

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2003**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, April 14, 2003 at 6:40 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Jake Metcalfe presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

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

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Jeff Wood, Edna Lamebull, Eric Tollefsen, Pam Chenier, Stan Syta, Debbie Bogart, Ray Amsden, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people.

B. MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

The North Star Chorus, under the direction of Gerilynn Martinson, performed for the audience.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Debbie Ossiander noted that the Policy Subcommittee meeting scheduled for April 17, 2003 has been cancelled due to the transition of the new School Board members.

Debbie Ossiander urged the public to testify on the proposed budget cuts to education on Tuesday, April 15, 2003 at the Legislative Information Office from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Ms. Ossiander, speaking on behalf of the School Board, encouraged everyone to share their view with their legislators and to emphasize that funding schools should be the top priority of the state.

Mary Marks shared her appreciation to the three departing Board members, Harriet Drummond, Debbie Ossiander, and Rita Holthouse, who have advocated for students in the Anchorage School District. Ms. Marks extended her love and appreciation for the work they have done in the community and state and thanked them for their dedication to quality education.

Jake Metcalfe commented that the Board is losing 30 years of service with the departing members that will be impossible to replace. He thanked them for all of the mentoring they have done for the new Board members.

Mary Marks announced that she attended the National Association of School Boards Conferences in San Francisco and is the new secretary/treasurer of the National Caucus of American Indian/Alaska Native School Board Members. She feels that this is an opportunity to fill the gap for all minority students. Ms. Marks noted that students outside of Alaska are not making the progress that the students in the Anchorage School District are making. She encouraged families to become involved in their children's educational process.

John Steiner noted that he attended the same conference and that it was gratifying and challenging at the same time. Mr. Steiner stated that it was great to see some of the best practices that we are currently using are those that some others are just beginning to use. He further stated that ASD can feel good about some of the things we are doing as well as pursue some of the more challenging ideas.

Harriet Drummond stated that she attended a CUBE conference in 1994 along with 12 other District personnel and found that we were light years ahead on school violence prevention. Ms. Drummond commented that ASD is a forward thinking school district and has done a very good job. She complimented the Administration for a job well done and stated that she is proud to have served on the School Board.

Jake Metcalfe called for individuals to come forward to sign-up with the Board Clerk if they are interested in speaking before the Board.

Carol Comeau noted that she was notified in late February that the School Business Partnership received the Civic Star Award 2003. The plaque will be placed in the Board Room.

Jake Metcalfe noted that newly elected School Board member Macon Roberts was nominated by Senator Lisa Murkowski to attend the African American Leadership Summit in Washington, D. C. on May 13-14, 2004.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Debbie Ossiander noted the addendum for the Personnel Report.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele  
seconded by Mary Marks

to approve the agenda with the  
addition of the addendum to ASD  
Memorandum #215 - Personnel  
Report.

The motion was unanimously approved.

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of the Milken Award – Susan Okeson

Esther Cox, First Vice Chair of the State Board of Education, read the presentation from the Department of Education & Early Development, and presented the obelisk and flowers to Susan Okeson, recipient of the Milken Award. Ms. Cox told her how deserving she is of this prestigious award.

Carol Comeau told Ms. Okeson how proud she is that she is a principal in the Anchorage School District. She also told the audience about the day that Governor Tony Knowles called Ms. Okeson at school to inform her of the award.

Susan Okeson thanked her friends and family for their support, Patricia McRae, her supervisor, and told the audience how proud she is to work for Carol Comeau.

2. ASD Memorandum #255 – 2003 Alaska Middle School Principal

Last month Mears Middle School Principal Georgia Taton was selected as Alaska's 2003 Alaska Middle School Principal, an award given by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP).

Taton, a principal at Mears since 1998, was recognized for her outstanding school leadership and success in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students. She was also honored for having demonstrated excellence in the areas of educational leadership, resolving complex problems, developing self and others and community service.

Superintendent Carol Comeau says "Georgia Taton has served our district well as an instructional leader. She has been involved in the

principals' organization at the local, state and national level for many years."

It is requested that the School Board recognize Georgia Taton for well deserved selection as the 2003 Alaska Middle School Principal of the Year Award. She is a credit to her profession, this community and the Anchorage School District.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Corey Rennell announced that he has been accepted to Harvard University for the fall 2003. The next Student Advisory Board meeting will be held on April 17 at 9:00 a.m. at King Career Center. Mr. Rennell noted that he also attended the NASB Conference in San Francisco, and has extensive reports on healthy foods and drug testing that he will present to the Board at a later date.

2. Military Delegate

Lt. Colonel Peter Mulcahy reported that the Military Coalition Transition Counselor Institute will be meeting April 23-24. There is a session at Clark Middle School on April 23 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. that is open to all parents.

3. MECC

Mary Marks noted that MECC will meet on April 17 at 12 noon; she encouraged the public to attend this meeting.

G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Don Ragusa, parent of children at Trailside Elementary School, is concerned about the technology system at the school and the upkeep. He noted that the District must insure that the network system is kept up and running for the students and understands that two teachers at the school share that responsibility. Mr. Ragusa is concerned over children losing direct teaching time in the classroom when the teachers are out dealing with technology concerns. He understands that middle and high schools have a person onsite to take care of the technology problems. Mr.

Ragusa encouraged the Board to support the instructional technology network at the school and allow teachers to educate our children.

Carol Comeau noted that Mr. Ragusa has raised some very important points. She explained that the Board and administration have chosen to lower class size versus hiring an instructional technology person at the elementary schools and noted that trade-offs have to be made. Ms. Comeau commented that this is a topic that is discussed every time the budget is discussed and they will certainly look at this in the future.

Tim Steele asked if we have a number of itinerate people available that serve the elementary schools. Carol Comeau responded that there are six individuals available and many of the responsibilities fall back onto the classroom teachers; this continues to be a priority for staff development.

Jake Metcalfe stated that we are dependent on state funding for education for most of our funding and the legislature is presently looking at cutting our budget. He further commented that most legislators and our governor campaigned on full-funding for education. Mr. Metcalfe encouraged the community to let their legislators know that they expect full-funding and budget cuts will put a terrible burden on our children. Full-funding is needed to answer all of the mandates that we are expected to follow and implement.

Harriet Drummond noted that she appreciates the comments from Mr. Ragusa. She stated that the No Child Left Behind legislation is highly dependent on computers that teachers will need to use for gathering data on their students. Ms. Drummond noted that it is critical that we continue to improve our technology, but it is not possible to fully staff the Instructional Technology Department in this district. She encouraged the community to call their legislator and ask for full-funding of education.

Jake Metcalfe welcomed and congratulated newly elected School Board members: Crystal Kennedy, Macon Roberts, and Jeff Friedman. He also introduced Carl Loerbs and Russell Mjolness in the audience, who were candidates for School Board.

Carol Comeau introduced Chuck Fannin as the new South Anchorage Area High School principal. She stated that she is very pleased with the selection of Mr. Fannin and will begin the selection process for the Bartlett replacement principal in the very near future. Mr. Fannin will report on July 1, 2003 along with an administrative assistant and stock clerk to begin work on the new high school. The new high school will

open in the fall of 2004. Ms. Comeau commented that there is much to be done within the next year in preparation of opening, i.e., school naming, identifying the student body, choosing school colors, mascots, etc.

John Steiner is concerned about Bartlett because Mr. Fannin has been such a successful principal at the school. He also believes that there are many excellent administrators left at Bartlett to provide leadership for the school.

#### 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.	Regular Meeting	January 13, 2003	6:30 p.m.
b.	Special Meeting	February 10, 2003	4:30 p.m.
c.	Regular Meeting	February 10, 2003	6:30 p.m.
e.	Special Meeting	February 20, 2003	4:00 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #189 - South Anchorage High School Boundaries (Second Reading)

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.

3. ASD Memorandum #228 - Bilingual/Bicultural Education Plan Of Service Application/Modification

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Bilingual Education Program Modification Request to the Board and State approved 1999-2000 Plan of Service as presented in Attachment A of this document. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Superintendent to submit the Bilingual Plan of Service Modification Request to Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

4. ASD Memorandum #257 – Acceptance Of Grant Award: Capacity Building Improvement For Special Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) for \$136,675. Funds will enable the Special Education Division to continue supporting an electronic infrastructure for Individual Education Plans (IEP) and for IEP reporting. In addition, it will provide funding to support development of a comprehensive plan for staff development within the division.

5. ASD Memorandum #196 – Award Of Contract: North Star Elementary School Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for North Star Elementary School Roof Upgrades to Anchorage Roofing and Contracting for Base Bid A in the amount of \$381,769, and to accept Additive Alternate 1 in the amount of \$19,950 for a total award of \$401,719.

6. ASD Memorandum #190 – Award Of Contract: Hanshew Middle School Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Hanshew Middle School Roof Upgrades to DAR-CON Corporation for the Base Bid A in the amount of \$117,500 and to accept Additive Alternates 1 and 2 in the amount of \$41,000, for a total award of \$158,500.

7. ASD Memorandum #219 – Award Of Contract: Magna Brand Furniture

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a two-year contract with two one-year renewal options to Arctic Office Products, to furnish and install Magna Brand Furniture at various schools throughout the District in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

8. ASD Memorandum #226 - Award Of Contract: Chinook Elementary School HVAC Rehabilitation And Upgrade Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Chinook Elementary School HVAC Rehabilitation and Upgrade to the low responsive bidder Consolidated Contracting and Engineering for the Base Bid A in the amount of \$877,714 and to accept Alternate #2 in the amount of \$163,215 for a total award of \$1,040,929.

9. ASD Memorandum #229 - Award Of Contract: Fire Lake And Spring Hill Elementary Schools Fire Alarm Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Fire Lake Elementary School and Spring Hill Elementary School Fire Alarm Upgrades to Electric, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$311,140.

10. ASD Memorandum #230 - Award Of Contract: Homestead And Wonder Park Elementary Schools Fire Alarm Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Homestead Elementary School and Wonder Park Elementary School Fire Alarm Upgrades to Goertz Construction, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$309,375.

11. ASD Memorandum #231 - Award Of Contract: Rogers Park Elementary School Fire Alarm And Security Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Rogers Park Elementary School Fire Alarm and Security Upgrades to Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$335,000.

12. ASD Memorandum #232 - Award Of Contract: Eagle River Elementary School HVAC Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for

the Eagle River Elementary School HVAC Upgrades to the low responsive bidder Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$402,773 and to accept Alternate #1 in the amount of \$157,702, for a total award of \$560,475.

13. ASD Memorandum #233 - Award Of Contract: Ptarmigan Elementary School Additions And Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Ptarmigan Elementary School Additions and Renovations to the low bidder, Janssen Contracting Company, Inc., for the Base Bid in the amount of \$4,487,700 and to accept Alternate 1 in the amount of \$88,000, Alternate 3 in the amount of \$21,000, and Alternate 4 in the amount of \$13,000, for a total award of \$4,803,866 (including Allowance Assignment of \$194,166), and that the School Board authorize an increase of \$400,000 in the project funding.

14. ASD Memorandum #215 - Personnel Report

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandums #189; #228; and #231.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Tim Steele

to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2003; Special Meeting of February 10, 2003; Regular Meeting of February 10, 2003; Special Meeting of February 20, 2003; Memorandum #257; Memorandum #196; Memorandum #190; Memorandum #219; Memorandum #226; Memorandum #229; Memorandum #230; Memorandum #232; Memorandum #233; and Memorandum #215 with addendum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #189 - South Anchorage High School Boundaries  
(Second Reading)

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. 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue; W. 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Minnesota Bypass and C Street.

East - C Street between the extension of E. 76<sup>th</sup> 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. 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue extension; the E. 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue extension to Seward Highway; Seward Highway between E. 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue and E. 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue; E. 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue between the Seward Highway and Lake Otis Parkway; Lake Otis Parkway between E. 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue and E. 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue; E. 64<sup>th</sup> 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. 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Dimond Boulevard; Dimond Boulevard between Minnesota Drive and Ange Street. Ange Street from Dimond Boulevard to W. 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue, including both sides of Ange and W. 88<sup>th</sup>. West 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Ange Street to Arctic Boulevard. Arctic Boulevard between W. 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue and W. 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, including both sides of Arctic Boulevard. West 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue between Arctic Boulevard and Dallas Street, including both sides of W. 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Dallas Street between W. 92<sup>nd</sup> 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. 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue, excluding both sides of Ange and W. 88<sup>th</sup>; West 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Ange Street to Arctic Boulevard; Arctic Boulevard between W. 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue and W. 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, excluding both sides of Arctic Boulevard; West 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue between Arctic Boulevard and Dallas Street, excluding both sides of W. 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue; Dallas Street, and its southward extension, between W. 92<sup>nd</sup> 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.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner to approve Memorandum #189.  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that the first reading on the proposed boundary change on March 3, 2003 was a difficult and challenging decision, but believes after reading hundreds of e-mails that the recommendation was the right one. She noted that many adjustments were made to accommodate boundaries at Service as well. The Administration could not recommend keeping all of the Mears' attendance area at Dimond High School. Ms. Comeau did look at all of the suggestions after the first reading, she drove the neighborhoods, and is comfortable with her recommendation. She knows that Dimond High School is going to be overcrowded, but feels that the school can handle this. She is absolutely convinced that we will not have as many relocatables on-site as we currently have. She further commented that seniors will be allowed to stay and will overcrowd the school for one year only. Ms. Comeau understands that this will be a challenge, but both she and the Administration will do everything they can to make it work.

Ms. Comeau commented that the discussion on the capacity of our high schools must happen with the community. The Administration was very comfortable with decreasing the large high school size and the Smaller Learning Communities have played a big part in the decision. Ms. Comeau further commented that we must watch this entire population and may need to add on to the new high schools to accommodate growth. Ms. Comeau absolutely believes that the Bayshore community needs to stay at Dimond High School based on proximity on where they are located and the Campbell attendance students need to stay at Dimond as well. She believes this is the most responsible decision.

Shannon Moorhead is a concerned parent from Kasuun. She thanked the School Board and Ms. Comeau for listening to the community on the

boundary changes. She has a petition from her community of Kasuun supporting a change back to Service instead of being bused to East High. She believes this would return her area to a community allowing elementary, middle, and high school students to stay together. She urged the Board to support the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Sheryl Zerda has two students at Bayshore and supports the Superintendent's scenario. She is concerned over the overcrowding at Dimond, but feels that students should stay at Dimond. Ms. Zerda hopes that the community can work together to resolve any issues among parents.

Jean Funatake thanked the Superintendent and the School Board and urged support for the Superintendent's scenario. She asked the audience to stand up and show support for the recommended scenario. Ms. Funatake asked her 14 year old son for some words of wisdom; he responded that Ms. Comeau was a very smart person and has made the right decision. Ms. Funatake also commented how important it is to have parents in close proximity to the school. She hopes the Board will support the recommendation by the Superintendent.

Rita Holthouse asked Ms. Funatake which neighborhood she lived in. Ms. Funatake responded that she lives in Southport.

Brian Seitz continues to be concerned over the boundary change. He stated that valid issues have been raised by a large group, but those issues seem to fall on deaf ears for those students living along Klatt Road that attend Mears Middle Schools. Ms. Seitz stated that kids are going to be impacted that attend Klatt and Taku. He commented that if the District is going to abandon the smaller school image, than these students should be able to attend Dimond. Mr. Seitz commented that if the Klatt/Taku kids can't go to Dimond than the Bayshore students should not be allowed to attend as well. He feels that it is wrong to eliminate these small pockets of students.

Jim Drake urged the Board to adopt Superintendent Comeau's recommendation. He noted that the only criteria the Boundary Task Force looked at was capacity, and the reason he supports the Superintendent's recommendation is that it keeps neighborhood kids together. Mr. Drake also mentioned that he has read studies that indicate longer bus rides result in lower test scores, less involvement in school activities, and less family time.

John Steiner asked for more information on the studies Mr. Drake was referring to. Mr. Drake responded that there were three studies: one covered rural Montana and didn't fit with the things that ASD was dealing with; one was from Arkansas; and one he couldn't remember where it was from. All three studies indicated that it becomes a problem with grades when a student rides for more than 35 minutes on a bus. Montana was busing for over an hour and Arkansas from 20 to 45 minutes.

Harriet Drummond asked since the governor is proposing cuts in transportation if the District has had time to study this. Steve Kalmes noted that the proposed cut of \$4 million dollars will be traumatic for the District. He noted that about 40 percent of the bussing fleet is used to bus five percent of our students. Sixty percent of the bussing fleet transports all of the rest of the students. Mr. Kalmes stated that this will mean a cut in our service and longer walks for kids.

Carol Comeau noted that this will be problematic for our District since we use the three tiered system. Currently, a student must live 1.5 miles from the school to be eligible for busing. She mentioned that we may need to eliminate hazardous busing in order to increase the mileage to carry students. Mr. Kalmes noted that transportation for regular education students is not required by the State of Alaska. We are currently reimbursed for those students who live more than 1.5 miles or live in hazardous areas. Mr. Kalmes also stated that he does not agree that transportation is ineffective in our District. He stated that he would be open to anyone coming in and showing how the District can reduce transportation costs.

Tim Steele asked if the 1.5 mile distance is a regulation set by the State. Mr. Kalmes responded yes. Mr. Steele is concerned about the possible elimination of hazardous routes because they are there for a reason. He commented that this is one of the areas that we need to put the pressure on in terms of our budget.

Mr. Steele asked about the new routes that were proposed this year to transport Wendler students to the old Dimond High School building and whether they have been approved. Carol Comeau noted that we were originally approved for those routes, but have received additional information that we may not have that approval and may need to look to the general fund to fund this issue. Tim Steele asked what the estimate would be if they were not approved. Steve Kalmes responded that \$750,000 is the estimate.

Rita Holthouse asked if the elimination of hazardous routes would come before the School Board for approval. Carol Comeau responded yes, all elimination of routes will come before the Board. She stated that all parents living within two miles of the school must lobby their legislator for full-funding for transportation as this could have a severe impact on families.

Tina Booker is the parent of an eighth grade student at Mears and supports Ms. Comeau's scenario. She lives 1.5 miles from Dimond and it is too far to go to Service. Her son plays a large band instrument so the bus is not an option. Transporting students to a school far away is a large impact on families and safety and sleep are a concern to her. She is aware that Dimond will be overcrowded, but is a fact of life that will be addressed. Ms. Booker suggested the District build schools in the more populated areas.

Brian Vanderwood thanked the School Board and the Superintendent for this important decision. He feels the scenario is a step in the right decision, but it could use some improvement. Mr. Vanderwood would like a second consideration of the folks in the Klatt area because Mr. Seitz has valid concerns about that community staying at Dimond. Mr. Vanderwood purchased a home in the Bayshore area knowing that his children would be going to Dimond. He knows that the Board will make the best decision for everyone, but would like the boundary changed to include Klatt students going to Dimond.

Debbie Ossiander asked Mr. Vanderwood if there is anyone he would like to take away from Dimond to allow Klatt students to stay at Dimond. Mr. Vanderwood responded that he would like the northern boundary moved further north to allow more students to attend West High School.

Ms. Ossiander asked Mr. Vanderwood if he was comfortable with 1,900 students at Dimond. Mr. Vanderwood responded yes.

Marie Steele urged support of the Superintendent's scenario. She feels that it is the best decision for all of the community. Ms. Steele feels that 1,600 students is an unreasonable figure. She noted that family, sports, and safety will be sacrificed to allow 1,600 students to enjoy their spacious school. Students who live within two miles of the school should have an unchallenged right to attend the school. Ms. Steele would like to increase the capacity at Dimond.

Judy Basler is a teacher's aide at Girdwood and a mother of two at Dimond, who ride the bus into Anchorage everyday. Both of her children want to stay at Dimond. She is concerned how the change will affect her children and would like to keep the tradition of allowing the 14 to 15 Girdwood students continue at Dimond.

Rita Holthouse asked how many seniors were among the 14 to 15 students currently coming in from Girdwood. Mike Henry responded that there are currently 30 Girdwood students riding the bus into Anchorage (18 to 20 are high school) and probably six or eight of those are Girdwood seniors.

John Steiner asked what the costs are to allow the students to remain at Dimond. Carol Comeau responded that she believes the change has to be made. If we allow these students to remain, siblings will also want to stay. She believes that the bus ride to the new South Anchorage school will make more sense; this is a cost item and a capacity issue. Ms. Comeau stated that the new principal, Mr. Fannin, is an ideal candidate for the new principalship due to his experience with the military students at Bartlett. Ms. Comeau noted that her experience is that once a decision has been made, issues worked through, and parents and students become familiar with staff and other families, everything will come together and it will become a very positive environment.

Fred Stutzer supports the Superintendent's proposal due to the focus on community and proximity to the school. He knows that it is not a perfect solution, but supports this one until a long-term solution can be identified. He feels that three main areas have been addressed: not as many relocatables will be needed as in the past; the new facility will accommodate all students for pep assemblies; and it is feasible to feed the school population all at one time. Mr. Stutzer humbly requested the Board support the Superintendent's recommendation.

Debbie Ossiander stated that it was her understanding that Dimond could not accommodate 1,900 students in the assembly area. Mike Henry responded that seating will only accommodate 1,600 students, but you must take into consideration the six to nine percent absentee rate each day, those who stand, and those who participate will allow the entire student body to attend one assembly. Mr. Henry also feels the school can accommodate lunch for all of the students by taking into consideration those who bring sack lunches, those who eat out, etc. He did mention there would be longer lines for students buying food and students may have to wait for a seat to sit down to eat lunch.

Ryan Hammel is a Girdwood student attending Dimond as a freshman. Mr. Hammel suggested another proposal to the District for the Girdwood students. He suggested that sophomores, juniors, and seniors could choose their respective school and freshman would have to attend the school in their boundary. Within three years, schools would have their capacity and not make students change their school. He feels that students who have attended Dimond for one year or more have already established their ties and loyalties. Moving would be detrimental to them.

Rorie Hammel is a Girdwood parent and realizes that all families affected feel that their situation is unique. She feels that Girdwood students accept less sleep, a long commute, and have to put up with constant logistical planning. Ms. Hammel noted that children have made long-term relationships/commitments with Dimond students and staff; she also feels that it is a safety issue to change schools.

Mary Marks commended Ms. Hammel for establishing a parent network system and believes that there is an opportunity for students to establish this at the new school.

Harriet Drummond asked what the new principal and administration will do to help make the Girdwood students make the transition more smoothly. Carol Comeau noted that students tend to make the transition more smoothly than parents do. She assured Ms. Drummond that the Administration will do everything they can to help the community with their parent network. Ms. Comeau feels that this is an important point and that is why we named the new principal tonight and are trying to establish the boundaries. This is an opportunity to bring the community together to introduce people and then as issues are defined, spend the next year resolving them. Ms. Comeau noted that we will look into the students' ideas to help this occur.

John Steiner found Ryan Hammel's testimony interesting regarding the phasing in of the students. Mr. Steiner asked if zone exemptions were granted and transportation not provided, would the Girdwood community provide transportation for students to Dimond. Rorie Hammel stated that the community in Girdwood has discussed this and has assumed the responsibility to transport the students to Dimond. Parents currently use car pools to transport students.

Mr. Steiner asked what the percentage of students actually ride buses to Girdwood. Mr. Kalmes responded that he did not have that information available this evening.

Don Castle is a Southport resident and has two children at Bayshore. He understands that the Superintendent's scenario is not perfect for everyone and understands the overcrowding at Dimond. He doesn't like it, but will live with it. His children's education is very important to him, but pales in comparison to their safety. Mr. Castle urged support for the Superintendent's scenario. He also volunteered to be a member on a future task force or committee.

Kathy Paluse is a 15 year neighbor in the Bayshore community with a graduating senior and a freshman at Dimond. She read a letter from the Alaska Bay Homeowners Association supporting the Superintendent's scenario.

Rita Holthouse agrees that long bus rides are not time productive, but questions the safety issue that has been raised. Ms. Holthouse stated that the District has an excellent safety record and a national safety report shows that a school bus ride is the safest way to transport children.

Carol Comeau stated that Mr. Kalmes and his staff work very hard to make bussing safe for students, but does recognize the concerns of parents as well.

Mr. Castle stated that he did not intend to imply that the District has unsafe buses; he just wanted to note that long bus rides add to the possibility of an accident .

Todd Clark stated that it is all about proximity for him. He lives in Bayshore and wants his children to go to Dimond. He attended two of the task force meetings and most of the parents did not like scenario A or B. He saw a big turnaround at the last meeting with the Superintendent's modified scenario and saw that most parents were in favor of that. Mr. Clark urged the Board to support the Superintendent's recommendation.

The School Board recessed at 8:40 p.m. and returned at 9:10 p.m.

Carol Comeau noted that John Steiner and Rita Holthouse both asked the Administration to address the facility issue.

Mike Henry stated that he addressed the issue on the cafeteria previously. He noted that there is a full size and a smaller gym in the new facility that is similar in size to those in the old building; the space in the old building housed 2,300 students. Mr. Henry feels that the space in the new Dimond High School can certainly accommodate 1,900 students. The special education student needs are addressed by FTE and the library will not present a problem. Dimond High will need 11 more areas to put an additional 300 students. There are presently 1,600 lockers, which will present a problem for an additional 300 students. Mr. Henry commented that they first ask for volunteers to share lockers and sometimes double up lockers for freshman students. There are currently no provisions to put in additional lockers. Mr. Henry feels there are adequate restroom facilities in all of the houses and reminded the public that class sizes are not affected by overcrowding. He noted that there are not additional counselor offices that have been designated and this could be a concern as to where to put them, but feels that there are other spaces that are flexible and can be used. Mr. Henry is confident that he can find space and can accommodate the needs of the additional 300 students.

John Steiner asked if the library would be the same. Ray Amsden responded that he didn't have the numbers in front of him, but his perception is that they will not need as much library space as was previously needed in the old facility.

Debbie Ossiander mentioned that there have been comments from many members in the audience that are critical of the location of the new South Anchorage Area High School. She stated that when the Board discussed the location of the site, they were trying to alleviate the overcrowding at Service High School; Dimond was not overcrowded at that point. The Board made the best decision they could with the knowledge they had and noted that often the site selection for a new school occurs way before the school is actually built. Ms. Ossiander also commented that she approached each new Board member elect and asked if they would like the current Board to delay the decision on the boundary issue until they took office; each stated no. Ms. Ossiander expressed her concerns with opening a new school with over 300 more students than projected and will be offering several amendments to the Superintendent's recommendation for discussion.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander                      that homes to the south of  
seconded by Harriet Drummond              Bayshore (Discovery Bay Road) be  
moved to South Anchorage Area  
High School.

Chris Breest stated that there are about 100 homes in this area and there are many lots left to build on that should be finished in the next year. He noted that the students living in this area attend Bayshore Elementary School.

Fred Stutzer commented that they are still developing roads in that area and there are many more lots to develop.

Rita Holthouse commented that it will be a really hard sell for her to make changes to the Superintendent's recommendation when we haven't notified the public of a possible change. She feels that it is too late now and changes should have been made during first reading. Ms. Holthouse is not comfortable making changes at the last minute.

John Steiner is concerned that this means the School Board should not make any changes to the proposed modified scenario and should rubberstamp the Superintendent's recommendation. He suggested that if we consider making any changes, we should postpone the decision or open it up for third reading; we shouldn't say that we can't change the recommendation. Mr. Metcalfe responded that Ms. Holthouse only offered her opinion. Mr. Steiner stated that he respects Ms. Holthouse's opinion and offers his opinion as well.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steiner

Nays: Marks, Steele, Metcalfe,  
Holthouse, Drummond

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS:

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander                      that the area east of Minnesota in  
seconded by John Steiner                      the Dimond boundary be moved  
to Service.

Debbie Ossiander would like the Administration to look at using Minnesota as a boundary for Service and Dimond.

Carol Comeau commented that the reason that we left that area in Dimond attendance area rather than go with the Task Force recommendation is because that particular community went through a contentious boundary change in 1995. The area of 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Arctic are in very close proximity to Dimond.

Jim Drake noted that it is 2.7 miles from Campbell to Dimond and 5.0 miles to Service.

Tim Steele asked Ms. Comeau if she received any comments from that neighborhood about staying at Dimond or going to Service. Carol Comeau responded that the Taku Community Council wants to stay at Dimond and Rep. Samuels sent a letter in support of keeping the students at Dimond.

Harriet Drummond stated that she knows many students who live in this area that zone exempt to West High.

John Steiner asked how many students would be involved in this change. Ophelia Dargan-Steed responded that there are about 100 students that would be affected. Mr. Steiner understands that statements came from the community to support keeping the students at Dimond and asked Mr. Henry if there was any objection during the public process from the Campbell area. Mr. Henry responded yes, that they do not want to move from Dimond High.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: None

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

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS:

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by John Steiner

that the area north of Raspberry now in the Dimond area be moved to West, and concurrently West be closely examined in hopes of potentially transferring some programs to other sites.

Debbie Ossiander is concerned over the number of students at West and would like the Administration to comment on why we keep West High

smaller than the other high schools. She also believes that Raspberry Road is a good dividing line.

Carol Comeau commented that West High square footage is tied to their large corridors and halls. She also does not believe that the boundary to the north of Raspberry Road would be supported by the community. This topic was also discussed at the first task force meeting. Ms. Comeau also stated that she does not want to move programs out of West High. The Spanish Immersion program comes from Government Hill to Romig, and then into West. The highly gifted program at Romig also goes to West. This has been an opportunity to have both middle and high schools able to access programs in proximity. The Native program and the School of the Arts were also developed to meet the needs of the students at West High.

Mike Henry also noted that the capacity of West High is very misleading. The classrooms at West are more utilized than any other comprehensive high school. He commented that only five teachers are allowed to remain in their rooms during their conference period. The Task Force reviewed this initially, but more problems came up when they looked at moving students from West to East and Bartlett.

Harriet Drummond reviewed the map for the audience and feels that another new high school is needed in the Polaris K-12 area. She cannot support this amendment.

Debbie Ossiander appreciates the comments but would like to remind the Board that voters might want to put an addition on West versus Dimond. She also commented that it is easier to manage high schools when they are similar in size.

Rita Holthouse stated that the Administration was going to check into an area near Botanical Gardens. Carol Comeau noted that this is a very small area near Botanical, which is adjacent to Timberlane and will go to South Anchorage and Service. She believes that this boundary is defensible.

John Steiner stated that he really appreciated all the comments. When the Task Force's proposal first came out, they followed the guidance they were told to consider. He noted that proximity and distances and holding neighborhoods together and overcrowding is something to consider, but there is not a perfect solution for everyone. Mr. Steiner stated that he is open to amendments if something comes up that is better

than the Superintendent's scenario, but for now, he will support the current recommendation. He further commented that we currently have a policy that limits zone exemptions after a high school boundary change is made and that we may need to review this policy.

Mary Marks will support the Superintendent's recommendation and noted that this is her first time making decisions like this on behalf of our students. She noted that American Native students in the lower 48 do not have the luxury of filing for a zone exemption. Sometimes they have to leave their reservation at 4:00 a.m. for a two hour bus ride just to get to school; they don't have the privilege of attending after school activities. Ms. Marks commented that our students are privileged to have these opportunities in our state and community. She further commented that those families involved in the boundary change are now feeling the effects of what many minority families feel every day by not knowing where they are going to live or go to school.

Tim Steele stated that he has a problem with overcrowding and is concerned with the additional 300 students at Dimond. The Board made a decision to go to a 1,600 population high school and the smaller houses have allowed us to deliver a quality program. Mr. Steele commented that it will be tough to sell a wing on Dimond to the voters. He doesn't think we will be able to add it for a long time and that concerns him. He suggested the consideration of another wing added onto Polaris K-12.

Carol Comeau noted that we are very aware of the need to analyze the facility at West High and look at the needs of the facility. When the renovation was completed, some spaces were not built in like the other schools. Ms. Comeau stated that we must look at everything and make the best decision to accommodate our students.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Ossiander

Nays: Marks, Steele, Metcalfe, Steiner  
Holthouse, Drummond

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: Ossiander

MAIN MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #228 - Bilingual/Bicultural Education Plan Of Service Application/Modification

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Bilingual Education Program Modification Request to the Board and State approved 1999-2000 Plan of Service as presented in Attachment A of this document. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Superintendent to submit the Bilingual Plan of Service Modification Request to Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner to approve Memorandum #228.  
seconded by Mary Marks

Carol Comeau asked Maxine Hill and Jan Christensen to review the changes in the plan. Maxine Hill explained that the plan was developed in the 1999-2000 school year and are now requesting a modification to the current plan because of the increased requirements of the No Child Left Behind legislation. The proposed modifications are: implementation of the inclusion of LEP students in regular state and district mandated assessments with reasonable modifications; the annual assessment for English language proficiency of all identified LEP students (even if the parent refuses services from the district), as required by NCLB; the procedural and program modifications; and the expected outcomes, what they will accomplish, and how success will be measured. They are looking at assessment tools and looking at the level they are achieving.

Tim Steele asked Ms. Hill if she was not using the Writing Assessment because it was taken out of the budget or if she is using other applicable tools. Ms. Hill commented that she found the Writing Assessment very effective and would like to have it back.

John Steiner commented that he doesn't believe there is anything that would prohibit her from using it other than availability of funds. Ms. Hill stated that there are no funds in her department that would pick up the extra cost of using the Writing Assessment.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #231 - Award Of Contract: Rogers Park Elementary School Fire Alarm And Security Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Rogers Park Elementary School Fire Alarm and Security Upgrades to Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$335,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #231.  
seconded by Mary Marks

Debbie Ossiander commented that she is chagrined that only one bid was received. Ray Amsden responded that it is the market, people are busy, and there were some concerns with the specification section, which the Administration is currently reviewing.

Ms. Ossiander asked would the impact would be to delay this award to allow competition. Ray Amsden responded that he feels the amount is within reason and their recommendation is to proceed. To postpone the award would delay the project for a year and he believes that fire alarms are very important.

George Vakalis explained that there were concerns with bids pertaining to dust and asbestos during the execution of a job. Claims were coming in indicating that they were having to perform extra work while dealing with the dust issue. Facilities worked with our legal counsel and came up with very specific requirements for the bid document. Mr. Vakalis stated that the good side was that we identified the exact requirements in bidding and the bad side was that all of a sudden things that were being taken for granted were seen to be a problem for the bidders. Mr. Vakalis

requested a meeting to review the language and see if it could be appropriately crafted to benefit the District but conducive enough for all bidders to bid on the job. He further explained that it is an advantage to the District to protect ourselves, but the language must allow us to get enough bidders to be reasonable. Mr. Vakalis stated that we want to complete this job and the price was reasonable; we have also had great experience with this company.

John Steiner asked if this could be rebid and still installed this year. Ray Amsden responded that we could change the specs, but it will take time. This is an activity that can only be done in the summer.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #203 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of March 15, 2003 through April 1, 2003.

Debbie Ossiander remarked that she has had discussion about the Chugiak remodel project and the Administration said there would be an initial attempt to look at the traffic issues at the school. Ms. Ossiander asked if there is a timeline to look into this. Ray Amsden responded that he is in the process of setting up a meeting to continue this dialogue. Alaska Department of Transportation is the main player along with the Municipality. Ms. Ossiander asked where she should direct inquiries on this topic. Carol Comeau responded that all inquires should be directed to Ray Amsden for further information.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mary Marks reminded the School Board and the public about the Native Youth Conference at the Alaska Native Heritage Center scheduled for April 18-20, 2003.

Jake Metcalfe reminded the public to join our reception on April 21 for the outgoing and the newly elected Board members.

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of April 14, 2003 adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Jake Metcalfe, President

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Mary Marks, Clerk

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Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved