

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #135 (2002-2003)

December 9, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: FIRST QUARTER PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE REPORT

PERTINENT FACTS:

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

For many years, elementary schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow 15 to 20 minute individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarters. More recently, the middle schools and high schools began the practice of providing opportunities at the end of the same grading periods for parents to pick-up their student's report cards and confer briefly with teachers.

These efforts have generally been well supported by parents and teachers, as can be seen in the information provided by each division. Where there has been a decrease in participation at a school, the appropriate Instructional Division supervisor works with principals, their staffs and PTA or parent group to increase involvement. Through work with the Public Affairs staff, the web site, and our School/Business partners, the District will continue attempts to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities in the hope that parents can be released from work to attend. At any time of the school year, parents are welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

Elementary

Twice each year, the elementary schools in Anchorage conduct parent/teacher conferences for the purpose of reporting student progress to parents. These conferences are held at the end of the first and third quarters of each school year.

Elementary parent/teacher conference results for the first quarter are shown in Attachment A. The following information is a comparison of the last five years' participation rate in these conferences.

	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-2001</u>	<u>2001-2002</u>	<u>2002-2003</u>
Fall Enrollment	27,063	26,577	26,179	26,326	26,124
District Average	96%	96%	95%	95%	95%

Currently, the teacher schedules individual conferences for the parents of each student in the class. The current ASD/AEA negotiated agreement has a provision to allow telephone conferences in lieu of personal conferences if the principal gives prior approval. This is the 18th year this information has been recorded.

### Middle School

Following are the percentages for middle schools' report card pick-up for the first quarter of the 2002-2003 school year:

<u>School</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Cards Picked Up</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Central	796	494	62%
Clark	971	252	26%
Goldenview	936	638	68%
Gruening	632	422	67%
Hanshew	975	834	86%
Mears	1066	691	65%
Mirror Lake	722	531	74%
Polaris	451	451	100%
Romig	826	550	66%
Wendler	929	498	54%

Following are the middle schools' report card pick-up percentages for first quarter this year as compared to the first quarter for the last four years.

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>FALL 99</u>	<u>FALL 00</u>	<u>FALL 01</u>	<u>FALL 02</u>
Central	66	59	55	62
Clark	36	46	55	26
Goldenview	67	63	30	68
Gruening	65	69	68	67
Hanshew	60	65	57	86
Mears	66	64	63	65
Mirror Lake	64	63	66	74
Polaris	100	100	100	100
Romig	55	66	61	66
Wendler	60	41	40	54

Pick-up percentages for middle schools ranged from 26% to 86% with numbers ranging from 252 to 834. The schools with the highest rates of report card pick-up were Hanshew and Mirror Lake.

During 2002-2003 Hanshew Middle School is piloting a student-led conference model of report card distribution. For first quarter each student developed a portfolio containing examples of their work. A specific appointment time was made for their parent(s). In addition to picking up the report card when they came to the school, the parents were given an explanation of the classwork by the student. The teachers were available if the parent(s) had any additional questions. In order to schedule the conferences, Hanshew distributed report cards both Tuesday afternoon and evening, and Thursday afternoon and evening. The Tuesday evening session was in lieu of the Friday morning inservice.

Preliminary findings have been very positive. Report card distribution numbers are much higher and parent feedback has been positive. Some parents indicated they enjoyed having a time to discuss schoolwork with their student. We plan to continue this pilot in April.

Several other schools had individual teams using student-led conferences, among these were Goldenview, Mirror Lake and Romig. The teams using the student-led conference model had pick-up numbers in the 90% range.

Polaris distributes report cards through individual appointments. They had 100% participation this year.

### High School

Senior High School report card pick-up was held on November 6, 2002, in all area high schools. Report cards are made available and teachers are on duty to meet with parents in an afternoon/evening session. Due to high school teachers being assigned 125-200 individual students, appointments are not made in the style of the elementary conferences. All of a school's teachers are available in a contiguous area, such as the library or the cafeteria, and parents and staff meet as time permits. Appointments for more extensive dialogue can be made at that time.

As reported by principals, parents were actively engaged in discussion with nearly every teacher. The vast majority of those in attendance deem the conferences valuable and informative. Appropriately, many high school students accompany their parents during these visits.

Encouraging parental attendance continues to be both a school and division concern. All sites publicize this opportunity through parent newsletter announcements which start several months in advance, invitations issued at fall open houses, items on school web sites, notations on the activity calendar, and numerous reminders at monthly

parent meetings. The High School Parent Advisory group is also asked annually for ideas to increase attendance.

Attendance remained steady in all of the schools. Only slight increases or decreases were reported. The notable exception, however, was West High, with an increase of 7 percent. For the first quarter this school year, report card pick-up for senior high students averaged 47 percent across the District as compared to 47 percent during the same time last year. A chart comparing percentage pick-up rates between First Quarter 2000, First Quarter 2001, and First Quarter 2002 is included below.

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>% 1st. Qtr. 2000</u>	<u>%1st Qtr. 2001</u>	<u>%1stQtr. 2002</u>
Bartlett	43	40	40
Chugiak	54	50	52
Dimond	42	56	52
East	46	40	39
Service	58	60	56
West	38	37	44

**Charter Schools**

<u>School</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u># of Conferences</u>	<u>2002</u>
Aquarian	237	203	85.6%
*Village	179	175	96%
**Family Partnership	642	N/A	

\*Village Charter School meets individually with every parent.

\*\*Parents and teachers meet on an "as needed basis" due to the individualized nature of this program.

CC/JC/PM/GO/MH

Attachment

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