

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 25, 2002**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, November 25, 2002 at 6:36 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. Vice President, Tim Steele presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present: Debbie Ossiander, Mary Marks, Tim Steele, John Steiner, and Harriet Drummond.

Board Members Not Present: Rita Holthouse and Jake Metcalfe.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Jan Christensen, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Jerry Sjolander, Jeff Wood, Dale Cope, Bob Henry, Ray Amsden, Stan Syta, Steve Kalmes, Todd Arndt, Mike Price, Victoria Parham, Corey Rennell, LTC. Mulcahy, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

B. PRESENTATION

Musical Performance by the Dimond High School Swing Choir and Musical Director, Christine Livingston.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice President Tim Steele read the policy regarding speaking to the Board on agenda or non agenda items during the meeting.

Carol Comeau displayed the Asian dolls presented to the District by Dr. Chung from the Korean Saturday School during the celebration of their 20th anniversary.

Ms. Comeau also announced the scheduled up-coming meetings.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #119 - Crayola Dream-Makers Recipients

The Crayola Dream-Makers Award program was introduced in 1984 to encourage the creativity and conceptual development of kindergarten through sixth-grade children through art activities emphasizing the value of visual learning in all curricular areas, and calling attention to the creative work of children through exhibitions of their artwork.

Dale Cope read the memorandum. Tim Steele congratulated the students and presented the plaques and certificates to them.

2. ASD Memorandum #120 - Arts Education Governor Award

Recently, art department supervisor Myrna Clark was named recipient of the Governor's Award for arts education.

Ms. Clark has been employed as the Anchorage School District's art supervisor since 1981. She coordinates the visual arts program for more than 50,000 students in elementary, middle school and high school. Ms. Clark directs services for preschool special needs students, inclusive students and five alternative secondary art programs. She also provides new-to-district art in-service and mentoring for art teachers, helps recruit new art teachers, and maintains a central art library for all ASD art teachers.

Ms. Clark has been instrumental in promoting National Youth Art Month in Anchorage. She also organizes student exhibitions and scholarship opportunities that include the P.T.A. Reflections and Crayola Dream-Makers exhibitions and the National Scholastic Arts and Writing competition.

Dale Cope read the memorandum. Tim Steele congratulated Ms. Clark and presented the certificate to her.

3. ASD Memorandum #123 - School Designator Committee Recognition

Willow Crest principal Teri Regan recently received a special service recognition award at the principals conference held in Anchorage, for her hard work and dedication to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's School Designator System Committee.

Ms. Regan has served as one of several elementary school principals on the School Designator Committee since it was created three years ago. Overall, the committee consists of more than two dozen people, including school principals, teachers,

superintendents, school board members, parents and business professionals who represent much of the diversity of Alaska. The committee, whose purpose is to provide input to the state on how to effectively and fairly communicate school quality and performance to the public, meets several times throughout the year.

Patricia McRae read the memorandum. Tim Steele presented the certificate to Ms. Regan.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Corey Rennell commented on the topics of discussion at the Student Advisory Board meeting that was held last Thursday. Mr. Rennell thanked Todd Arndt for attending the meeting. There was discussion on the 400's policy with debate about the requirement of parent permission for joining school clubs. The Student Advisory Board reviewed the 17 AASB resolutions, choosing which ones they feel are appropriate for the Anchorage School District and those resolutions will be forwarded to the Board. The Governor-elect Murkowski transition team public meetings were held at East High School Saturday. Students there discussed proposing State funding for the Anchorage Youth Court. They were also discussing issues about the pipeline, more instruction time, and increased funding for safety in schools. Mr. Rennell appreciated the students who attended the meeting, as well as Mr. Steiner, Mr. Metcalfe, and Superintendent Comeau, who were also in attendance. The Assembly, during a work session, included appropriations for a downtown youth center located in the 5th Avenue Mall. The Downtown Partnership is seeking Board members interested in helping to develop it. Mr. Rennell thanked the Dimond High School Student Government students who cooked meals and did various chores for the family of a Dimond High School teacher who recently passed away. Mr. Rennell congratulated Denise Wilkinson, principal at Polaris who was named Anchorage School District High School Principal of the Year. Polaris students were discussing creating guidelines for noise levels at schools regarding the music and level of noise. Chugiak is having a blood drive; Service High School just completed a clothing drive and they collected over 6,000 articles of clothing. Service students also debated an issue that it is no longer acceptable to have class color day due to discipline problems. They are trying to reorganize the class color day to make it a more positive thing. Bartlett just finished Red Ribbon Week and a blood drive. The

Bartlett students also created a Potty Press, which is where their events are advertised on the inside of the bathroom stalls. Their turnout for events has risen since they began this project. West also started a potty press newspaper. West High School also recently completed a blood drive. East High School is about to host a Senior Prom at the Pioneer Home for senior citizens. The next Student Advisory Board meeting will be held at the King Career Center at 9:30 a.m. on December 10, 2002. The issues that are going to be discussed are resolutions to have a Student advisory vote, a student capital improvement projects list, and also having a standing policy committee that would work to review the ASD policy in coordination with the School Board working on the policy.

2. Military Delegate

No report

3. MECC

Mary Marks encouraged the public to participate in the MECC meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

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

Jacqueline Leibach stated to the Board that she observed the Profile of Performance Work Session and felt that there is room for more discussion of this report. Ms. Leibach requested the Board to consider another work session of this report to discuss the specific population of students who did not pass the Exit Exam, even after the pass scores were lowered and to also discuss how the approximately 20.6 percent, or approximately 10,000 students of the student membership identified as special need population did on the Standardized Test and the Exit Exam. The speaker also asked if it is correct that a student can meet the Federal standard for proficiency on the TerraNova CAT test but fail proficiency on the Exit Exam and not receive a high school diploma. Carol Comeau answered that it is correct. After February 1, 2004, in order to receive a diploma, the students must pass the District's graduation requirements and all three sections of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam, by State law. We have to meet State standards. The benchmarks are aligned with the State standards in grades 3, 6, 8 and 10. The Standardized Norm Referenced Test, or TerraNova, in grades 4, 5, 7 and 9 are measured against a norm in the nation, but not necessarily aligned to our State standards. We are having conversations between the State and Federal government on how that can

be aligned. The speaker also asked if the District keeps statistics on dropouts. The Superintendent replied that the definition of a dropout in Alaska is very challenging because at the end of the year, or anytime when a student leaves, unless they notify us where they re-enrolled we have to call them a dropout. We track the ones we can find. We have a number of programs that are geared to getting the students back into school, but trying to track them down is a big challenge, especially if they leave the State.

John Steiner commented that the ultimate place where the scores have to be is set by the State. It is not ultimately within the power of this Board to make those kinds of determinations. Debbie Ossiander assured the speaker that we will keep paying attention to the special need students as well as the students who do not pass the HSGQE. The Board will be discussing it in budget, programmatic review and curriculum discussions ongoing, and have already been discussing it before the Profile of Performance discussion occurred. Additionally, the Board added the goal of monitoring dropouts because other states have seen an increase in dropout rates when high stakes testing is done.

Robert Hays spoke to the Board regarding the incidents on the school buses that occurred recently. Mr. Hays trusted the District would do the proper procedures to discipline the employee. Mr. Hays suggested a cell phone on the bus for students to be able to call for help. Carol Comeau informed Mr. Hays that the driver terminated and the District has taken appropriate discipline action against the students. The drivers have radios to contact 911 when necessary.

Theresa Obermeyer spoke to the Board regarding the fact that Senator Murkowski will be sworn in as Governor one week from today and will resign from the Senate. Ms. Obermeyer stated her concern about the media over-sensationalizing the students who had the discipline problems on the bus.

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      October 28, 2002      4:30 p.m.
  - b. Regular Meeting      October 28, 2002      6:30 p.m.
  
2. ASD Memorandum #128 - Recommendation For Housing Wendler Middle School Students During Renovation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve an extension of twelve months for the demolition of the old Dimond High School building and the transfer of students from Wendler Middle School to Dimond High School during the 2003-2004 school year.

3. ASD Memorandum #114 - Approval Of Schematic Design And Supplemental Educational Specifications For Chugach Optional Elementary School Addition And Renovation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Schematic Design and Supplemental Educational Specifications for Chugach Optional Elementary School Addition and Renovation and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with design pending Municipal Assembly approval of the Schematic Design.

4. ASD Memorandum #124 - Award Of Contract: Frozen Potato Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to the responsive bidder for Purchase Frozen Potato Products in the estimated amount of \$110,964.

5. ASD Memorandum #126 - 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 the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$19,506. The School Renovation Grant provides funds for technology and technology infrastructure.

6. ASD Memorandum #127 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Village Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds for Village Charter School from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$11,822. Funds will be used for training new and returning staff and for participation in state and national Charter School conferences.

7. ASD Memorandum #129 - Approval Of Behavioral Strategist Position

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to approve the addition of a Behavioral Strategist position to the special education department. The position will be supported from unexpended funds due to delayed hiring.

8. ASD Memorandum #115 - Personnel Report

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

The following Memorandums were unanimously removed from the Agenda: ASD memoranda #114, #128, #126, and #129.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Mary Marks

to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of October 28, 2002, 4:30 p.m.; the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 28, 2002, 6:30 p.m.; Memorandum #124; Memorandum #127; and Memorandum #115 with addenda.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele,  
Steiner, Drummond

Absent: Metcalfe, Holthouse

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #128 - Recommendation For Housing Wendler Middle School Students During Renovation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve an extension of twelve months for the demolition of the old Dimond High School building and the transfer of students from Wendler Middle School to Dimond High School during the 2003-2004 school year.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Tim Steele

to approve Memorandum #128

Carol Comeau spoke to the Board and the public regarding the Administration's recommendation. Ms. Comeau stated that this has been one of the most difficult decisions she has had to make since she has been Superintendent. Ms. Comeau stated that she knows there are some people that feel in making this recommendation that she ignored the public testimony at the community and staff meetings. Ms. Comeau assured the Board and public that she has read all of the information, talked with the staff that attended those meetings, met with the principals of the two schools involved, and have spoken with a number of people in the community who were not at the meetings as well as read and responded to a number of e-mails that have also been forwarded to the Board members. Ms. Comeau understands that those who feel strongly about this have made their point very clear that they do not want their children bussed out of the neighborhood. Ms. Comeau truly understands and agonized over it having raised three teenagers and knows how hard it is to deal with this type of issue. The two major criteria for making this recommendation to the Board are first, Ms. Comeau believes the District's responsibility is first and foremost to preserve the best quality educational and instructional program possible for the students of Wendler Middle School next year. Ms. Comeau could not assure that, when we were going to be working around construction in a very small facility compared to some of our large high schools and knowing, during the year, the classrooms would need to be moved several times that this would be conducive to quality education. When we had an opportunity to take the school to another site where all of the students would be inside the facility, the staff clearly supported moving to the other facility so that they would not have to move and change their rooms and try to focus on the instructional program rather than all the construction activity, noise and potentially the air quality issues. The instructional program was Ms. Comeau's first priority and believes it would be better in one year and be done with the project, at the end of the second summer, move back into Wendler in a fully renovated school, and go on rather than potentially involving a second group of students. The District has a lot of experience of working around students in construction and not working around students in construction by being able to exit the building and giving over to the contractors the full facility. The success rate is far better in those projects where we have relocated the students during construction.

Ms. Comeau's second issue was the concern for the safety of the students and staff while the construction was going on. Ms. Comeau realized that if you can exit the premises and not have students and staff working around construction it makes for a safer facility, for both the workers as well as the staff and the students. Ms. Comeau also had concern with the fact that in order to do the phasing, we would have had to locate 14

relocatables and put them on the site on top of the new fields that the taxpayers have just paid for in bonds and have not even been used yet. The new fields would not have been able to be used. It came down to safety of the students and staff and the quality of the instructional program. One year and two summers verses 30 months, three summers and two years minimum. Ms. Comeau truly understands the concerns of the parents whose children will be bussed for one year. Ms. Comeau also knows that we have had a high success rate with bussing students from Denali to Fort Richardson this year; there have been a number of elementary students bussed from different locations to other schools; and for three years, the kindergartners at Sand Lake were attending school at Dimond High School. The program was so successful, they asked not to move the students when the new Kincaid Elementary School was built. Ms. Comeau feels the public can be assured that we can work through these issues one by one. If the Board supports this recommendation the Administration intends to fully address all of the known issues as well as answer the community's questions. The Administration will be more than happy to set up community meetings in January to make sure that every issue and all of the parent's questions are answered. Communication will be sent out U.S. Mail and we will respond as has been done with the other schools in the past. Ms. Comeau feels we can guarantee safety for our students, a quality education for the program and get the project done with the students back in Wendler Middle School in 2004 rather than 2005.

Rita Holthouse and Jake Metcalfe joined the meeting via teleconference at 7:15 p.m.

Speaker Doug Ault spoke to the Board regarding the difficulty with moving the Wendler students to Dimond High School and the remodeling issues due to the construction. Mr. Ault is concerned about the students spending two hours on the bus in an unfamiliar neighborhood and wondered what would happen if a student missed his/her bus. Mr. Ault urged the Board to bid the project both ways in order to buy the time needed to get the parents on board with the School Board's decision.

Connie Quinley stated to the Board her concern about family time and the fact that they would be losing an additional 45 minutes to an hour a day. Ms. Quinley urged the Board to consider leaving the students at Wendler.

Carol Comeau stated to the speakers that the decision has not been made lightly. The Administration will get more information out to the communities and will listen to the parent's concerns.

Jeanne Fitzgerald, Vice President of the PTA at Wendler, stated her concern that the construction may not be completed in one year.

Ms. Comeau stated that if the Board approves the recommendation, the construction could be done in one full school year. We would work through the Dimond High School demolition project if there was some unforeseen delay. We can get the students back in the school in one year. The speaker also stated her concern with the middle school students that have activities after school. The speaker feels there are still many unanswered questions.

Rick Herron spoke about one of the items in the memorandum that indicated the majority of Wendler parents wanted their students to stay at Wendler. Mr. Herron feels this is very important. Mr. Herron also expressed his concern about spending money to make the old Dimond High School up to standards for occupancy by the students. Mr. Herron is also concerned about school activities and family time. Mr. Herron feels that safety issue is not an issue- it is the job of the contractors to make the site safe for everyone.

Debbie Ossiander asked the speakers if they attended the parent meetings at Wendler. Jean Fitzgerald stated that she had attended the meetings. Ms. Ossiander asked about turnout at the meetings. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that it was not good at one of the elementary schools. At the meeting at Wendler there were 47 people. Ms. Ossiander asked if the decision to stay at Wendler was unanimous. The speaker and Mr. Brad Gamblin, PTSA president, from the audience, answered that the majority wanted to stay at Wendler. Ms. Ossiander also asked the speakers what time they pick up their students after the after school activities. Mr. Herron answered that it was about 4:30 p.m. Ms. Fitzgerald answered that she picks her student up around 4:45 p.m.

John Steiner asked the speakers how they perceived the information presented to them. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that she felt the Administration did not know, including whether or not the bussing would be reimbursed. Carol Comeau mentioned that she spoke to Eddy Jeans at the Department of Education and Early Development stated that he assumed that the bussing would be debt reimbursable based on the fact that they have reimbursed the District for prior bussing when we have done this in the past.

Ms. Fitzgerald spoke about her concern of the time spent on the bus. John Steiner stated that it is obvious that the speaker has a good feel for the amount of time her student would spend on the bus, but did she have a good feel for what kind of disruption her child would have while the construction was going on. The speaker stated that she did not.

Mary Marks asked Ms. Fitzgerald what the response of the students is on this issue. The speaker did not have that information. Ms. Comeau stated that the student survey results supported the students moving to Dimond.

Gail Opalinski stated that of the 7th graders surveyed, 107 wanted to stay and 157 wanted to go to Dimond.

Speaker, Zolita Abrams suggested that the construction be at night and the facilities at UAA and APU be used to house the students.

Marilyn Pillifant stated that she attended several meetings and is opposed to relocating the students. Ms. Pillifant is concerned about the impact on the Wendler community, the need for added security with the high school having an open campus and middle school having a closed campus, as well as intramural and after school activities.

Dr. Ted Ashenbach stated to the Board his concern regarding the extra 170,000 estimated hours the students would be on the bus. (Dr. Ashenbach multiplied 950 students at 172 school days). Ms. Ossiander asked the speaker how he came up with this amount of time. Dr. Ashenbach stated that he thought the students west of Wendler is dealing with the extra transportation time from Wendler to Dimond. The students east of Wendler do not spend as much extra time on the bus because they are already part way towards Dimond. The students that are impacted the most are the ones that can walk to Wendler. Dr. Ashenbach stated that he multiplied how many students by how many school days.

Harriet Drummond asked the speaker if he calculated how much time the students are currently spending on the buses as opposed to how much time they might be spending if all of them are being bussed. The speaker stated that he did not have those numbers. Ms. Drummond suggested that the Administration would have this information.

George Vakalis addressed the operational aspect of the project, including the safety and risk aspect. Construction is going on at many schools and it is problematic. It is not as problematic in the larger schools as it is in the smaller schools, since the aspects of the construction is farther removed. In a smaller school like Wendler, we will have the construction going on and it limits the space between the construction areas and the students. Air quality is an issue. The heavy construction and materials, because of the small site, will be in the way of the students. There is very little that can be done to mitigate the noise. There is also the issue of exhaust fumes of vehicles working on the site.

Mr. Vakalis also stated construction companies can pick or choose the projects to work on. There are millions of dollars worth of projects to choose from. The companies will take the project that has the least amount of risk and time, and are not as complicated to deal with. It is less risk as far as the schedule also. If there is a delay because of not getting supplies, etc. they could divert the work force to another part of the building instead of being able to build in just one area.

Transportation is a big issue. Ideally, we would not want the students to be on the bus an average of 45 minutes of time. However, the sports fields can still be used if the students go to Dimond. They will not be able to be used if they stay at Wendler due to relocatables as well as equipment being placed on them. It is not a great environment for students to be on a construction site during their education time. Relocation cost for relocatables is also an issue. The cost of moving, permitting costs, and site plan costs totals an estimated \$25,000 per relocatable. There is also the cost to get ready for movement, moving the relocatable on the new site, and the design consultant. The Administration tried to look at an operational standpoint and concluded it is best for the students to go to Dimond for the one year. Alcan Construction estimated that they can save \$2 million if the students go to Dimond. The consultants stated the same thing.

Harriet Drummond asked about one of the speaker's suggestions of night construction. Ray Amsden answered that they looked at the option of working over the summer and the project would be completed in approximately six years. That would also bring a lack of continuity plus inflation costs of over a million dollars. We need to have projects that are attractive to the construction companies. Regarding the night issue - we always look at it but it is very expensive and difficult to monitor. Most departments work during the day. There would be an additional cost of 25 percent. Regarding the suggestion of using UAA or renting space, such as a mall, that kind of space is not available. Renovating a space would be over \$3 million for 110,000 ft of rentable space. That much room does not exist without the major renovation.

Debbie Ossiander asked Mr. Amsden if they looked at the options for relocatables in other areas besides the newly seeded field. Mr. Amsden explained the different areas that were looked at for the relocatables and stated that it is a small site, plus room for parking is needed.

Mr. Metcalfe asked if the construction would go faster if the students are not there because the contractor will not need to work around the relocatables. George Vakalis replied yes, because the whole site will be turned over to the contractor and also the newly established fields would

still be available for use. Tim Steele added that there would be an additional relocatable cost to disassemble them.

Mr. Steele stated that he took the drive to Dimond High School and it was 7.1 miles and took 15 minutes. Mr. Steele stated that he was concerned about the parking and traffic. Ms. Comeau stated that the relocatables at Dimond would be removed. Mr. Vakalis added that not all busses would be there at the same time because the middle school students start later than the high school students.

Ray Amsden commented that the Dimond High School solution accommodates more parking than what we have available or what exists today. Tim Steele asked if that total includes the parking area for the new Dimond High School that is currently closed off. Mr. Amsden stated that that is correct. That is the location for the student drop-off for the high school students, which is where it is at in the final design. We will be utilizing the existing bus drop-off, which would then become the middle school drop-off.

Tim Steele asked what kind of renovation work would need to be done to the old Dimond High School in order to make it available for the Wendler students. George Vakalis replied that it would cost \$300,000 split between what would be required to accommodate Wendler and what would be required to allow the students to use the old Dimond High School for a while. Ray Amsden added that they are proposing a temporary closure in order to separate the students. The 19 relocatables will be removed and that area will be developed into a parking lot and the intensive needs drop-off, which is a component of the design of the new school. There will be additional lighting in pathways, modification of the site signage, re-certification of the fire alarm system for another year, and some anticipated connexes to provide extra storage. The design services associated with it are also included in that cost.

Mary Marks asked if change orders would be handled more efficiently if the students went to Dimond. George Vakalis answered that if the students stayed, the contractor would be limited to what he can do on the site. If there is a change order or problem that has to be corrected, they could go to another part of the school and work if the students were not occupying the facility.

John Steiner stated that with a shorter timeframe you would have to have a larger contractor that could push to get it done on a tight schedule. If you had more time, it would open up for some smaller contractors to bid. George Vakalis answered that we want the best qualified contractor to get the job. Experience has been that the larger ones that we have history with

have done a good job for us and know how to handle our projects. Even though there are smaller ones the larger construction companies go for the projects. Ray Amsden added that even if you break it down in pieces as in the phase approach, the contractor still has to bond the entire project, so you still need a contractor that is capable of bonding the entire project.

John Steiner suggested doing a differential bid and find out what the cost savings is. Ray Amsden stated that it has been done before. The project needs to be attractive to contractors. The contractors have made it clear if it is a stand-alone project they will bid it. If it is a phased project, they will not bid it.

John Steiner asked if the cost estimates included moving the contents of Wendler to Dimond and back. Mike Price answered that there is a separate line item that addresses transportation and set-up. It is a separate line item to handle the moving and packing of Wendler to Dimond and it will be much the same cost to move it around at Wendler if the students stayed there.

Debbie Ossiander asked how many Dimond students would be using old Dimond. Carol Comeau stated that it would be around 300 - 500 students. The reason is the science area. This is one of the major reasons the Dimond staff and community prefer this option. Until the new South Anchorage Area High School is completed they were going to have a major struggle, with almost 2400 students on that site in delivering their science program, because of the reduced number of science classrooms at the new Dimond High School.

Ms. Ossiander asked where the Wendler after school activities would be occurring. Joel Roylance, Principal at Wendler, explained that the cross country and track could be conducted at the Wendler site. Lake Otis would provide logistical support, warm areas, etc. As far as the activities to be held in a gym, the gym at Lake Otis is not large enough, plus it is used by the community as well. We will conduct those activities at Dimond and bus the students back to Wendler for pick-up by parents.

Mary Marks asked if the students stay on site would the insurance go up. George Vakalis stated that it pretty much says the same. Ms. Marks also asked if vandalism came up as a topic. Ms. Comeau stated that it has not come up but is always a concern.

Rita Holthouse asked if Mr. Roylance agreed with the decision. Mr. Roylance stated that he has recommended that the students remain at Wendler. Both options have significant challenges that can be worked through. Mr. Roylance's main concern is keeping the Wendler community

together. Regardless of the option Mr. Roylance will try to maintain the Wendler community.

Corey Rennell asked if the students stayed at Wendler would the after school activities still occur and where. Mr. Roylance stated that some of the activities could not occur there on site and that problem would have to be worked out.

John Steiner asked that with the Service High School remodeling, the parents said they would prefer to stretch out the construction and keep everyone on campus. Mr. Steiner asked for the Administration's view. Superintendent Comeau asked Mike Henry to respond. Mike Henry stated that we have the new South Anchorage Area High School that will be completed and will come to the rescue. They were in favor of delaying construction a year because 700 students will be attending the new SAAHS. Ms. Comeau added that the new Muldoon Middle School will be open 2007 at best. We don't have an immediate solution at Wendler.

The Board recessed at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

John Steiner moved to lay the pending question on the table for the next meeting. Mr. Steiner felt there are more questions he has that are yet to be addressed and he feels that there may be further work to do with the community. Debbie Ossiander seconded the motion.

MOTION TO TABLE:

Moved by John Steiner	to lay the pending question on
seconded by Debbie Ossiander	the table.

Tim Steele asked if there is an Administrative concern about the cost implications of the delay. Ray Amsden answered that it has been brought forward with the anticipation there is some urgency to get the question answered and move forward. We are in process of reviewing the 95 percent submittals and need to give direction to the architects to proceed with the finalization of those documents to go out to bid in January. We want to make the right decision, however. Mr. Amsden added if there is something the Board feels we can address further in questions we can provide them the answers in the next couple weeks.

VOTE:

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

MOTION TO TABLE FAILED

John Steiner stated that a parent of a Denali Elementary student who is bussed to JFK told him that the students cannot do homework on the bus. Mr. Steiner asked if that would apply to the Wendler students. Steve Kalmes stated that because of a concern of sharp objects, they are not allowed to have pencils on the bus, but they can read. Jake Metcalfe asked if the students are able to use highlighters. Mr. Kalmes replied that they may, as long as the highlighter is not sharp.

Debbie Ossiander stated that the main confusion is with the budget. Ms. Ossiander assumed that there would be a significant cost savings but the memorandum does not state that there would be a significant cost savings. Ms. Ossiander asked for clarification on the cost. Ms. Comeau stated that when we have had major construction additional staff has been added to deal with safety issues. Most of the time the funds have been taken out of the construction budget, sometimes it has been taken out of the operating budget, but we have believed that it has been an expenditure that has been needed. If the students are moved to Dimond all the Wendler security staff would be there plus the two APD officers will be stationed at Dimond because of the new grant. That will help with traffic concerns, etc. The Administration will need to spend time talking to the community and staff and make sure we know every question as well as all of the issues and cost them out. The items are taken out of the construction budget when allowed.

Ms. Ossiander asked for clarification on the cost of Transportation. Ms. Comeau stated that the indications are that the bussing will be reimbursed. Steve Kalmes added that the additional transportation cost would be about \$1.1 million. The activities bussing will not be reimbursable.

Ray Amsden stated that the numbers we put before the Board are the most conservative. The letter from the contractor stated that the savings would be more like \$2 million in potential savings. Our numbers are conservative.

John Steiner asked for Jan Christensen's comments as being the former principal at Chugiak High School. Ms. Christensen informed the Board of the problems with the construction going on at the school during the school days. There was lost instructional time, bathroom shutdowns, using a different part of the building for the cafeteria, etc. Ms. Christensen stated that it had a significant impact on the school.

Rita Holthouse reminded the Board that we are fortunate to have this choice. If not for the old Dimond High School building we would have to

do the construction around the students and the staff. We have learned it doesn't mix well with construction with the students there due to the dust, difficulty with asthma, noise and fumes. Ms. Holthouse stated that she is in favor of moving to Dimond. Last year the Board heard from the Denali parents regarding moving the students to JFK. When Ms. Holthouse asked the parents how it was going, they said it was going fine. Ms. Holthouse commented that she knows the Administration made every attempt to address the concerns at Denali and it will also address the concerns this time for the Wendler parents. Ms. Holthouse thinks the parents' concerns are valid and reasonable and knows they will be addressed.

Debbie Ossiander stated that this was not an easy decision. Ms. Ossiander stated that when she came into the meeting she was not planning on supporting this recommendation. Ms. Ossiander believes the situation at Wendler would be worse than Chugiak High School because the building is smaller. Ms. Ossiander also believes in the importance of assets for children and meaningful adult involvement. There is not a good solution. Three things are involved in making the decision. Ms. Ossiander stated that she thought parents would have to drive to pick up their students for after school activities and was pleased to know that the students would be bussed for the activities. We will have about 24 classrooms outside and even the classrooms inside would have to rotate during the year if the students remained at Wendler. The Chugiak High School complaints were immense because of loss of instructional time. If the majority of classrooms are outside it will impact the instructional program. Ms. Ossiander believes there will be a significant cost savings going this route. Ms. Ossiander stated that Board members will do all they can do to make this as easy as possible. It is not an easy decision.

Harriet Drummond commented that using the District's physical assets by using the old Dimond High School building is very smart. Committing 950 students to two years of turmoil is not something Ms. Drummond can support. Ms. Drummond believes the right decision is to move the students to Dimond.

John Steiner stated that he thinks that the Administration has not done a good job of convincing the parents of their recommendation. The savings are shared by the entire municipality but the human costs will be shared by the individual families. Mr. Steiner further stated that he might support the recommendation next week after getting more information out, but Mr. Steiner is not comfortable supporting the recommendation tonight.

Mary Marks commented that she feels the Administration did an adequate job presenting the information to the community. There were ten meetings. Ms. Marks mentioned that there were a greater number of students who support the move. Ms. Marks agreed that time is precious with their students and has discussed this issue with the parents who have students at Denali this year. Those parents stated that the only inconvenience is if there is a doctor or dental appointment. They were willing to sacrifice the one year so they would have a good quality school to go back to and they budget their time in the evenings with their students. Ms. Marks also stated that she appreciated the families' emails and parents that came to tonight's meeting. Ms. Marks added that she will support the recommendation.

Jake Metcalfe commented on being a parent of two of the children being bussed to JFK while the new Denali Elementary is under construction. Mr. Metcalfe also went through what the Wendler parents are feeling and have since been more than satisfied with the arrangement. Mr. Metcalfe's students adapted well to the bus and it is not a big deal. The children adapt better than the parents. Mr. Metcalfe also thinks the Administration did a sufficient job in meeting with the Wendler community and thinks it will continue to communicate as questions come up as the project goes on. Mr. Metcalfe mentioned that he is also currently working in a building with construction going on and it is difficult. Mr. Metcalfe stated that he would support the Administration's recommendation.

Tim Steele commented that his daughter is a student at Denali and is bussed to JFK and he remembered looking at the options at that time also. The community staying together is also a concern of the Denali parents. The students do adapt and they are having a great year. Completing the construction in one year rather than two is a huge issue. The students are only in middle school for two years. Mr. Steele stated that he will be supporting the recommendation.

John Steiner commented that Denali is an optional school that parents choose. They had the option to go back to their home school. The Administration owed it to the Wendler community to make a better explanation. Tim Steele disagreed with Mr. Steiner's statement and stated that he thinks the District made a tremendous effort to get the word out. There are still options out there and the District will deal with those options.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Steiner  
MAIN MOTION PASSED

Carol Comeau thanked the public and assured the parents that the Administration will be addressing their issues.

ASD Memorandum #114 - Approval Of Schematic Design And Supplemental Educational Specifications For Chugach Optional Elementary School Addition And Renovation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Schematic Design and Supplemental Educational Specifications for Chugach Optional Elementary School Addition and Renovation and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with design pending Municipal Assembly approval of the Schematic Design.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #114  
seconded by Mary Marks

Carol Comeau stated that there were a number of community issues that had not been addressed to the satisfaction of many in the community and we reconstituted the committee. At this point and time everyone feels their issues have been addressed. Ms. Comeau believes that the Administration and the parent group brought forth a good plan.

Mary Marks asked about the specifics of the change and the reaction of the community. Ray Amsden stated that in the memorandum the estimated cost was \$5.6 million. That is based on the concept design. We now have the schematic design and the cost has come in at \$6,067,000. Several things effected the cost such as the refinement in the design as well as the potential market changes. Mr. Amsden commits to the Board that the Administration takes costs seriously and will be working with the design team to strive to keep costs as low as possible and produce the same quality and design at less cost. The architect for the project stated they increased the drop off area and reorganized the playground area. Debbie Ossiander asked about the cost of the adjustment of the curbs and steps. The architect of the project explained that there is some additional cost at about \$20,000.

Tim Steele commended the Administration for the design and addressing the issues.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele,



recommendation that Jerry Sjolander and his staff came forward with was this behavioral strategist position.

Jerry Sjolander stated that one of the concerns that his department heard from staff, administrators, and parents has been related to students exhibiting behavioral issues in school. One way to address these issues is by hiring behavior strategists. The issues of behaviors related to fetal alcohol syndrome, fetal alcohol effect and bi-polar disorder as well as some of the other diagnosis' that children are coming to school with, could be addressed by expanding what we are currently doing with our behavior strategists. They will need to look at how to broaden the number of schools they work in. Mr. Sjolander added that the position is funded from teaching positions not being filled. Carol Comeau stated that it's the natural place to find the funds for this position. Tim Steele stated that he heard from a principal at the elementary level that the intervention program for the 1, 2, and 3 grades is great and wished we had something for grades 4, 5, and 6. Mr. Steele stated he is glad we are looking at that and recognize the need. Mr. Steele added his concern that the fetal alcohol question that has come before the Board is not really addressed. Carol Comeau stated that this will not only be for fetal alcohol syndrome, but the Administration believes this is a better approach because many of those same behaviors are being demonstrated by other students.

Mary Marks commented that she wishes this was available at a head start level. It is a high intense need when dealing with a student on one to one. Ms. Marks understands where Mr. O'Malley is coming from. It is so needed not only for FAS and FAE students but for hyperactive disorder and other high intensive needs. Ms. Marks appreciates the fact that the Administration had taken that into consideration and applied it in the memorandum. Ms. Marks added that she hopes Mr. O'Malley is aware of this decision and has been a part of it. John Steiner stated that reducing a class size by a person is desirable but one disruptive child whose needs are not addressed is far worse than just an extra child. Mr. Steiner remains supportive.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele,  
Steiner, Drummond

Absent: Holthouse, Metcalfe

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #116 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of October 31, 2002, through November 15, 2002.

ASD Memorandum #89 - Facility Project Report and Change Order Report for the Month Of October 2002

The monthly Facility Project Report and Change Order Report for the month of October 2002 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month. There are no completed projects to report this month.

Debbie Ossiander questioned the change order regarding the New South Anchorage Area High School. Mr. Amsden stated that the change order is actually not worded correctly and should read "provide ceilings in stairwells."

Debbie Ossiander asked why we are providing reimbursement for permit costs. Ray Amsden explained that the contract documents indicated a variance. There was an expectation that we would pay for it. They paid for it so we reimbursed them.

John Steiner stated his concern about the size of the change orders and asked at what point are the designs negligent and should we be requesting reimbursement for the cost. Mr. Amsden answered that it is not uncommon to see mistakes in the design - part of it is being human. We do track all changes. Type B changes are changes that you have to make to make to complete the project. They are also inclusive of design omissions. We have collected money from designers for omissions. John Steiner commented that engineering is supposed to catch those omissions such as the one at SAAHS. Mr. Steiner feels this particular design warrants some investigation.

Tim Steele asked about the status of the Elmore Road. George Vakalis stated that he talked to the city's engineer. There is no problem with making it work. The controversy was with a dispute as to whether or not the city owns the right of way. They do own the right of way. As of last week the widening of the road is on schedule.

ASD Memorandum #118 - End-Of-Month Membership Summary For The Month Of October 31, 2002

The end-of-month membership report for October 31, 2002 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of October was 49,705. This enrollment represents an increase of 162 students when

compared to the October 31, 2001 total of 49,543. Table 1 compares the membership totals.

Carol Comeau stated that we have been looking at where the students are going because of the drop in enrollment. We will watch our enrollment. Ms. Comeau has asked Mike Henry, Gail Opalinski and Jan Christensen to look at this issue.

ASD Memorandum #122 - Operating Budget Transfers - July/August/September/October Monthly Report FY 2002-2003

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of July, August, September, and October 2002 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.

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the months of July, August, September, and October 2002 and 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.

Tim Steele stated that he saw a lot of changes being made to support the professional development. Mr. Steele commented that it would be nice to know how our expenditures in that area look compared to those of the past. Mr. Steele hopes we are spending more on professional development. Carol Comeau stated that we can look it up in our general fund but the vast increase is in the grant funding. We are also looking at increasing contact time.

ASD Memorandum #121 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: October 31, 2002

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, 2002.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:25 p.m.

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Tim Steele, Vice President

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Mary Marks, Clerk

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Robin Siegfried, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Minutes Approved