

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #240 (2002-2003)

May 19, 2003

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: THIRD QUARTER PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE REPORT
2002-2003

PERTINENT FACTS:

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet at regular intervals to discuss student progress. Increasingly, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

The elementary schools for many years 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 quarter. The middle schools and high schools provide opportunities at the end of the first and third quarters for parents to pick-up their student's report cards and to confer briefly with the student's teacher(s). If a parent needs more time, they can schedule another date/time to meet individually with the teacher(s).

In cases where there has been a decrease in participation, the appropriate Instructional Division supervisor is working with principals, staffs and PTAs or parent groups to encourage parent participation. The District also attempts to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities in hopes that parents can be released from work to attend conferences. Parents are always welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time during the school year. School newsletters, handbooks, the Website and monthly print advertisements concerning District news all remind parents of this opportunity.

At the secondary level, the District received permission from the State Department of Education and Early Development to return to their previous format of early dismissal for students on the day of the division's parent conferences, with another half day dismissal to compensate teachers for working an evening shift on the conference day. This allows parents to elect to attend conferences in the afternoon or evening.

Elementary

Third quarter conferences for all elementary schools were held April 9-12, 2003. Results are shown in Attachment A.

The following information is a comparison of the last five years' participation rate in the conferences expressed in percentage of attendance.

| | <u>1999</u> | <u>2000</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Enrollment | 27,169 | 26,617 | 26,634 | 26,097 | 26,273 |
| District Average | 95 | 96 | 95 | 96 | 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.

Middle School

Middle school conferences were held April 10, 2003. Hanshew piloted an all-school report card distribution featuring student-led conferences. Their pick-up rate went from 48% last year to 81% this year, the highest of any middle school. Wendler's pick up rate was the same as last year. All other middle schools showed increases in their pick-up rate.

Schools utilized a variety of methods to inform parents and encourage participation. Among them were both personal telephone calls and telephone reminders through the District's automated system.

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

| <u>SCHOOL</u> | <u>ENROLLMENT</u> | <u>CARDS PICKED UP</u> | <u>PERCENT</u> |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Central | 798 | 487 | 61 |
| Clark | 970 | 507 | 52 |
| Goldenview | 970 | 690 | 71 |
| Gruening | 630 | 393 | 62 |
| Hanshew | 1,073 | 869 | 81 |
| Mears | 1,057 | 665 | 63 |
| Mirror Lake | 708 | 462 | 65 |
| Polaris | 438 | 438 | 100 |
| Romig | 808 | 559 | 69 |
| Wendler | 896 | 466 | 52 |

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

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

| <u>School</u> | <u>2000</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Central | 57 | 52 | 57 | 61 |
| Clark | 42 | 44 | 46 | 52 |
| Goldenview | 68 | 72 | 70 | 71 |
| Gruening | 62 | 55 | 57 | 62 |
| Hanshew | 55 | 53 | 48 | 81 |
| Mears | 53 | 58 | 58 | 63 |
| Mirror Lake | 55 | 57 | 58 | 65 |
| Romig | 53 | 54 | 65 | 69 |
| Wendler | 58 | 43 | 52 | 52 |

High Schools

Senior high report card pick-up was held on April 9, 2003, in all area high schools. Report cards are made available and teachers are on duty to meet with parents in an afternoon or an evening session. For this particular conference day, special planning was completed at each high school site to involve more students and to make the total conference experience more positive for parents and guardians.

Encouraging parental attendance continues to be both a school and division goal. All sites publicize this opportunity through parent newsletter announcements which start several months in advance, invitations issued at fall open houses, items on school websites, 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. Since the present percentages mean that 800-1400 parents are visiting most of the high schools, this event serves as a tremendous outreach for parent group membership drives, booster sales, etc.

The chart below shows the percentage of report cards picked up at each school, as well as the comparison of pick-up rates between third quarter of 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003. Third quarter 2002-2003 parent conference participation increased at Bartlett, East and Service, with a decrease at Chugiak, Dimond, and West high schools, when compared to third quarter in years past.

**Report Card Pick-up Report
Third Quarter**

| <u>School</u> | <u>2000</u> | <u>2001</u> | <u>2002</u> | <u>2003</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Bartlett | 38 | 40 | 36 | 42 |
| Chugiak | 51 | 50 | 43 | 40 |
| Dimond | 44 | 48 | 40 | 30 |
| East | 44 | 50 | 30 | 33 |
| Service | 61 | 46 | 47 | 48 |
| West | 33 | 33 | 37 | 33 |

Charter Schools

| <u>School</u> | <u>Enrollment</u> | <u>Conferences Completed</u> | <u>Spring 2003 Percentage</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aquarian | 236 | 233 | 98 |
| *Village (March) | 156 | 152 | 98 |
| **Family Partnership | 584 | N/A | |

*Village Charter School holds parent/teacher conferences five times during the school year - in August, October, December, March and May.

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

CC/JC/PM/GO/MH

Attachment

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