

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #189 (2002-2003)

April 14, 2003

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH SCHOOL BOUNDARIES
(SECOND READING)

RECOMMENDATION

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading the following attendance boundaries beginning with the 2004-2005 school year for Dimond High School, Service High School and the new South Anchorage High School. (Superintendent's Scenario - Attachment A)

At First Reading on March 3, 2003, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's scenario.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCENARIO

To Dimond High School

North - International Airport Road and its extension from Cook Inlet to Minnesota Bypass; Minnesota Bypass between International Airport Road to the extension of W. 76th Avenue; W. 76th Avenue between Minnesota Bypass and C Street.

East - C Street between the extension of E. 76th Avenue and Dimond Boulevard; Dimond Boulevard between C Street and Minnesota Bypass; Minnesota Bypass between Dimond Boulevard and O'Malley Road.

South - From the intersection of Minnesota Drive and O'Malley Road to Southport Parkway (including Lafayette Circle, Concord Hill Court, and Discovery Heights Circle) and continuing on from Southport Parkway to the Turnagain Arm.

West - Turnagain Arm.

To Service High School

North - Dimond Boulevard between Ange and C Street; C Street between Dimond Boulevard and the E. 76th Avenue extension; the E. 76th Avenue extension to Seward Highway; Seward Highway between E. 76th Avenue and E. 68th Avenue; E. 68th Avenue between the Seward Highway and Lake Otis Parkway; Lake Otis Parkway between E. 68th Avenue and E. 64th Avenue; E. 64th Avenue between Lake Otis Parkway and Abbott Loop Road.

East - Chugach State Park.

South - The extension of Huffman Road between Timberlane Drive and Lake Otis Parkway; Lake Otis Parkway from Huffman Road to Klatt Road; Klatt Road between Lake Otis Parkway and Cange Street; Cange Street between Klatt and O'Malley Road; O'Malley Road between Cange Street and Bragaw (Elmore) Street; Bragaw (Elmore) Street between O'Malley and Klatt Road; extension of Klatt Road, from Bragaw (Elmore) Street to Birch Road; Birch Road, from Klatt Road to Downey Finch Road; Downey Finch, from Birch Road to the intersection of Rockridge Drive and Alatna Avenue (excluding all residents with addresses on Downey Finch and including all residents with addresses on Rockridge Road). From the intersection of Rockridge Road and Alatna Avenue to Hillside Drive; Hillside Drive north to the westward extension of Soldotna Drive; the extensions of Soldotna Drive, from Hillside Drive to Chugach State Park (including Snowline Circle and Trails End Road and excluding Soldotna Drive).

West - C Street between the extension of E. 76th Avenue and Dimond Boulevard; Dimond Boulevard between Minnesota Drive and Ange Street. Ange Street from Dimond Boulevard to W. 88th Avenue, including both sides of Ange and W. 88th. West 88th Avenue from Ange Street to Arctic Boulevard. Arctic Boulevard between W. 88th Avenue and W. 92nd Avenue, including both sides of Arctic Boulevard. West 92nd Avenue between Arctic Boulevard and Dallas Street, including both sides of W. 92nd Avenue. Dallas Street between W. 92nd Avenue and Timberlane Drive, excluding all residents addressing on Timberlane (NOTE: Also excludes residents on Giroux Circle, Cedar Park Circle and Maywood Circle).

To New South Anchorage High School

North - Dimond Boulevard between Minnesota Drive and Ange Street; Ange Street from Dimond Boulevard to W. 88th Avenue, excluding both sides of Ange and W. 88th; West 88th Avenue from Ange Street to Arctic Boulevard; Arctic Boulevard between W. 88th Avenue and W. 92nd Avenue, excluding both sides of

Arctic Boulevard; West 92nd Avenue between Arctic Boulevard and Dallas Street, excluding both sides of W. 92nd Avenue; Dallas Street, and its southward extension, between W. 92nd Avenue and Timberlane Drive (includes all addresses on Timberlane Drive, Giroux Circle, Cedar Park Circle, and Maywood Circle); the extension of Huffman Road between Timberlane Drive and Lake Otis Parkway; Lake Otis Parkway from Huffman Road to Klatt Road; Klatt Road between Lake Otis Parkway and Cange Street; Cange Street between Klatt Road and O'Malley Road; O'Malley Road between Cange Street and Bragaw (Elmore) Street; Bragaw (Elmore) Street between O'Malley Road and Klatt Road; extension of Klatt Road, from Bragaw (Elmore) Street to Birch Road; Birch Road, from Klatt Road to Downey Finch Road; Downey Finch, from Birch Road to the intersection of Rockridge Drive and Alatna Avenue (including all residents with addresses on Downey Finch and excluding all residents with addresses on Rockridge Road); from the intersection of Rockridge Road and Alatna Avenue to Hillside Drive; Hillside Drive north to the westward extension of Soldotna Drive; the extensions of Soldotna Drive, from Hillside Drive to Chugach State Park (excluding Snowline Circle and Trails End Road and including Soldotna Drive).

East - Chugach State Park.

South - Turnagain Arm and New Seward Highway to Bird Creek.

To New South Anchorage High School (continued)

West - Minnesota Drive, from Dimond Boulevard to W. O'Malley Road; from the intersection of Minnesota Drive and W. O'Malley Road to Southport Parkway (excluding Lafayette Circle, Concord Hill Court, and Discovery Heights Circle); and Southport Parkway and its extension to Turnagain Arm.

PERTINENT FACTS

The Boundary Task Force was comprised of school principals, parents and students from West High School, East High School, Service High School and Dimond High School. Also serving on the task force was a representative from the Minority Education Concerns Committee and a representative from ASD Special Education. Attending all of the task force meetings were the ASD Demographer and a representative from the ASD Transportation Department. (Attachment B)

The task force began meeting on November 26, 2002. Six work sessions were held through February 26, 2003. Minutes of those meetings are found in Attachment C.

The task force considered school capacity, projected growth, ethnicity, distance to school and major geographical areas in developing feasible scenarios. After listening to presentations from the demographer concerning projected residential growth in south Anchorage and after learning of the 2004-2005 school capacities (DHS - 1,600, NSAHS - 1,600, SHS - 2,070), it was decided to place only the projected 4,929 south Anchorage high school students, and not add additional students from East or West high schools by changing the southern boundaries of those two high schools. This key decision allowed scenarios to be developed that would place 4,929 students in the three south Anchorage high schools, which have a combined total capacity of 5270 students. It also allowed for a combined future growth in the south Anchorage high schools of 341 students.

The task force developed and studied three scenarios. Two were selected and the other rejected based on capacity, future growth, distance from school, ethnicity and geographical areas. The two selected scenarios were taken to the three public meetings for comments and suggestions.

Three public meetings were scheduled. Public meeting notices were sent to the homes of every elementary, middle and high school student residing in the south Anchorage area. Approximately 12,500 notices were mailed. The meetings took place on February 13 at Goldenview Middle School, February 18 at Hanshew Middle School and February 20 at Mears Middle School. The meetings began with a report on the process, a description of the two scenarios, and guidelines for providing public comment. All comments were tape recorded and transcribed. (Attachment D)

A majority of the public comments recommended "more time" in making these important high school boundary decisions. Many of the public recommendations asked that feeder school boundaries be used in developing high school boundaries. In addition, many asked that their students be able to attend the school closest to their homes. Proximity was also a concern of the task force, but because of the limitations of "individual school capacities," the concern for proximity often took second priority. The task force did not believe they were authorized to exceed school capacities and to overcrowd some or one school and leave ample room in another school(s). The task force believed the ASD Superintendent and School Board would need to make those decisions, because each time the decision to overcrowd is made, a solution to that overcrowding problem would need to be explored. Overcrowding solutions often require additional funding.

Several recommendations from the public requested the move of the northern border Dimond High students to West High. This recommendation was made because the calculated capacity of WHS as compared to its actual enrollment

shows 87% occupancy. After a room utilization study, it was found that WHS is one of the most utilized high school facilities in the District. There are a larger percentage of teachers at WHS who are required to leave their classrooms during their planning/conference hours than in any other high school in Anchorage. Teachers must leave because another class and another teacher are moving in to use the classroom. It should also be noted that WHS has one of the largest percentages of Special Education, Native Education and English as a Second Language programs in the District. These programs all require smaller teacher/student ratios, therefore more classrooms.

After the final public meeting, the task force met to review all of the comments and suggestions and to develop a recommendation for the Superintendent. At that meeting, it was once again decided to maintain room for future growth in the south Anchorage high schools (thus eliminating East and West high school boundary changes). It was also reaffirmed to place primary emphasis on school capacity, not to overcrowd any of the three south Anchorage high schools. Using these principles, along with consideration for major geographical areas, ethnicity and distance from school, the task force unanimously selected scenario "A" (Attachment E) as the basis to incorporate the public requests and proposals (Attachment D).

Each of the public proposals were individually rejected by the task force because they either placed a single school over capacity, the boundaries were not contiguous, proximity was less than a previously rejected proposal that would have overcrowded the school, or it encroached upon space reserved for future growth.

The Boundary Task Force forwarded scenario "A" to the Superintendent as the their recommendation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES

The Task Force members are to be commended for their dedication and hard work. Theirs was a difficult assignment to undertake, but they accomplished it with careful thoughtfulness and a commitment to School Board policy. My decision to modify their recommendation is in no way a reflection on their individual efforts.

After a thorough review of the task force meeting minutes and all public comment, including testimony at the three public meetings and hundreds of emails and phone calls, I determined that the boundary recommendation for Dimond High, Service High and the new South Anchorage high school should take into consideration proximity to schools and elementary neighborhood

boundaries.

A common theme from many of the public comments was to keep neighborhood students together as they advance to high school, and to not split an elementary or middle school boundary between two or more high schools. While this is not possible to do in every situation, I felt it was an important consideration, especially with our increased emphasis on developing parent networks and encouraging active, long-term family participation in school activities.

This recommendation will send all students within the Bayshore Elementary School boundary to Dimond High School. All students in the Klatt Elementary School, Huffman Elementary School, and Bear Valley Elementary School boundaries will be within the new South Anchorage high school boundary. All Kasuun and Abbott Loop elementary school boundaries will be within the Service High School boundary.

With this recommendation, the three high schools in south Anchorage would have the following enrollments:

| | Projected Enrollment | Capacity | % Capacity |
|--------------|----------------------|----------|------------|
| Dimond H.S. | 1904 | 1600 | 119% |
| Service H.S. | 1733 | 2070 | 84% |
| New H.S. | 1549 | 1600 | 97% |

The new Dimond High School was constructed with a teacher workroom in each house. The teacher workrooms in the new Dimond will allow each classroom to be in use for a full six periods a day. With effective classroom scheduling and some roving teachers, it is anticipated that Dimond High School will be able to accommodate 1900 students without using relocatables or the old building.

The public has had the opportunity to provide additional comments concerning the Superintendent's scenario since the March 3, 2003 meeting. The comments received were mixed and represented a broad range of geographic locations in the south Anchorage area. The majority of the comments requested a reconsideration of a boundary line that was in close proximity to their home. After careful consideration of all comments and continued study of all of the issues and projections, I determined that the boundary recommendation for Dimond High, Service High and the new South Anchorage high school should follow the Superintendent's modified scenario as approved by the Board during the March 3, 2003, Board meeting.

CC/JC/MH

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Approved by: Carol Comeau, Superintendent
Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction