that the Board could state their opinion, he will be supporting the original resolution as well.

Rita Holthouse commented that she will be supporting the original resolution as well. When Mr. Steiner proposed the question, she asked for a legal opinion. Carol Comeau commented that she wanted to offer an alternative for the Board, but feels the Board would be on firm ground by passing the original resolution.

Jake Metcalfe announced that he attended the Education First Press Conference recently and the Board has to take a strong position on the

GO bonds. Children must receive the education that they are entitled to. Mr. Metcalfe encouraged Board members to attend demonstrations, photo exhibits, etc. to really see how bad it is in rural Alaska.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele, Metcalfe,  
Steiner, Holthouse, Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED TO APPROVE THE ORIGINAL ASD  
MEMORANDUM #37 AS SUBMITTED

ASD Memorandum #48 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award:  
Wendler Youth Service

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Alaska State Community Service Commission, in the amount of \$19,998. Funds will be used to continue the service learning initiatives begun in years one and two of this grant.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner to approve Memorandum #48.  
seconded by Rita Holthouse

John Steiner stated that the training and community services are excellent and we should be doing more activities of this type. He further stated that the reason he pulled this memorandum off of the consent agenda was to inquire how we are using this to move ahead in student achievement; he is concerned over students losing class time. Mr. Steiner reminded the Board that this is an elective program that does not affect core subject areas, but we need to look at it to make sure we are addressing student achievement.

Tim Steele also commented that this is one of the programs we should be looking at to make sure that we are building in measurable results.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele, Metcalfe,  
Steiner, Holthouse, Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #38 – Award of Contract: Furnish Two Regenerative Air Street Sweeper Blades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Furnish Two Regenerative Air Street Sweeper Bodies to TK Services for the Base Bid in the amount of \$137,103.76.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #38.  
seconded by Mary Marks

Debbie Ossiander asked if the District is purchasing two sweeper machines or two trucks. Bob Henry responded that the trucks have already been purchased and the sweeper bodies are additional units for the trucks.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele, Metcalfe,  
Steiner, Holthouse, Drummond

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT1. ASD Memorandum #44 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of August 20, 2002, through August 30, 2002.

Rita Holthouse asked if the Bartlett skylight was completed by the target date. Ray Amsden responded yes.

Mary Marks thanked the Administration for the tour of our facilities currently under construction. She found it very useful.

Carol Comeau thanked the Facilities staff, Steve Kalmes and George Vakalis for helping to arrange the tour. She stated that it always helps individuals to visualize the issues.

John Steiner noted that the Eagle River High School design status is scheduled for approval on October 14 by the School Board and approval by the Assembly on October 15. He is concerned over

the short timeline and if the Board had a problem with the design, would there be a problem. Ray Amsden commented that they built in an expedited schedule to allow bonding in the spring. His department is also looking at the possibility of allowing more time between Board approval and Assembly approval and has explored the option of moving Assembly action by one week. One of the risks is that the design process stops for the week and if we proceed, we could be at risk if the Assembly disagrees with the Board's action. Facilities continues to explore this option through Mr. Vakalis' office and the Superintendent's office.

George Vakalis noted that our procedures had to be adjusted when the Assembly made it clear that they had approval rights for conceptual designs as well as schematic designs. The schedule for submitting these designs became problematic with the District and Assembly meetings schedules. The District has been operating on the current schedule for the past year. Mr. Vakalis commented that extra time is given on occasion, but with both meeting schedules, it makes it very difficult. He assured Mr. Steiner that the Administration will continue to look at this situation and will try give extra when time for review when we are able to do so.

Debbie Ossiander urged the Board to consider this as a topic for discussion at the next School Board/Assembly joint meeting. We need to inform the Assembly that the current schedule is difficult at best for the District.

Carol Comeau noted that Dick Traini has notified the District that the Assembly is no longer having work sessions; they are basically asking for the District to bring the boards and materials for display. If the Assembly has questions, they can pull it off their consent agenda. Ms. Comeau believes that the Assembly is not interested in spending a lot of time on the designs because there is good communication between the School District and the Assembly. The Assembly sees that the District is working hard to address issues and concerns.

John Steiner's concern is not the turnaround after our approval, but the fact that it is scheduled to go to the Assembly immediately the next day. One of the ways to improve this situation is to provide the Board with the design earlier enough so they could have plenty of time to review and get questions answered. Mr. Steiner stated that he had the privilege of attending the staff review of the schematic design and noted that there were changes

being made from the concept design. His concern was that the Board nor the community saw the changes; it is critical that the Board has adequate time for review. Mr. Steiner asked when schematics come to the Board will they have already been reviewed and received comments from the community. Ray Amsden stated that the Administration has not scheduled a meeting with the advisory group in the Eagle River/Chugiak area. That meeting will be scheduled in advance of the Board's action; it was purposely delayed until school started so we could maximize participation from the community.

John Steiner asked the Superintendent what the schedule will be for the process for community review and discussion of program considerations and options for the school. Mike Henry responded that he just finished meeting with alternative principals and they are currently preparing presentations. He has tentatively scheduled a meeting at Chugiak High School on October 1 at 7:00 p.m. for presentations on possible options.

Rita Holthouse inquired if the model for Dimond High School will be used for Eagle River High School and how much flexibility will there be. Carol Comeau assured Ms. Holthouse that color selections and modification will be made due to size. Ray Amsden responded that it will be a savings to repeat as much as possible in the school, but the colors will certainly be the choice of the community.

John Steiner commented that to provide visual differentiation, it would be helpful when this design is taken to the community that choices be available on colors, surfacing exterior, etc. and what type of flexibility will be available regarding changes within the building. Carol Comeau noted that the Administration has been very up front on what the choices will be due to cost savings when using prototypical designs. She assured Mr. Steiner that choices will be available for community input.

Mary Marks asked about the outcome of the Service High School community meeting. Mike Henry presented a couple of options they had to Phase 2A. One will take 31 classrooms out of service and add more relocatables, which would then number 45. Another option is to delay construction by one year until the new South Anchorage High School is completed. Mr. Henry informed the Board that the parents in attendance preferred delaying construction for one year on Phase 2A. Carol Comeau stated that

she will return to the Board with a recommendation regarding this matter.

Tim Steele asked what advantage the District will gain by delaying construction by one year. Mike Henry responded that 700 to 800 students will be moving from Service to the new South Anchorage High School thus allowing Service to function with the existing relocatables on-site.

Debbie Ossiander expressed a concern over the Chugiak High School pool situation. Ray Amsden responded that the District handed the completed pool over to the Municipality. The MOA was concerned about construction debris and equipment left by the contractor and was reluctant to move into the area. Carol Comeau will notify the Board if concerns persist by the MOA.

Rita Holthouse commented that she was aware of a similar situation at two other schools, Bartlett and East.

John Steiner commented that the pool situation with the Municipality is also a District problem. The Administration must keep in close communication with the Municipality so service for students does not continue to be interrupted.

Carol Comeau commented that the Chugiak swim coach and community were aware last year that there would be a delay in using the pool at the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year. She further commented that the District did not impact the East and Bartlett pools this year.

Rita Holthouse asked how four schools (Bartlett, East, Chugiak, and West) are using the West High pool. Todd Arndt responded that two schools are practicing together at West High.

John Steiner commented that the communication was great between the coaches, parents, and families; he is referring to the communication between the Municipality and the School District. He is also concerned over the distance that Chugiak High students are having to travel to West High for practice. Mr. Steiner feels that the District must place their focus on this issue. Carol Comeau responded that the Municipality has had some budget issues with the operation of the pools. She assured Mr. Steiner that the Administration is working on the pool issue with the Municipality.

2. ASD Memorandum #45 – First Week of School Enrollment Update

As is customary, Demographics/GIS Services will be preparing regular updates of enrollment status, particularly during the month of September. The initial report will be for the first four days of school, and will be available on Monday, September 9, 2002. This report will be included in ASD Memorandum #45 (2002-2003) and will be handed out to the School Board prior to the Board meeting on Monday.

Carol Comeau announced that the enrollment for the fourth day of school is 49,493 students and feels that our projections for the 2002-2003 school year will be met. She stated that most of our growth is in the middle and high schools, which has been a trend for the past few years. Kindergartners attended school for the first time today. Ms. Comeau encouraged the Board members to refer any calls they may receive regarding class sizes to the appropriate administrator; staff adjustments are currently being made. Ms. Comeau will provide a report to the Board next week that includes the enrollment for all schools.

Debbie Ossiander asked if there was any particular high schools that have shown a huge increase. Ophelia Dargan-Steed responded that no particular school jumps out; all are very near projections.

John Steiner inquired if additional kindergarten classes had to be added this year. Patricia McRae did not have this information. She stated that the class size report will be presented to the Board in late October.

Rita Holthouse asked if the budgets for the schools that experienced boundary changes were adjusted. Carol Comeau stated that those adjustments will take place over the next few weeks.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMSK. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Rita Holthouse commented that there are a lot of purposes in education and hopes that the Board keeps that in mind. She continues to believe that we should be teaching to all students.

Carol Comeau stated that it is important to have a comprehensive program. Alternatives that we currently offer make us a strong public school system, but we need additional resources that are flexible. Our high achieving students deserve just as much attention as our low achieving students; students in the middle, which are the vast majority, deserve a high quality education. Ms. Comeau reminded the Board that the audit was never intended to tell us how well we as a District were doing; it was to address the five standards and assess us in relation to those standards. This is different from other types of studies, and the administration tried to be very clear about this from the very beginning.

John Steiner noted that in reviewing the audit through the Benchmark process, and it being required to achieve towards the graduation program, we are required, compelled from the outside, to do the assessments in the reading, math, and writing. One of the things that the audit noted is that we have other curricular goals in the District, but we don't have a comprehensive way to evaluate how well we are doing in them. Rather than suggest that they be ignored, the audit suggested that we learn how to monitor them to make sure we are doing a good job in those too. Even though it is hard to be focused on everything at once, we have to teach the whole curriculum.

Tim Steele commented that we need to have a method of verifying the results of those programs that we follow whether it is mandated or not. We need to validate the success of each program. Mr. Steele stated that one of our legislative priorities is to add days or give us the flexibility to add teaching time. He understands that this is a costly procedure, but we need to get teaching time back to the students.

Jake Metcalfe commented that we are doing well in many areas and that we have a lot to be proud of. He stated that this is only a blueprint and is confident that we can improve our system.

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

The Regular Meeting of September 9, 2002 was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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Jake Metcalfe, President

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Mary Marks, Clerk

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Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved