

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 11, 2002**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, November 11, 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, Rita Holthouse, and Harriet Drummond. John Steiner jointed the meeting via teleconference at 7:35 p.m.

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

Tim Steele announced that he participated in the AASB Conference this past weekend and that it was well attended.

Upcoming meetings were announced: School Board Work Sessions on November 18, 2002 to discuss the Curriculum Audit; School Board Work Session on November 21, 2002 to discuss Profiles of Performance; School Board Work Session on November 25, 2002 to discuss the Highland Tech Charter School proposal; Joint School Site Selection Committee meeting on November 13, 2002; Audit Subcommittee Meeting on November 14, 2002 to discuss Printing and Payroll Audits; Policy Subcommittee Meeting on November 14, 2002 to discuss Section 400; and Joint School Board/Assembly Meeting on November 22, 2002.

Carol Comeau noted that ASD Memorandum #108 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2002-2003 School Year should be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Superintendent's Report.

Carol Comeau announced that November is Alaska Native Heritage month; Channel 14 has scheduled various programs in honor of Alaska Natives and American Indians.

Jake Metcalfe noted that November 11 is Veterans Day and thanked all veterans for their service.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved with the following changes: move ASD Memorandum #108 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2002-2003 School Year to the Superintendent's Report; the addendum to the Personnel Report be added to the Consent Agenda; and a name change under Announcements to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2002.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #106 - Alaska's 2003 Assistant Principal of the Year

Johanna Naylor of the Central Middle School of Science was recently named Alaska's 2003 Assistant Principal of the Year. This award, presented at the 36th Annual Fall Principals Conference by McDonalds Corporation and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recognizes outstanding secondary assistant principals who have succeeded in providing high quality learning opportunities for students. Award-winning assistant principals are chosen for their ability to: demonstrate excellent leadership to staff and students, service to their communities, and contributions to the overall profession of educational leadership. Naylor is now in the running with 51 other state winners, to become one of three finalists eligible for national assistant principal of the year.

It is requested the School Board recognize honoree Johanna Naylor for professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm that led to this award.

2. ASD Memorandum #112 - Hickel Book Donations

Even with the growing dependence on computers, books remain an invaluable component in education. Our school libraries still rely on the written word in its traditional format to inform and enlighten students. So anytime the district receives a donation of quality books, it is accepted with sincere appreciation.

Former Governor Walter Hickel felt his latest literary work would be an insightful and educational resource for Anchorage School District students, so he donated copies to all district secondary school libraries. The book, "Crisis in the Commons: the Alaska Solution," offers up a solution to human suffering not just for the country, but for the entire world.

Governor Hickel's concept of "the commons" refers to publicly owned land and resources. The crisis referred to in the book's title is the way in which we manage the commons. It is an idea derived from a life lived in Alaska, where nearly 90 percent of the land is publicly owned and residents over the years have helped forge the nation's only "Owner State," as Governor Hickel calls it.

The book puts forth an idea that Alaskans have learned much from the "obligation of ownership." That obligation involves being good stewards of land and resources, and electing leaders who will further the common good, rather than the good of their corporate sponsors. He feels that the Alaska approach may become the solution for many others, far beyond Alaska.

It is requested that the School Board recognize Governor Hickel for his generous donation.

Carol Comeau thanked former Governor and Mrs. Walter Hickel for their contribution of the book to all secondary school libraries.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Corey Rennell noted that the next Student Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for November 21 at 11:30 a.m.

2. Military Delegate

LTC Mulcahy had no report.

3. MECC

The representative from MECC was absent.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Jerry Winchester, Architect for the East High School renovation, spoke on Smaller Learning Communities. Mr. Winchester commented that Mike Graham is doing a great job in developing the Smaller Learning Communities and is way ahead in aligning his staff and facilities. He applauded the School Board, Superintendent, and the ASD staff for their involvement and support of the Smaller Learning Communities.

Theresa Obermeyer thanked the District for being a good listener to people with problems. She commended the principals in the District in support of the resolution for Alaska School Principals' Recognition Day. Ms. Obermeyer commented that she has been a trespasser at East High School since December 15, 2000 and is unsure why that occurred.

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	October 14, 2002	4:30 p.m.
b.	Regular Meeting	October 14, 2002	6:30 p.m.
c.	Special Meeting	October 22, 2002	12:15 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #100 - Resolution for American Education Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 17-23, 2002, as American Education Week in the Anchorage School District.

3. ASD Memorandum #125 - Resolution in Support of Alaska School Principal Recognition Day

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution in support of Alaska School Principal Recognition Day, November 15, 2002.

4. ASD Memorandum #92 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Carl Perkins

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the Carl Perkins Grant in the amount of \$930,509 for 2002-2003. Funds will be used to support vocational and technical education in the Anchorage School District.

5. ASD Memorandum #107 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Physical Education for Progress

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Physical Education for Progress Grant Program in the amount of \$388,966. This one-year project provides for mentoring of physical educators in specific areas of the adopted curriculum, purchase of fitness-related equipment, and data collection on the fitness levels of students at project sites.

6. ASD Memorandum #109 - Acceptance of Contract: Alaska Native Heritage Center

It is recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Native Heritage Center in the amount of \$50,000. This contract supports design and development of curriculum for the Alaska Studies course.

7. ASD Memorandum #111 - Acceptance of Continuation Contract: Northwest Regional Eisenhower Consortium

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a contract renewal from the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratories in the amount of \$8,000. This research project provides professional development to teachers at Nunaka Valley Elementary School and Wendler Middle School in order to improve students' mathematics performance.

8. ASD Memorandum #108 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2002-2003 School Year

The purpose of this report is to inform the School Board on a quarterly basis of new grants that have been submitted for funding.

9. ASD Memorandum #101 - FY 2003-2004 Financial Planning

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2003-2004 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the budget for FY 2003-2004 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenue not-to-exceed \$484,279,385. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

	<u>FY 2003-2004 Financial Plan</u>
General Fund	\$ 372,765,000
Food Service Fund	13,120,000
Debt Service Fund	58,394,385
Local/State/Federal Projects Fund	<u>40,000,000</u>
Total - All Funds	<u>\$ 484,279,385</u>

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated costs increases, School Board requests, Administration, community, staff and students' budget review recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility must be allowed for adjustments based on updated demographic and/or economic information, as well as staffing based on review of student enrollment projections.

10. ASD Memorandum #102 - 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 #100, #107, and #101.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Mary Marks

to approve minutes from the
Special Meeting of October 14,
2002 - 4:30 p.m.; Regular Meeting
of October 14, 2002 - 6:30 p.m.; and
Special Meeting of October 22,
2002 - 12:15 p.m.;
Memorandum #125;
Memorandum #92;
Memorandum #109;
Memorandum #111; and
Memorandum #102 with
Addendum.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele,
Metcalf, Holthouse, Drummond

Nays: None

Absent: Steiner

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #100 - Resolution for American Education Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 17-23, 2002, as American Education Week in the Anchorage School District.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Mary Marks

to approve ASD Memorandum
#100.

Carol Comeau noted that it is important to recognize American Education Week and the principals this week. Many activities are taking place in the schools this week to recognize education.

Theresa Obermeyer commented that she would like to start a law school in Alaska. Alaska is the only state in the United States that does not have a law school. She also noted that she has been a victim of criminal acts against her family.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Marks, Steele,

Metcalfe, Holthouse, Drummond

Nays: None

Absent: Steiner

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #107 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Physical Education for Progress

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Physical Education for Progress Grant Program in the amount of \$388,966. This one-year project provides for mentoring of physical educators in specific areas of the adopted curriculum, purchase of fitness-related equipment, and data collection on the fitness levels of students at project sites.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Tim Steele

to approve ASD Memorandum
#107.

Carol Comeau requested Sharon Vaissiere come forward to answer any questions the School Board may wish to address. Ms. Vaissiere stated that the curriculum was developed five years ago based on the national standards for physical education. She noted that this grant will support a better implementation of this program; the grant will also address the growing need of new staff in the program. There is a significant amount of release time for educators to mentor others that have less than three to five years of experience in the District. A big part of the Request for Proposal included data collection that will allow some baseline data to be collected at the elementary level which would then be used to see what fitness level students achieve at the middle level. Ms. Vaissiere explained that the evaluator, who is with the project from UAA, has extensive experience in health related topics. Pre and post information at the middle and high school levels will be collected in the Lifetime Personal Fitness classes.

Tim Steele noted that this is a one-time mentoring project, but hopes that it will lead to something permanent within the District. The information obtained during the evaluation process will be important for replacement teachers.

Debbie Ossiander noted a concern about the significant amount of release time and asked if the Administration looked at allowing a teacher to go on a sabbatical leave instead of short-term leaves, which causes less disruption to students. Carol Comeau also commented that she has significant concerns over the amount of release time.

Gail Opalinski explained that the release time is a block of time that is organized as a whole unit of class for another teacher to teach; there will not be a situation where a teacher is in and out of the classroom. Expert teachers would be out approximately 50 days.

Sharon Vaissiere noted that she would like to call the federal government and ask if the grant could be run from January to January. This would give the District the advantage of running some training sessions during the summer months, which would reduce the amount of time teachers are out of their buildings.

Rita Holthouse commented that she is not supporting this grant due to the significant number of release days. She has many concerns with the removal of teachers from the classroom. There would be 267 days when students have sub teachers. Ms. Holthouse would prefer using the summer months or Saturdays for the training, but won't support the grant the way it is written. She believes that we need to have teachers in the classroom with students; taking teachers out of the classroom for 267 days is not the way to accomplish this task.

Theresa Obermeyer commented that she marvels at the professionalism of the District employees and feels it would be a fun job to be a physical education teacher.

Carol Comeau stated that she does not disagree with Ms. Holthouse and has the same concern. She asked Ms. Vaissiere if there is a way to rewrite the grant to complete the majority of the training during the summer months. If this is possible, she would like to bring this grant back to the Board for further discussion. Ms. Vaissiere stated that Bev Thornburg is currently negotiating with the federal government to make some modifications and if successful, a large part of the training will be done during the summer.

Harriet Drummond stated that she doesn't have a problem with the grant because it is not in an academic area. She commented that this issue is a perfect example to include in our legislative priorities and to ask the legislature to fund an extended school year. Ms. Drummond noted that it

is critical to bring this type of education to kids who have never been exposed to these types of activities.

MOTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to lay the pending question on the
seconded by Rita Holthouse table.

Carol Comeau stated that she would like to bring this memorandum back to the Board for further discussion if the motion to table fails. She would like additional time to find out if there is any flexibility with the federal government to modify the grant. Carol Comeau responded that it might take up to a week to secure an answer from the federal government.

Tim Steele commented that getting our teachers motivated and aligned to standards becomes a benefit to the District. If this was an academic subject, he feels it would be more of a problem with the sub days. Mr. Steele will support this grant.

Debbie Ossiander is supportive of Ms. Holthouse's position and thinks this would be a good time to focus on contact time with teachers.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse,

Nays: Marks, Metcalfe, Drummond

Absent: Steiner

MOTION TO TABLE FAILS

Debbie Ossiander requested Superintendent Comeau pull ASD Memorandum #107 from the agenda until further information can be obtained.

Carol Comeau stated that she would be pulling ASD Memorandum #107 from the Consent Agenda. This passed unanimously.

ASD Memorandum #101 - FY 2003-2004 Financial Planning

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2003-2004 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the budget for FY 2003-2004 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenue not-to-exceed \$484,279,385. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

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Total - All Funds	<u>\$ 484,279,385</u>

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated costs increases, School Board requests, Administration, community, staff and students' budget review recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility must be allowed for adjustments based on updated demographic and/or economic information, as well as staffing based on review of student enrollment projections.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve ASD Memorandum
seconded by Mary Marks #101.

John Steiner joined the School Board meeting via teleconference.

Carol Comeau emphasized that as of today, there is a projected fiscal gap of \$3.4 million dollars. This amount could change based on our analysis of every single aspect of the budget. Ms. Comeau commented that the Administration is in the beginning stages of the budget process, but will be bringing forward a balanced budget to the School Board for review in January 2003. She stated that \$5 million dollars will be used from the undesignated fund balance to offset the anticipated shortfall. Ms. Comeau commented that it is very important that the public understand that this \$5 million is not additional revenue, but from the undesignated fund balance. John Steiner suggested adding a footnote to the figure with an explanation as to where it came from.

Tim Steele questioned if expansion of the technology plan is necessary to implement our academic/test score data. Carol Comeau responded that we must get computers into the hands of the teachers so student data can be retrieved if we are going to improve our instructional program. The

Administration is currently looking at a new student information system. We also may have to look at adding technology to the bond package.

Harriet Drummond asked about the funding for the development of the Alaska Studies course. Carol Comeau noted that additional resources may need to be requested for the development of the curriculum or training. Currently, there are many resources within the community who have expressed an interest in helping develop the curriculum.

Jake Metcalfe commented that all legislative candidates supported full funding of education in their campaigns. He stated that it is up to the School Board to determine the meaning of "full funding" and travel to Juneau to talk with the legislature to find out what they believe full funding actually means.

Carol Comeau commented that when the budget recommendation is brought forward, there will be a public discussion on what was done to arrive at a balanced budget. Two public hearings will be held and then the School Board will have a first and second reading. Ms. Comeau also stated that if additional revenue is not identified, she will be recommending various budget cuts.

John Steiner commented that he is concerned about several items that must be addressed by the District; i.e., contracts must be negotiated, No Child Left Behind requirements, Curriculum Audit recommendations, etc. Carol Comeau stated that she will be addressing these needs as well as many more. She does not know what negotiations will bring, but the District must bargain in good faith. The District will work on the federal level to address the requirements of No Child Left Behind and changes in our practices may be required in relation to the Curriculum Audit. Ms. Comeau stated that we must review our resources and possibly reorganize and redirect the way we do things to meet the needs of the District.

John Steiner asked if the School District should be housing charter schools or should it be an obligation of the state. Carol Comeau commented that this is a discussion that needs to take place with the Board. There are three charter school proposals that will be coming before the Board for discussion in late November and early December. Housing continues to be a major topic of concern. Mr. Steiner stated that this is an area that the Board could possibly explore with the legislature.

John Steiner noted the food service budget and asked for an understanding of the fund balance carried in the past and how the determination is made to raise the meal price rather than take money from the fund balance if additional funds are required. Carol Comeau stated if the fund balance drops below a certain point, the Administration comes forward with a request for a meal price increase. George Vakalis commented that replacement equipment can only be purchased through the fund balance. He further commented that there will be no increase to the cost of meals if we have an adequate fund balance to complete repairs and replace equipment. If the fund balances is not adequate, the price of meals may need to be increased. Carol Comeau stated that the School Board would be approving any price increase for meals.

Debbie Ossiander commented that the expenditure change from last week according to the memorandum is related to the reexamination of the average teacher salary.

Rita Holthouse stated that she has seen a decrease in the overall number of special education students in the past several years, but noted an increase in the number of intensive needs students. Carol Comeau commented that we are looking very carefully at the statistics for special education students to see if we are providing enough support to our students and staff. Jerry Sjolander noted that the number of level 3 students receiving services is down, and the number of level 2 is up. Mr. Sjolander commented that the District has a large number of level 2 students receiving significant support who don't qualify for level 3 funding. Rita Holthouse expressed a concern that the District is spending more money to support students but receiving less funding.

Mary Marks questioned why the ten new buses were placed under new equipment and not under Transportation. Janet Stokesbary stated that the District is reimbursed over a seven year schedule and is discussing whether to bond for the buses or not. Pupil transportation revenue over a seven year period will be transferred to the debt service fund.

Tim Steele commented that the Administration did exactly what the Board directed them to do; the upper limit of the budget is very conservative. We have to assume that the funding will be the same that we received last year. The Board must tell Juneau what our needs are and what we would do with the additional revenue. Mr. Steele is confident that the Administration will return with a well thought out budget for the Board to consider.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

The meeting was recessed at 8:35 p.m. and resumed at 8:50 p.m.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #103 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of October 16, 2002, through October 31, 2002.

John Steiner asked about the options that were being investigated for Service High School Phase 2A. He would like discussion on the various options and the cost of the alternatives that were discarded. Ray Amsden responded that two options were weighed – start the construction in 2002-2003 or defer construction until the new South Anchorage Area High School opens in the fall of 2004. A discussion initiated by the parents and staff made it very clear that they wanted to defer construction until the enrollment at the school declined due to the opening of the new high school.

Pat Podvin noted that the PTSA became very interested and became involved in the discussions regarding the construction. Mr. Podvin stated that he would need 35 more relocatables if construction were to begin next year and would take up the field in the back of the school as well as the new parking lot. He stated that the PTSA unanimously supports waiting a year until the new school opened. There were community-wide meetings held and the pros and cons were discussed as well as double shifting, moving kids, and keeping kids in middle school one year longer. One hundred people voted; 85 wanted construction deferred and 15 wanted to begin construction or look at other alternatives. Information flyers were sent out to 500 PTSA members; 100 were returned. Mr. Podvin stated that the Service High School staff was unanimous in wanted to delay construction for one year.

John Steiner asked if Dimond High School was considered for housing Service students. Carol Comeau responded that there is quite a difference in allowing middle school students, who don't drive, attend Dimond rather than allowing older students who can drive attend the facility. Ms. Comeau commented that she did not think the neighborhood could accommodate the older students who drive. Mr. Podvin noted that no one who attended the community meetings was interested in having their high school student moved to Dimond.

Rita Holthouse asked what the cost was to move a relocatable. George Vakalis responded that the cost is \$700 but there are sizable costs to hook it up. Currently, they do not have enough relocatables to move to the site. He feels it would be a waste of good money to build new relocatables.

John Steiner complimented George Vakalis for doing such an admirable job of managing the huge volume of construction projects.

Carol Comeau asked the School Board what their priorities were regarding school site selections. Mr. Vakalis commented that we currently have funding for one site, but if additional funds were received, he would like to know what the priorities would be.

Carol Comeau stated that the site most in need would be in southwest Anchorage for an elementary school. A new ABC school site is also a priority, but the population that will fill this school would come from other schools; Chugiak/Eagle River site has been bonded so we must move forward; southwest area would be the next priority after the Chugiak/Eagle River site.

Debbie Ossiander commented that the Site Selection Committee has been vocal about having the Heritage Land Bank step-up to their responsibilities. Ms. Ossiander wants the feasibility of using the site at 92nd and Arctic considered for an ABC school site. Carol Comeau reminded the Board that this site was looked at for the Northern Lights ABC school several years ago. Currently there is no infrastructure in place, but is currently being developed.

Jake Metcalfe proposed that the School Board prioritize sites in the following order: Chugiak/Eagle River; Southwest; ABC; and

Goldenview. John Steiner stated that if we want to alter the order, we must place it at as an action item at another meeting.

2. ASD Memorandum #110 - Quarterly Report on Smaller Learning Communities

The main goals of Smaller Learning Communities are to personalize education for all students, increase opportunities and academic achievement for all students, and create a safe and welcoming environment at school. Our high schools are large, and it is too easy for students to remain anonymous or get lost in the crowd. By dividing the large school into smaller parts (houses), we will be able to better serve all students. We want to retain the advantages of being large schools, while gaining some of the benefits that smaller schools have. We are attempting to provide the best of both worlds.

Mike Henry gave a brief report on the Smaller Learning Communities and explained that each high school has a part-time coordinator for the project. He explained that not all schools are moving at the same pace and will all look very different. The intent of the smaller learning communities is to break-up the large high school and personalize each of them.

Pat Podvin noted that this movement has been nationwide for the past ten years. Currently, the high schools in Anchorage are considered very large. Anchorage has some of the best schools and this move to smaller learning communities will only make them better. They are looking at the curriculum and how to make students do better and how to personalize education as a whole. One of the benefits of the large schools and important to parents is the fact that more classes can be offered; there are also lots of other benefits with small schools. The focus is to combine both efforts. Anchorage is right on with NWREL recommendations for smaller learning communities. Mr. Podvin further noted that all schools may be doing something different, but all have the same intent. There are six schools that are working very closely and meet once a month to discuss ideas.

Rita Holthouse commented that she is delighted that the Administration is allowing schools to have site level authority. She asked Mr. Henry if the lack of planning time at the high school level is a budgetary issue. Mike Henry responded that it is

certainly a big issue and there has been discussion about banking time to allow teachers to get together to collaborate. He is sure that he will be returning to the Board to request additional time for teachers. They are currently spending a substantial amount of money on addenda for teachers to work on Saturdays and Sundays.

Rita Holthouse commented that she hopes the Board will step-up to the table and support the high school need. Carol Comeau stated that one issue of school reform is the need for teachers to meet to collaborate and plan. She further stated that the District must be creative and put some resources into this area.

Mary Marks asked Mr. Podvin if he is hearing from other staffs that they are having a hard time finding time to meet. Mr. Podvin responded that just finding the time is a huge issue and it is difficult to get everyone involved.

Carol Comeau asked Mr. Podvin if he talked with other schools when he attended the recent conference in Atlanta. Mr. Podvin responded yes and commented that it takes three main strategies to make this work: you work with the people you can at the time and build the program over time; add more days in the calendar for teachers or bank time; and figure out how to have an extended school day.

Tim Steele asked Mr. Henry how West was able to bring on the Virtual School so fast. Mike Henry responded that 99 percent of the credit should go to Mr. Jim Bailey, the new principal at West High School. Mr. Bailey and his staff were excited about the challenge.

Rita Holthouse noted that middle school planning teams have time every day to plan and asked how frequently high schools need planning time. Carol Comeau requested a recommendation from Mr. Henry within the next month to see what he believes is essential and what are some of the issues surrounding this. Ms. Comeau also encouraged Patricia McRae to bring a proposal forward for elementary schools on this topic.

John Steiner asked if the Board will be able to review benchmarks and other data and see what the relative success is at the different schools. Carol Comeau responded that we will be able to

accomplish this eventually, but will need some baseline data. There is an evaluation component in the grant and hopes there is a piece on student achievement and how it is improving student learning.

John Steiner noted that there were concerns in the curriculum audit with the last of consistency. He is pleased that there is autonomy within the District so we can monitor both sides of the coin and adjustments may be made.

3. ASD memorandum #104 - School Starting Times: Quarterly Report

At the April 16, 2002, Special School Board Meeting, the Board requested quarterly reports on the subject of school starting times. It is recognized there continues to be an interest within the Anchorage community for revising the current school starting times. Yet, it was determined last year that there was not sufficient support for any of the time change proposals. Last year's data from all sources indicated more respondents were satisfied with the current school start times than any single proposed change. Still, it was noted that if all the starting time change options were added together, it could be asserted many people are willing to consider an alteration in school starting times.

Mike Henry spoke about extending the school day with seventh and eighth hours and the difficulties. Seventh and eighth hours are generally reserved for clubs and sports and it is difficult for students to attend classes. High schools are currently offering the extended day, but are experiencing limited success. Mr. Henry explained how Virtual School is working at West High.

Gail Opalinski noted that there are few opportunities to extend the day in middle schools. Currently, jazz band is offered; five schools offer tutoring and enrichment classes through the 21st Century Grant. Learning Opportunity Grant money offers tutoring and some money for busing. MOST is a program for older learners in middle school that allows students to come in at 9:00 a.m. and leave at 4:00 p.m. This program provides students with city transit bus tokens and allows parents to drive their students to and from school.

Patricia McRae commented that there are a number of schools that have the 21st Century Grant. Some of these school programs also utilize the transit system.

Jerry Sjolander commented that he is able to provide special education support similar to the summer school program, which is more individualized with smaller groups.

Carol Comeau will continue to research this topic. She commented that a late start is sometimes difficult for students to shift too. Other districts are struggling with this issue as well. We need to identify which students could benefit from a different schedule.

Darrell Kiefer has two children in high school. He presented a poster board with pictures of high school students sleeping in school. He is concerned about students staying awake in school with only seven hours of sleep. Mr. Kiefer feels that the school should adapt to the student rather than having the student adapt to the school.

John Steiner asked if there is enough interest at one of the schools where teachers and students would like to move to a shifted schedule. Carol Comeau responded that one of the smaller learning communities in the high schools could bring forward a proposal for a different start time. The Administration is open to talking about this issue.

4. ASD Memorandum #105 - Continuation School for Expelled Students

It is recommended that the Anchorage School District open a continuation program for expelled students starting on January 20, 2003. During the August 26, 2002, ASD regular School Board meeting, the revision of the 2002-2003 Revised Financial Plan (memorandum #24,) was approved. That approval included the use of Learning Opportunity Grant funding for the continuation program.

The program will be available for second drug and alcohol offenders and will be used as an alternative to expulsion. Students will now have the opportunity to continue their studies and progress toward graduation. The program has been designed to

allow students to enter at any date and move at their own pace in earning credit toward graduation. The program will not be designed to graduate students, but to allow them to continue progress and to transition back into their home high school after School Board reinstatement.

The program will be staffed with a principal, two teachers and an administrative assistant. Teachers will be trained in the use of on-line instruction from the PLATO Courseware Company and each will be trained to instruct students in a variety of grade levels, and in a variety of subject areas.

A site has been selected near Arctic and International (401 W. International Road, rooms 27 & 29) which meets the parking, classroom and safety criteria.

Carol Comeau stated that she received approval from the School Board to explore the subject of a continuation school. This was due to the Board's interest in the students who were experimenting with drugs and alcohol and not receiving an education.

Mike Henry announced that Karin Parker is the new principal and will begin work on November 18, 2002. She will be hiring two teachers and one administrative assistant to put together some policies and procedures. Students will not have access to the entire curriculum, but will continue with core subjects and work experience. This is not intended to be a full-blown school, but a chance for students to continue with their education. Mr. Henry emphasized that they do not plan to graduate students; the goal is to return students to their home schools. He stated the structure would be similar to SAVE and Benny Benson Secondary Schools.

Rita Holthouse inquired if the District will be able to require students to complete certain requirements. Carol Comeau responded yes that requirements can be established. This allows students who don't have IEPs to receive their core education while receiving help with other issues. Once requirements are met, the student can apply for reinstatement. The whole idea is to assist young people return to a regular school setting.

5. ASD Memorandum #87 - Out of District Travel - First Quarter Report FY 2002-2003

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the first quarter of FY 2002-2003 for both in-state and out-of-state travel. This report complies with the travel procedures established with the revision to School Board Policy Sections 156, Board Member Travel, and 526, Staff Travel.

6. ASD Memorandum #84 - Treasurer's Report Recap: September 30, 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 September 30, 2002.

7. ASD Memorandum #108 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2002-2003 School Year

The purpose of this report is to inform the School Board on a quarterly basis of new grants that have been submitted for funding.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Harriet Drummond announced that she received a letter from the Alaska Department of Water Conservation, which listed schools with violations. Anchorage School District schools, Bear Valley and Girdwood, were found guilty of monitoring violations.

Jake Metcalfe announced that the First Alaskan Institute Conference is scheduled for December 9-10, 2002. Board members wishing to attend should notify Mary Kay Sambo.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of November 11, 2002 was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Jake Metcalfe, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved