

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 29, 2002**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, July 29, 2002, at 12:35 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. Jake Metcalfe, President, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

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

Board Members Not Present: Rita Holthouse, Harriet Drummond

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Jan Christensen, Mike Henry, Jeff Wood, Dale Cope, Marie Laule, Lee Wilson, Ray Amsden, Bob Henry, Eric Tollefsen, Terry McCarty, Robin Siegfried, and other interested people.

The School Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Debbie Ossiander announced that as a direct result of the Native Education Summit, ASB is organizing a task force for native leaders across the state. Mary Marks and Debbie Ossiander have been asked to be a part of that task force.

Debbie Ossiander briefed the Board on the events of the National School Board Conference she attended in Idaho. Ms. Ossiander stated that there was mention that Idaho is moving toward a standard based system along with some particular guidelines they are using throughout the districts in that state. There was also an update on the reauthorization of IDEA and ESEA in Washington D.C.

John Steiner announced that ASD and USKH staff had a booth at the Eagle River Bear Paw Festival that shared with the community the concept plan for the new Eagle River High School. Mr. Steiner added that he felt this was an effective way to let a lot of people who have not been able to attend the meetings see the concept plan and ask questions. Mr. Steiner appreciated the Administration's support.

Carol Comeau announced that this meeting would be televised again this evening at 5:00 p.m. and also the following evening at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Comeau also mentioned that the Superintendent's office was contacted by the Alaska Children's Trust program. The caller was requesting volunteers for their golf tournament fundraiser. The event will be held at O'Malley's on the Green August 17th.

Ms. Comeau added that if Board members have topics for work sessions this year, they should contact Mary Kay tomorrow in order for them to be added to the agenda in time to be discussed at the retreat.

Debbie Ossiander announced that there is a meeting scheduled at Williwaw Elementary School on August 14th at noon regarding the East Anchorage transportation plan. A particular interest at that meeting is schools. The plan has the potential to influence transportation corridors and many more decisions over the next 20 years. Ms. Ossiander added that they have spoken to Steve Kalmes and will also speak to Ray Amsden. Ms. Ossiander feels this is a real critical part of a long range plan for Anchorage and encouraged people to attend the meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

D. AWARDS/ RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. M.E.C.C.  
None
2. Student Advisory  
None
3. Military Delegate  
None

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Teresa Obermeyer spoke to the Board regarding the change of addresses of the ASD staff on the District e-mail system. Ms. Obermeyer also stated her concern that the ASD staff does not use her middle name when they correspond with her. Ms. Obermeyer stated that she will mail seven

copies of anything that is addressed to school board.asdk12.org by her and she would like to get a response saying whether or not her e-mail was received.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's office.**

1. ASD Memorandum #1 - Award of Contract: Microsoft Academic Select License Agreement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a three year contract to Insight for a Microsoft Academic Select 6 License Agreement at a cost of \$107,998.37 for the period July 31, 2002 to August 1, 2003; \$107,998.37 for the period of July 31, 2003 to August 1, 2003; and \$107,998.37 for the period July 31, 2003 to August 1, 2004 for a total contract award of \$323,995.18.

2. ASD Memorandum #2 - 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: Memorandum #1 and Memorandum #2.

ASD Memorandum #1 - Award of Contract: Microsoft Academic Select License Agreement

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ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander                      to approve ASD Memorandum #1  
seconded by Mary Marks                      (Revised)

Carol Comeau stated that a Special Board meeting was needed because the Board needed to approve this award of contract before July 31, 2002. Ms. Comeau asked Jeff Wood to identify the changes from the original memo. Mr. Wood explained that the bid tab amount on Bid #4 was typed wrong on the original memo. The amount was changed from \$227,000 to \$346,000 on the revised memorandum. There was an additional error in the first paragraph regarding the period of the contract and it was also corrected.

Jeff Wood stated that this contract is needed because the District does not currently have a contract for software and it has caused problems when different departments have different software upgrades. Departments will be able to purchase the software and not have to purchase the upgrades as in the past.

Tim Steele asked if these contracts are single one-year contracts or tied together. Mr. Steele stated his concern that if there is a problem with the software and the District would rather go with another company's product, would the District be able to switch at the end of the year. Jeff Wood stated that this is a three-year contract with no obligation to upgrade.

John Steiner confirmed with Mr. Wood that the memo was revised due to a clerical error in the bid tab amount. Mr. Steiner asked why the dates of the contract overlap. Jeff Wood stated that the purpose of the dates was to show we had to have this done by that date. The actual dates are good from 2002 - 2005. Mary Marks asked if this contract is for all of the ASD computers. Jeff Wood stated that the District has about 18,000 computers. The District wanted to license the software for the computers that are capable of running the software. Therefore, this contract would cover all District computers that have the capability to run the software. Ms. Marks asked about the control of downloads and upgrades and if a student would have access to them. Jeff Wood responded that the District does not have any way of locking down systems but does have a software product that can limit things that the students can do on the Macintosh computers. The IT staff will be responsible for installing and maintaining the software. Tim Steele commented that the Instructional Technology plan calls for upgrading computers in order to achieve the five-to-one ratio, and asked if this contract would cover the additional computers mentioned in the plan or would the District have to update the contract. Jeff Wood stated that the District would need to increase the number of computers in the agreement each year. It would equal to be the number of computers multiplied by \$86.00. The District will receive upgrades for free but if the software is added to an additional computer the District

would have to purchase it with the ability to do the upgrade. John Steiner asked if a code would be required for the IT department staff to install the software so that only the IT staff would be able to access it. Mr. Wood stated that a code would be needed.

VOTE:

Ayes: Metcalfe, Ossiander, Steele,  
Marks, Steiner

Nays: None

Absent: Holthouse, Drummond

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #2 - Personnel Report

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

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve ASD Memorandum #2  
seconded by Tim Steele

Ms. Comeau stated that this report includes a number of recommendations for employment as well as employees who have left the District. By asking the Board's approval today we will be able to continue to hire and contract teachers as well as make sure that all available openings administratively are approved by the Board and we can make public announcements on a number of the administrative positions.

VOTE:

Ayes: Metcalfe, Ossiander, Steele,  
Marks, Steiner

Nays: None

Absent: Holthouse, Drummond

MOTION PASSED

Carol Comeau introduced Dr. Michael Lancaster, the Supervisor of Assessment and Evaluation, Dr. Robb Boyer, Director of Staff Development, and Jim Bailey, the new Principal at West High School.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Jake Metcalfe asked if the Board had objections to Theresa Obermeyer speaking again since she had asked to do so during the meeting. Carol Comeau mentioned the policy states that the audience needs to

notify the Board before the meeting if they want to testify. Mr. Metcalfe stated he would follow the policy and not allow Ms. Obermeyer to speak at this time.

ASD Memorandum #3 Sale of 2002 General Obligation and Refunding Bonds, Series B (Schools) - \$202,145,000

On June 27, 2002 the Municipality of Anchorage, on behalf of the Anchorage School District, sold \$202.145 million of 2002 General Obligation and Refunding Bonds, Series B (Schools). This included \$131.8 million of new bonds and \$70.345 million of refunding bonds.

The portion of new bonds includes \$59 million of bonds related to Proposition 11 approved by the voters in April 1999, \$33.8 million of bonds related to Proposition 5 approved by the voters in April 2002, and \$39 million of bonds related to Proposition 6 approved by the voters in April 2002 for a total of \$131.8 million of general obligation bonds.

This bond issue also includes \$70.345 million of refunding bonds that refunded \$69.105 million of bonds for a savings of \$3.558 million. The District has coordinated the bond refunding with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and has received their approval. The local taxpayers and the State of Alaska will share the savings. The refunding portion of the issue refunded \$940,000 of the 1993 General Obligation School Bonds, Series A; \$6.7 million of the 1994 General Obligation School Bonds, Series A; \$6.38 million of the 1995 General Obligation School Bonds, Series A; \$20.8 million of the 1996 General Obligation School Bonds, Series A; \$14.49 million of the 1997 General Obligation School Bonds, Series A; \$5.9 million of the 1999 General Obligation School Bonds, Series A; \$1.91 million of the 2000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series A; and \$11.985 million of the 2000 General Obligation School Bonds, Series B.

The pricing of the bond sale occurred on June 18, 2002 with bond closing on June 27, 2002. The net interest cost for the 2002 General Obligation and Refunding Bonds, Series B (Schools) is 4.69 percent. The net interest rates that were negotiated compared favorably to the then current Bond Buyer's General Obligation Bond Index of 5.04 percent.

Carol Comeau stated that she is proud of the fact that we were able to come to an agreement with MOA in reducing the debt service for our tax payers. Janet Stokesbary, Howard Trickey, George Vakalis and Peggy Robinson spent a lot of time accomplishing this task. Ms. Comeau asked Janet Stokesbary to give the Board an overview of this accomplishment.

Ms. Stokesbary stated that this bond issue ended up being a two-fold bond sale. Based on our cash flow needs for the April 1999 and April 2002 authorized voter approved bonds, we were selling \$131.8 million of those bonds based on our cash flow needs expected in the next two years. In addition to that, because of the favorable bond market, we were also able to refund or refinance another \$70 million worth of bonds that we had previously sold at a lower interest rate. The savings over the remainder of those bonds is a little over a \$3.5 million. Some will be shared by the District (the taxpayers) as well as with the state because some received state debt reimbursed. The District has worked hard with the Municipality to maintain the bond ratings and feels it has been accomplished. The agreement that was reached between the District and the Municipality was helpful in maintaining existing bond ratings, which also reflects in the interest rate that we were able to sell the bonds at.

Debbie Ossiander requested the District to do a press release and let the public know that the District is saving the taxpayers money. Carol Comeau stated that a media release was issued at the time of the bond sale, but the Administration can work on getting some more information out to the public. Tim Steele stated that although this doesn't help the District save money, the effort shows its dedication of trying to reduce the cost to the people of Anchorage. Mr. Steele added that he is proud to be associated with people who work hard like this. John Steiner asked if the cost of the refunding bond sale is fully borne by the District or is it also allocated. Janet Stokesbary responded that because of the particular bond market, the bonds were sold at a premium, so the bond issuance costs are covered entirely within the amount that we sold and the premium. Because the market was so favorable, in addition, over \$5 million towards our first principal and interest payment next January will be borne through the premium. So we actually saved more because of the bond market. Mr. Steiner asked if the benefit created by what the District did will also be shared by the State equally. Ms. Stokesbary stated that the benefit would be shared by the District (local taxpayers) and the state. Next January, part of the debt service payment will be less because it is put in a reserve account that is reserved for the purpose of paying towards that debt service payment.

K. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no other speakers.

L. COMMUNICATION & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

- M. EXECUTIVE SESSION –  
(PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)
- N. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of July 29, 2002, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 1:10 p.m. July 29, 2002.

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Jake Metcalfe, President

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Mary Marks, Clerk

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Robin Siegfried, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved