

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2002**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 14, 2002 at 6:30 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, Dale Cope, Eric Tollefsen, Bob Henry, Stan Syta, Debbie Bogart, Ray Amsden, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harriet Drummond announced that she attended the “Its About Our Kids Legislative Debate” at Wendler Middle School. Channel 14 will be rebroadcasting the entire debate on Friday, October 18. Ms.Drummond thanked Roger Fiedler for representing the School District and for doing the camera work.

Debbie Ossiander noted that the Policy Subcommittee would be meeting on October 17 at 8:30 a.m. to continue review of Section 400. The Site Selection Committee will be meeting on October 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Mayor’s Conference Room.

Carol Comeau commented that there is a revised ASD Memorandum #81 - Denali Awards Recipients– Spring 2002.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tim Steele added the presentation on the Urban Rural Exchange program to the agenda; Rita Holthouse noted the Revised ASD Memorandum #81; and Debbie Ossiander stated that Mary Marks would like to run for the Association of Alaska School Board’s Board of Directors and the nomination needs to be passed by the School Board prior to being submitted to AASB.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to approve the agenda as amended
for the Regular School Board
meeting of October 14, 2002.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #81 – Denali Award Recipients – Spring 20002

To Alaskans, Denali means “great one,” and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service and dedication. Twice each year, a committee of Anchorage School District employees selects several co-workers and one team of colleagues that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to our mission of educating students for success in life.

The Denali Award winners for the second semester of the 2001-2002 school year are Alice Knapp, Mary Kluis, Jack Yandell, David Hren, Morris Pickel, Sharron Harris, Ray Fenton, the Maintenance Department, and Middle School Technology Coordinators.

Alice Knapp is the Librarian for Chugach Optional School. In addition to her regular teaching duties, she invents and completes special projects with tremendous enthusiasm and energy. In the past, she promoted and secured donations for computers for Chugach’s lab, organized World Celebration events and the “Pennies for Peace” campaign, which collected over one million pennies. The proceeds went to support local charities. “Not only did this worthwhile project teach many math lessons,” said supervisor Sharon Meacham, “it also taught an extremely valuable community service lesson.”

Dimond High teacher Mary Kluis has worked with at-risk youth for the past nine years. She saw a need for a computer-based curriculum as an alternative to the standard classroom. After much research, done on her own time, Kluis and her team chose NovaNet. She then worked tirelessly to secure funding and ensure

it complied with Alaska Standards. Her students enjoy her room's nurturing environment with its soft lighting and classical music. Kluis is equally adept at making her students feel welcome each day with a handshake and a smile and reinforcing their positive qualities. "Students have experienced great success toward their goal of a high school diploma," says colleague Rosemary Fish.

The horror of losing your life savings in a fire is so devastating that victims are often unable to think their way back to recovery. Thankfully for Small Engine Specialist Houston and Patricia Spires, King Career Center teacher Jack Yandell and his aide David Hren came to the rescue when the couple's small business had a fire in November. They arranged for a trailer to be donated for storage and for a class of students to come and move the salvageable items into it – all done in less than two hours. "They were the only two people that seemed to care about us," said Houston. "They still continue to call and see if there is anything they can do."

Morris Pickel has taught aerospace science for twelve years. Former West High principal Lance Bowie cites Pickel's superior program management. "Chief Pickel has continually led the AF JROTC unit to the distinction as the best Air Force program in the state of Alaska," said Bowie. The chief achieved a 20% increase in the unit's enrollment from the first to the second semester. Bowie adds, "He is known throughout the community as an idea person and a go-getter. Chief Pickel's the person you talk to if you want something accomplished."

Baxter Elementary Principal John Andrews says Sharron Harris is an integral part of the Baxter community. "It's not unusual to see our school's parking lot packed with the cars of class participants. She works hard to make sure our community school offers a wide range of classes that people are interested in taking." For many years Harris has been involved with the popular "Community Cache" and also lends a hand for a variety of activities. She runs a very efficient and creative team in the local community school board and regularly attends monthly PTA meetings.

Ray Fenton has given over 20 years of service to the district. As director of Assessment and Evaluation Ray provided the curriculum coordinators with measurable data and the knowledge of how to manage it. He has given extensive support to the math program for reporting test results in ways that are useful to

students, parents, teachers and administrators. Colleague Mary Bristol says "Ray Fenton provides access to understanding data that is vital to the foundation of all the work we do."

When the "perfect snow storm" hit Anchorage this past March, dumping over 27 inches of snow in less than 24 hours, the men and women of the Maintenance Department rose to the challenge, clearing massive amounts from approximately 100 sites in two days. Superintendent Carol Comeau expressed her gratitude for their leadership and assistance. "Our students were able to ride safely to school because of everyone's assistance," she said.

The Team Coordinators for Middle School Technology do it all, from setting up and repairing computers, to teaching, planning, coordinating and "holding hands." Gail Opalinski, Executive Director for Middle School Education says "teachers, librarians, students, parents and administrators all benefit from their expertise and willingness to assist." They assist as a team on division-wide initiatives and at their individual schools. Middle School technology coordinators are uniformly respected by other members of the school community.

It is recommended that the school board recognize these Denali Award recipients, and all of the nominees, for the example of excellence that they set for the entire Anchorage School District community.

Michelle Egan read the awards; certificates and shirts were given to each individual.

Urban Rural Exchange Program

Ted Rogness, Service High School student, and Esther Perman, West High School student, gave presentations on their visits to the bush communities.

John Steiner asked where a student can get the information regarding the exchange program. Panu Lucier stated information can be obtained from the Alaska Humanities Office, Native Forum, and high school counselors. Students will travel for two weeks (one week prior to spring break and the week of spring break). There are 22 spots available for students and 20 spots for teachers.

Harriet Drummond asked what the cost is for the program. Panu Lucier replied that the student participating is asked to host a visiting student and raise \$300, which goes to the host family they stay with in the bush to offset the cost.

Tim Steele inquired about the application process. Panu Lucier responded that the student must complete a 500 word essay, participate in an interview, and submit both an attendance report and transcripts for review.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Corey Rennell thanked Mary Marks, Jan Christensen, Gail Opalinski, Todd Arndt, and Carol Comeau for attending the Student Advisory Board Retreat on September 24, 2002. Mr. Rennell explained that Freedom's Answer is a nationwide youth-organized, nonpartisan movement that is mobilizing youths of all ages across American to maximize voter turnout in November. More than 2,000 schools across the nation are registered. He commented that Bartlett, Service, and West High Schools and Steller Secondary School are currently registered to participate. Mr. Rennell encouraged each Board member to contact the high school in their respective attendance area and encourage them to register for Freedom's Answer.

Mr. Rennell reminded the Board about the Statewide Youth Gubernatorial Debate scheduled for October 25, 2002 at Bartlett High School.

2. Military Delegate

The Military Delegate was absent.

3. MECC

The MECC representative was absent.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Robert Hayes stated that he filed a lawsuit against the School District for life-safety issues and feels the judgment against him for \$4,000 is too much for his family to afford. He feels that there should not be a

judgment because it never went to court. He encouraged the Board to do the right thing and have the charge removed.

John Steiner asked if the lawsuit went to court. Carol Comeau replied yes; and the court system awarded fees to the Anchorage School District.

Theresa Obermeyer commented that there are two items on the agenda that were not on the published agenda in the newspaper. She is concerned with items being added to the agenda after it has been published and with the District not following the open meetings law. She would like the agenda advertised in the newspaper the Saturday before the scheduled Board meeting. Ms. Obermeyer also would like the District to be nicer to Robert Hayes.

Carol Comeau noted that the School Board agendas are only effective on the date that they are published; agendas are updated on the web site and posted on the front door of the Administration Building. Ms. Comeau assured the public that the School District is not trying to violate the open meetings law.

Thomas Obermeyer is concerned that the high school students have not received the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam results from the spring testing. He feels that it is unreasonable for students to be able to prepare for the upcoming test when they don't have any idea what to study. Mr. Obermeyer commented that the Anchorage School District is not providing leadership and is not an advocate for students. He asked when the District is going to get the scoring right; out of 2,070 students at East High School, one-third of them are not expected to graduate. Mr. Obermeyer stated that the main role of public education in society is to develop human potential.

Carol Comeau clarified that the State Board of Education set the cut scores late in September. Counselors in our high schools are in the process of notifying students who did not pass the exam. She also stated that the Anchorage School District is frustrated with the timelines, but the District does not have the ability to not participate in the testing due to state law and Department of Education and Early Development regulations.

Paul Burns is the President of the East High Swimming Booster Club and has been a strong supporter of the District. He explained that his son was involved in a traffic accident while transporting students, at the request of his coach, from Service High School to East High School after swim practice. Mr. Burns wants a written report and feels that the Risk

Management office completed a poor investigation of the accident. His son was cited for the incident by the police department.

Tim Steele asked the Superintendent if she had any comments regarding this incident. Carol Comeau responded that she will look into it and talk with the staff at East High School.

G. 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 | September 9, 2002 | 4:30 p.m. |
| b. | Regular Meeting | September 9, 2002 | 6:30 p.m. |
| c. | Special Meeting | September 16, 2002 | 12:00 p.m. |

2. ASD Memorandum #69 – Resolution for School Bus Safety Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating October 2026, 2002, as School Bus Safety Week in the Anchorage School District.

3. ASD Memorandum #79 – Resolution for Red Ribbon Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating October 1927, 2002, as Red Ribbon Week in the Anchorage School District.

4. ASD Memorandum #96 – Nomination for AASB Outstanding School Board Member Award

The Anchorage School Board recommends that School Board member, Debbie Ossiander, be nominated for the Association of Alaska School Board's Outstanding School Board Member Award.

5. ASD Memorandum #77 – 2003 Legislative Priorities

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the 2003 Anchorage School District Legislative priorities (Attachment A).

6. ASD Memorandum #70 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Title VII Comprehensive School Grant: William Tyson Elementary School

It is the Administrator's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a Title VII Comprehensive School continuation grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA), in the amount of \$158,046. This award is for year five of a five-year project at William Tyson Elementary School. This project supports the restructuring of all programs that support instruction by emphasizing reading achievement using the school-wide model for bilingual education, Success for All.

7. ASD Memorandum #56 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Title VII Bilingual Program Development: Lake Hood Elementary School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA) in the amount of \$162,631 for the second year of a three-year project. The funds for the second year of this award will be used to provide comprehensive professional development for all Lake Hood staff members in order to improve bilingual services to ESL students in every classroom at Lake Hood Elementary School.

8. ASD Memorandum #67 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Manning Family Foundation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a cash grant from the Manning Family Foundation to Inlet View Elementary School in the amount of \$25,000.

9. ASD Memorandum #68 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Elementary School Counseling: Creating Successful Futures

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the U.S. Department of Education's

Safe and Drug-Free Schools Office, in the amount of \$329,248. The *Creating Successful Futures* (CSF) project provides counseling services that focus on prevention and early intervention for elementary students.

10. ASD Memorandum #78 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Reading Excellence Act Local Reading Improvement Grant: Fairview Elementary School

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 in the amount of \$183,260. This grant will provide funding for the first year of a two-year project to enable Fairview to implement strategies to promote reading achievement for students in kindergarten through grade three using research-based methods and materials.

11. ASD Memorandum #80 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: The Reshaping Education for All Learners (REAL) Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept continuation grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Language Affairs (OBEMLA) Title VII Training for all Teachers grant program, in the amount of \$143,341. This grant focuses on professional development for teachers who provide instruction to limited-English-proficient students, but who do not expect to become bilingual education or ESL specialists.

12. ASD Memorandum #82 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Alaska Community Learning Centers Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for after-school and summer programs through the Alaska Community Learning Centers Program. This state competition carries forward the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program through the No Child Left Behind Federal authorization. The Anchorage School District (ASD) application will propose the establishment of five additional afterschool 21st

Century programs in five high-needs schools, through a five-year grant period, at up to \$500,000 per year.

13. ASD Memorandum #71 – Approval of Schematic Design and Supplemental Educational Specifications for Eagle River High School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Schematic Design and Supplemental Educational Specifications for Eagle River High School project and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with the Design Development, subject to Municipal Assembly approval of the Schematic Design.

14. ASD Memorandum #75 – Professional Services Selection for Turnagain Elementary School Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of Architects Alaska, Inc. as the Designer for Turnagain Elementary School Renovation Project, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with Architects Alaska, Inc. for design services, subject to Municipal Assembly approval.

15. ASD Memorandum #76 – Professional Services Selection for Sand Lake Elementary School Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of Krochina Architects as the Designer for Sand Lake Elementary School Renovation Project, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with Krochina Architects for design services, subject to Municipal Assembly approval.

16. ASD Memorandum #72 – 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 # 79, #96, #77, #70, #82, and #71.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve minutes from the
seconded by Mary Marks Special Meeting of September 9,
2002 – 4:30 p.m.; Regular Meeting
of September 9, 2002 - 6:30 p.m.;
and Special Meeting of
September 16, 2002 – 12:00 p.m.;

Memorandum #69;
Memorandum #56;
Memorandum #67;
Memorandum #68;
Memorandum #78;
Memorandum #80;
Memorandum #75;
Memorandum #76; and
Memorandum #72.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele, Metcalfe,
Steiner, Holthouse, Drummond
Nays: None
MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #79 – Resolution for Red Ribbon Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating October 19-27, 2002, as Red Ribbon Week in the Anchorage School District.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve ASD Memorandum #79.
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that Red Ribbon Week has been a longstanding tradition of the District. During this week, almost all of our schools recognize the importance of healthy living. Ms. Comeau explained that this was a community initiative that began after the murder of a FBI Agent in Arizona. Many schools order ribbons and plan activities around this week-long celebration.

ASD Memorandum #77 – 2003 Legislative Priorities

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the 2003 Anchorage School District Legislative priorities (Attachment A).

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve ASD Memorandum #77.
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Ira Perman noted that he was not sure if this recommendation, in its current version, is included in the Alaska Studies initiative. On October 28, the State Board of Education will be discussing this issue and their hope is they will be able to establish a working group of three or more board members and staff to work with community members to go through those issues that came up during the review in Anchorage. The hope is that they will be able to accomplish this in an administrative fashion. Mr. Perman spoke with Representative Mary Kapsner just before that meeting to get some sense of what her thoughts were on the subject. She has every intention again of submitting House Bill 171 and having the legislature deal with it. She would also be very happy if it were dealt with at the administrative level, which was not an option last year. Mr. Perman emphasized that the leadership from the Anchorage School District has been very influential with the State Board of Education. He hopes that this will soon become a statewide requirement.

Rita Holthouse noted that there is a section on Alaska Studies issues in the document under "Issues of Note." She asked Mr. Perman if he would prefer to see it as one of the legislative priorities. Mr. Perman responded yes, but his first preference is to have it handled through an administrative process.

Tim Steele mentioned one of the concerns last year when this legislation was considered was the lack of financial support. If the administrative process does it, he assumes there may not be fiscal support to develop the curriculum. If the legislative process occurs, it may include financial support. Mr. Perman noted that he is not sure of the fiscal support, but noted that this will certainly be one of the discussion points for the working group. It is recognized as an issue that needs to be worked through and knows that there are funding sources that are available, but it will take a substantial amount of encouragement from the State Board of Education to make this happen.

Carol Comeau commented that she helped Mr. Perman testify before the State Board of Education because she believes this is a significant issue

for the state. On the curriculum issue, she told them that the District is beginning the committee process and development of our course and curriculum in October. Ms. Comeau's intent, once the curriculum is developed and approved by the School Board, is to share the curriculum across the state if requested. Many community agencies have offered assistance and have excellent resources to help with the development of the curriculum.

Carol Comeau announced that Dr. Larry Wiget is out of town attending the Council of Great City Schools Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Jake Metcalfe, Pataricia McRae, and she will be leaving in the morning for the conference.

Rita Holthouse explained the process used by the Legislative Subcommittee to establish the priorities.

Tim Steele asked if the Administration would verify the statement on page 5 under Staff Recruitment and Retention – Rationale: "...Alaska's colleges and universities supply about 30 percent of our states annual demand for new teachers." Mr. Steele questioned if 30 percent is an accurate figure.

Carol Comeau noted on page 5, under Personnel - Assault of School Employees, that AASA had approved a similar amendment similar to this one; replacing the word adult with individual. The rationale used for the change was to address a juvenile if he/she is waived into adult court for assaulting a school employee while in the line of duty. The superintendents voted unanimously to make that change at the AASA Conference. This would only apply to those convicted of this assault. Ms. Comeau asked if the Board discussed this. Rita Holthouse thought that this was one of the changes made to the wording from last year. The committee was concerned that the courts may not be willing to sentence a juvenile for a mandatory sentence.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to amend the section under Personnel – Assault of School Employees, page 5, line 2: change "adult" to "individual" and add "as an adult" between "convicted" and "of."

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele, Metcalfe,

Steiner, Holthouse, Drummond

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

Carol Comeau asked if the Legislative Subcommittee had discussed early entry and the Administration's request to have it become an administrative procedure. Carol Comeau commented that the law was changed last spring requiring each school board to take individual action on the part of every early age entry student. For years, it has been an administrative function that has worked very well. Rita Holthouse commented that this was discussed and she thought it had been included.

John Steiner called for a point of order and asked if we are on a timeline and must have all the legislative priorities set at this meeting or could additional language be drafted and returned at a future meeting. Debbie Ossiander responded yes, this has been done in the past.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she has spent a lot of time over the past few years discussing the importance of local control and talking about empowering school board members to make decisions about the educational program in their district. She believes that local school board members are the best people to know what the needs are in their district. Ms. Ossiander believes they need to listen and regularly talk with the people in their District to be able to make effective decisions. She has testified and spoken against some of the mandates in No Child Left Behind; she has testified and spoken with the State Legislature numerous times on that particular point. She also firmly believes that if locally elected officials are not given the chance to make the decisions based on what they see as the need then education as a whole will suffer. Ms. Ossiander stated that she will try to make an amendment to omit the Alaska Studies requirement. She did vote in favor of it for Anchorage and believes that it is right for Anchorage, but there are other districts within this state that feel that they have other pressing needs. She does not believe that it is necessarily right for other cities in the state. Ms. Ossiander commented that she applauds the Superintendent for willing to share this curriculum when it is developed. She stated since Anchorage has already adopted this requirement, we should not be lobbying for a state amendment when it does not affect us. Therefore, Ms. Ossiander will be making an amendment to omit Alaska Studies requirement from this memorandum.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to omit the Alaska Studies
seconded by John Steiner requirement.

Rita Holthouse informed Ms. Ossiander that the Alaska Studies requirement is not one of the legislative priorities, but listed under "Other Issues of Note." Debbie Ossiander commented that it is her understanding that everything listed in this document is a legislative priority.

John Steiner commented that it is extremely important that people across the state gain a better understanding about the relationships of various people within the state as well as the history and economy. This requirement will create a unified curriculum across the state for the students and give us a commonality among all of us. Mr. Steiner recognizes the concern for local control, but he will not be supporting this amendment.

Tim Steele agrees with Mr. Steiner's comments. He commented that the Legislative Subcommittee thought it was appropriate to support this initiative state-wide.

Mary Marks asked for clarification on page 7 – Other Issues of Note – Alaska Studies Rationale: it talks about the passing of a resolution at the AFN Convention calling for Alaska History education. She thought this had been done at the First Alaskans Institute at the Native Education Summit. Carol Comeau commented that it was passed at both events.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander

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

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILED

Jake Metcalfe passed the gavel to Vice President Tim Steele so he could make an amendment to the main motion.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Jake Metcalfe to add a new title "Curriculum
seconded by Rita Holthouse Issues" on page 6 and include the
section Alaska Studies under that
title.

Rita Holthouse stated that she is in favor of this change. This was hotly debated at the last meeting and is pleased to be moving it back into the main part of the document as a legislative priority. This moves this subject up in the order of importance.

Carol Comeau stated that she hopes the School Board will support this amendment, and appreciates Ms. Ossiander's perspective on local control. Ms. Comeau also does not like unfunded mandates, but what is so important about this issue is the message that Anchorage is sending. We have been praised by a number of rural districts for our advocacy on this issue. She stated that she cannot think of any issue more important right now to our students and adults, who need to have a much better and more comprehensive understanding of all the people that contribute to this state. We currently have 91 languages spoken in our District, which is up from 83 last year. Rural Alaska continues to be astounded by the diversity in Anchorage. This is a large state-wide issue; it is not just the Alaska Native issue and a rural/urban issue. This sends a significant message of importance to all students in the State of Alaska.

John Steiner suggested a friendly amendment that will make this document a little smoother. He would like to use "Curriculum" instead of "Curriculum Issues" and would like to drop "Other Issues of Note" with Federal under it and replace with "Federal Issues of Note." This was unanimously approved.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Ossiander

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to amend the last paragraph on page 8 under Revise Current IDEA Student Discipline Policy to read: Currently all students with disabilities who are suspended or expelled, even for violent acts unrelated to their disability, retain the right to a free and appropriate education in an alternative setting. Non-disabled students do not have this right. The Anchorage School Board objects to this federal mandate as to local discipline policy.

John Steiner offered an amendment to the last paragraph of the document where it refers to the "Student Discipline Policy." This paragraph gave him some concern because of the way it reads; it seems to suggest that we don't want to provide educational support to expelled students, which is not true.

Rita Holthouse will be supporting this amendment due to her continued concern over the dual discipline issue. She believes Mr. Steiner's amendment makes it very clear on what the objection is by this Board.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

ASD Memorandum #70 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award:
Title VII Comprehensive School Grant: William Tyson Elementary
School

It is the Administrator's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a Title VII Comprehensive

is pleased to learn that there is going to be added assessment data on these types of programs.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The School Board took a brief recess at 8:30 p.m. and returned at 8:45 p.m.

Alaska Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals (AAESSP)

Keith Taton introduced Dr. Jerry Tirozzi, President of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), and Dr. Vince Ferrandino, President of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). Dr. Taton is the President-elect of the NASSP for next year.

Both gave a brief presentation on their organization and discussed the No Child Left Behind legislation and the problems associated with the implementation of the act.

Rita Holthouse asked Dr. Ferrandino what some of the concerns were with the new legislation. Dr. Ferrandino responded that we must follow the law, but make it know to legislators the concerns we have and the need for revision. Dr. Tirozzi commented that he feels this group in Washington D. C. is truly inflexible. Requests for waivers have not been acted upon favorably. They may become more flexible if our legislators become involved and raise the issues with Congress.

Corey Rennell noted that Dr. Tirozzi's organization was one of the first to support the Freedom's Answer Program, which is a national attempt to encourage more people to get out and vote.

John Steiner asked if they suggest that principals work through their local school district or contact legislators directly. Dr. Ferrandino commented that he hopes that each district works as one unit; he feels that the issues are systemic in nature and should be discussed with the local district.

Rita Holthouse asked if there is movement from the democratic senators to change their mind regarding this legislation. Dr. Ferrandino

responded that some new bills have been introduced, but most likely will not be taken up until the new law has been in effect for a few years.

Carol Comeau thanked both Dr. Tirozzi and Dr. Ferrandino for taking time out of their busy schedule to address the School Board. She mentioned that she enjoyed listening to their national perspective on No Child Left Behind.

Dr. Taton also thanked the School Board for being supportive of the AAESP conference.

ASD Memorandum #82 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: 21st Century Community Learning Centers-Alaska Community Learning Centers Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for afterschool and summer programs through the Alaska Community Learning Centers Program. This state competition carries forward the Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program through the No Child Left Behind Federal authorization. The Anchorage School District (ASD) application will propose the establishment of five additional afterschool 21st Century programs in five high-needs schools, through a five-year grant period, at up to \$500,000 per year.

ACTION:

Moved by Mary Marks to approve ASD Memorandum
seconded by Debbie Ossiander #82.

Mary Marks commented that she has worked very closely with this program at Williwaw Elementary School. She has witnessed many changes in children who attend the program; their self-esteem, motivation, and excellent attendance say a lot about the program. Ms. Marks urged the School Board to review and approve this program.

Carol Comeau stated that this program allows students to be in a safe after school environment as well as experience enhanced academics. She would like to see this in all schools because it is making a difference.

Rita Hothouse asked how many schools have this program. Bonnie Hardy responded that we have 17 sites; five middle schools and 12 elementary schools. The additional five schools added will be

determined by Title I eligibility. Ms. Holthouse would like a list that includes both old and new sites.

Tim Steele commented that these programs have proven to be successful and hopes to see measurable results with them. He also stated that the Camp Fire after-school program has over 700 students on the wait lists.

John Steiner noted that we need to make sure that the public is aware that the 21st Century Learning Program is an educational program; this is not trying to take the place of the Camp Fire Program. Mr. Steiner would appreciate a list of the 21st Century Learning Center sites, the new schools chosen and why they were selected, and which schools applied but were not chosen.

Rita Holthouse asked the Administration if children from non 21st Century schools could participate in the program. Bonnie Hardy stated that the program is designed only for those students attending the schools that have the program. There are also wait lists for students in the participating schools.

Harriet Drummond stated that the Board agenda would be considerably streamlined if the Board was not interested in approving all grant applications. Carol Comeau commented that she is continuing to review those that she feels do not need to have prior Board approval before application can be made. She is trying to reduce the number of those applications that the Administration is bringing forward.

John Steiner stated that the curriculum audit questioned if every grant is an appropriate grant. He remains leery about reducing the number of approvals at this time; the Board may need to develop some criteria for approving grants. If the Board does not approve the application, they may not have the essential knowledge to make a good decision when the Board is requested to approve funds at a later date.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #71 – Approval of Schematic Design and Supplemental Educational Specifications for Eagle River High School

population or some other factor in the Department of Education & Early Development criteria, then it would not qualify for 70 percent reimbursement; it may be eligible for 60 percent reimbursement. She noted that this is a huge gain for Anchorage and will also benefit us with Polaris K-12, Chugach and some of our alternative programs that are program driven. Ms. Comeau stated that this project would most likely qualify for 60 percent reimbursement. She further stated that the extra square footage is not a concern at this time.

Debbie Ossiander noted that the negative issue is how much the project will cost; she would be very interested in anything we can do to make it a less expensive project. Ms. Ossiander commented that it will be a hard sell due to the cost.

Tim Steele thanked the Facilities Department for their work on the design. He is hoping that we continue with the effort to address the needs of the community by identifying different programs. He is concerned if we take the kids in the Eagle River/Chugiak area and divide them up, there will be two buildings that are less than 70 percent full. He is hoping for programs that are not only desirable, but needed in that area.

Mike Henry noted that there is a second meeting in November in the community with presenters of various programs. Mr. Henry stated that the Administration will be making a recommendation to the School Board sometime in November once the issues are addressed in the community.

Carol Comeau commented that there is some interest by the Fort Richardson community to attend this new school instead of Bartlett High School.

Rita Holthouse mentioned that she was pleasantly surprised over the cost of \$38.5 million dollars to build the new Eagle River High School; she thought it was estimated at \$50 million dollars. Ray Amsden responded that the difference is construction costs versus project cost. The total project cost is estimated at about \$49 million dollars.

John Steiner noted that sports fields are being planned for Phase 1; however, it is not known whether there will be a full athletic program at an 800 student school. There would be some bleachers that will be set up for the football field, but it would not be a complete stadium. Mr. Steiner asked if the football field would be placed so visitor bleachers could be added in Phase 2. Mr. Amsden responded yes. Mr. Steiner asked the

Administration if an amendment would be needed since the visitor bleachers were not mentioned in the concept design for Phase 2. Ray Amsden responded that he felt it would not be necessary for additional amendments and noted that several Assembly members also want to see the fields completely built out.

Mr. Steiner stated that he had an additional question about a running track surrounding the upper portion of the gymnasium and noted that it was not included in the original education specifications even though it was in the prototype. He asked Mr. Amsden what the cost would be to add the track as an additive alternate in Phase 1. Mr. Amsden commented that it is estimated to cost \$400,000 to complete in Phase I and \$600,000 in Phase 2. If the track was completed in Phase 1, there would be a \$200,000 savings.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner to amend the main motion and
seconded by Debbie Ossiander request that a running track be
added as an additive alternate in
Phase 1.

Mr. Steiner commented that he made the amendment because this school may be eligible for 60 percent reimbursement from the state. He stated that it seems well worth our while to put this in when we have a \$200,000 cost savings plus reimbursement from the state. It is unknown when the second phase will be built and whether any reimbursement will be available when we get to the second phase. The running track will be very useful for the school from the beginning and will avoid the need to tear into the school during Phase 2. It also gives the Board the flexibility to determine if it can be fit within the project budget.

Harriet Drummond asked if the community is interested in having the running track or is it just the preference of one individual Board member. Carol Comeau stated that she assumes the community wants the track. Kathy Vermaat responded that this topic comes up in every community meeting she has attended.

Rita Holthouse asked if putting the track into Phase 1 will increase the cost that we have to go to the voters for bonding. Carol Comeau responded yes; the hard part of this project is that we are saving on some things by using the prototype, but the initial cost for the first phase is going to be substantial because some of the things we have to build because they are part of the core or because it is cheaper to design them

for the first phase. Ms. Comeau stated that when the second phase is ready to be built, it is going to be very simple in comparison.

Debbie Ossiander asked for clarification on the running track. Her understanding was during the initial discussion that it was to be an additive alternate, which doesn't necessarily increase the budget for the project. If the bid comes in low and the money is available, then it is completed; if the money is not there, the track is not added. Ray Amsden indicated that Ms. Ossiander summarized it very well.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele,
Metcalf, Steiner,

Nays: Holthouse, Drummond

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED.

Debbie Ossiander noted that she spoke with Ray Amsden about potentially applying for a variance or some flexibility from AWWU on the requirement that the water line go all the way around the front of the property. She appealed to the Administration to utilize the School Board as an advocacy tool in terms of lobbying. Ms. Ossiander commented that she would be more than happy to appear before the Assembly and or AWWU Board to lobby for a variance that will save significant amounts of money. She stated that she doesn't understand why the water line must go all the way around the property. Ray Amsden commented that he appreciates the offer and is seriously pursuing a reduction in costs. Since speaking with Ms. Ossiander earlier on this topic, Mr. Amsden informed the Board that Kathy Vermaat received a formal request from the State of Alaska to participate in a water improvement district.

Corey Rennell asked if there was going to be a swimming pool at the new high school. Carol Comeau responded that both Eagle River and South Anchorage High Schools will not have pools in their new buildings. The pools currently in the high schools are under the management rights of the Municipality.

Rita Holthouse commented that she hopes that the Chugiak/Eagle River community understands they will be going from a large group of students in one high school to small populations in two school sites. This move will affect many programs and will most certainly lower their level of competitiveness among the rest of the high schools. Ms. Holthouse emphasized that she does not want this new high school to be a satellite to Chugiak High School. Mike Henry responded that when Eagle River High School is built, the enrollments at Chugiak as well as Service,

Dimond, and South Anchorage High Schools will be substantially reduced.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

Nomination of Mary Marks to the Association of Alaska School Boards
Board of Directors

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to nominate Mary Marks to the
seconded by Rita Holthouse Association of Alaska School
Board's Board of Directors.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Marks

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #30 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of September 12, 2002, through October 1, 2002.

John Steiner noted an error on page two of the report on Dimond High School. Ray Amsden apologized for the error and noted that the change order percentage on Dimond should have reflected 2.5 percent instead of 20 percent.

2. ASD Memorandum #74 – Enrollment Status Update

Enrollment figures as of September 30, 2002, the official membership date for the District, indicate that the Anchorage School District has exceeded the September 30, 2001 membership by 353 students. The September 30, 2002 total of 50,029 students is

the largest active enrollment in the history of the Anchorage School District.

Carol Comeau noted the increase of students and stated that the Demographics Department is still analyzing the data on where the students are coming from.

Patricia McRae stated that there are 396 students on the wait list for Northern Lights ABC. The school entered the data but a computer glitch prevented it from appearing on the enrollment report.

3. ASD Memorandum #47 – Budget Review Process FY 2003-2004

During the past two years the Anchorage School District has actively sought community input in the budget development process. In preparing the FY 2001-2002 budget, the District engaged 200 community members, employees and students in budget review teams. The FY 2002-2003 budget was prepared after contact with budget review team members and gathering input from four community forums and online and written suggestions.

The community plays a significant role in the development of the preliminary budget prepared by the administration, in the approval of the budget by the Anchorage Assembly and in our efforts to secure additional funding from the Alaska Legislature.

Carol Comeau noted that the Administration went through a much revised budget review process last year. A suggestion box was developed last year and has proved to be very valuable. Due to the interest from the community on the No Child Left Behind legislation and the Curriculum Audit, the Administration is planning four community forums. There will be one in Eagle River, one in Girdwood, and two in the Anchorage bowl. This information will assist the Administration and School Board while they struggle with the potential fiscal gap. Ms. Comeau will have this information for the Board at the November 4 work session.

Jake Metcalfe encouraged Board members to attend the community forums.

4. ASD Memorandum #62 – Treasurer’s Report/Financial Recap: August 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 August 31, 2002.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Rita Holthouse asked if there is anything available to assist teachers who are teaching combination classes. Patricia McRae mentioned that the Math Curriculum Department had a recent inservice on this topic for teachers and principals. She also commented that the revised math curriculum makes it much easier to align the concept so they match for two different grade levels. They have identified the critical concepts so that they can teach one concept to the whole class. Ms. McRae stated that this topic continues to be a issue, but revised teachers edition make it much easier for the teachers.

Carol Comeau asked if it would be helpful to send a survey to the teachers of combination classes and inquire if they would like some help with math. Ms. Holthouse responded that she would like to see it more generalized than just asking about math. She continues to be concerned about the lack of assistance available for brand new teachers who have been assigned to a combination classes. Carol Comeau noted that she will work on this topic.

Debbie Ossiander expressed her concern with Everyday Math. She continues to hear comments from the public on this math program. Carol Comeau stated that she knows that this is a controversial program; intermediate teachers remain concerned over this. Dale Cope stated that she has two additional math teacher experts available and is planning additional training for teachers.

John Steiner shared the fact that he attended the potlatch at Chugiak High School which was held to dedicate the smaller learning community houses. He stated that it was a wonderful experience and encouraged Board members to attend the function next year.

Corey Rennell mentioned that his manual for the National School Board Association is in the Superintendent's Office for review.

Rita Holthouse asked if the Board could have an update on the move to smaller learning communities. She does not want a major presentation, but would like to know where the high schools are at this point. Carol Comeau noted that Pat Podvin will be giving a report to the Board on October 28, 2002.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of October 14, 2002 was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. The School Board reconvened to the Special Meeting, which had been recessed earlier at 6:25 p.m.

Jake Metcalfe, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved