

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #47 (2002-2003)

October 14, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS FY 2003-2004

PERTINENT FACTS:

During the past two years the Anchorage School District has actively sought community input in the budget development process. In preparing the FY 2001-2002 budget, the District engaged 200 community members, employees and students in budget review teams. The FY 2002-2003 budget was prepared after contact with budget review team members and gathering input from four community forums and online and written suggestions.

The community plays a significant role in the development of the preliminary budget prepared by the administration, in the approval of the budget by the Anchorage Assembly and in our efforts to secure additional funding from the Alaska Legislature.

Budget Review Process FY 2003-2004

In September 2002, the School Board received the results of a curriculum review audit conducted by Phi Delta Kappa International (PDK). Auditors recommended the District focus its resources on closing the achievement gap between minority students and white students as well as students from low socio-economic areas as compared to students from more affluent areas. They further recommended that the budget development process reflect a focus on improving student achievement. The re-authorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, dubbed the "No Child Left Behind Act" (NCLB), also requires greater accountability from districts in order to improve student achievement.

Before making recommendations regarding the District's budget, it is important that the community, employees and students understand the new law as well as the recommendations of the audit as both will impact District expenditures.

During the month of October, the District will present the community with information on:

- The PDK curriculum audit and the requirements of NCLB
- The current status of student achievement as reported in Profiles of Performance, 2001-2002
- Current budget revenue and expenditures and the forecast for FY 2003-2004 expenditures and revenue
- Facilities project update

Input will be sought in the following areas:

- Economies and efficiencies in delivery of program and services
- Expansion of effective programs and services
- Reductions in programs and services

The Superintendent and the administration will conduct four town meetings to review the status of District programs, advise the community on audit recommendations and the requirements of NCLB, and gather community and employee input. The town meetings will be held on:

- Thursday, October 24, 2002 7:00 pm East High School Commons
- Tuesday, October 29, 2002 7:00 pm Chugiak High Auditorium
- Wednesday, October 30, 2002 7:00 pm Service High Little Theater
- Wednesday, November 13, 2002 7:00 pm Girdwood School MPR

The information will be presented on Channel 14 and on the District Web site (www.asdk12.org).

The District Web site will again carry a suggestion box to which community members and staff may submit their recommendations. For those without Internet access, suggestion forms will be available from the District through the schools, support departments, and the Public Affairs Department. In addition, input will be solicited from the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC), various advisory committees, and the Anchorage Council of PTAs.

A critical timeframe for obtaining community input into the budget is during the preliminary planning stage. The Superintendent and the School Board will use input from all of the above sources as they work through the budget process. A School Board work session on the Proforma FY 2003-2004 Budget will be held on November 4, 2002 at 4:30 pm. This work session will be televised. The Budget Department will release the preliminary projections on next year's revenue and expenditures for use in the budget review process in late October.

CC/ME

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