

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2002**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, December 9, 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, Dale Cope, Eric Tollefsen, Stan Syta, Larry Wiget, Ray Amsden, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people.

B. PRESENTATION

Carol Comeau introduced the Trailside Elementary School Madrigal Singers from the fifth and sixth grades, who were performing songs for the audience.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Debbie Ossiander announced that the School Board Policy Subcommittee will meet on December 19, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. to continue the discussion on Section 400 of the policy manual.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Debbie Ossiander requested that the agenda be amended so that the discussion on School Board goals could be postponed.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to remove ASD Memorandum #42
seconded by Mary Marks from the agenda of December 9, 2002.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

It is requested that the School Board recognize Susan Okeson for earning a 2002 Outstanding Milken Educator Award. She is a credit to her profession, this community and the Anchorage School District.

Susan Okeson thanked the Wonder Park staff for their leadership and stated that this was a shared award with the staff. Ms. Okeson asked the staff to stand and receive recognition.

Carol Comeau noted how proud the District is of Ms. Okeson and how much she enjoyed being at Wonder Park Elementary School when Ms. Okeson was notified that she had won the Milken Educator Award.

ASD Memorandum #141 - Wal-Mart State Teacher of the Year

The Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award honors the creativity and dedication of America's teachers. Each year Wal-Mart stores nationwide recognize one outstanding teacher to represent each store in the local community.

Winners are awarded a \$500 education grant made payable to the teacher's school to be used at the discretion of the teacher. In addition to the grant, the teachers also receive Wal-Mart's Teacher of the Year vest, which symbolizes the teacher's commitment to serving his or her students.

This year's Anchorage Midtown Wal-Mart winner is Trudy Lund, a first grade teacher at Airport Heights for the past 12 years.

Ms. Lund's name was then entered into the Wal-Mart Alaska Teacher of the Year contest, and shortly thereafter, she was named the Wal-Mart State Teacher of the Year for Alaska and received a \$5,000 grant. Ms. Lund has stated that she'd like to use the money to purchase new playground equipment for the students.

It is requested that the School Board recognize this outstanding teacher from Airport Heights as Wal-Mart's 2002 State Teacher of the Year for Alaska.

Carol Comeau announced that she went to Airport Heights to make the presentation to Ms. Lund. Ms. Comeau stated that Ms. Lund has made a difference in many children's lives.

ASD Memorandum #142 - Public Affairs Award of Excellence

Each year the Alaska Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) recognizes excellence in public relations through a variety of awards programs.

In early November, the District's Public Affairs Department was presented with an Award of Excellence in the category of Special Printed Promotional Materials, from the Alaska Chapter of PRSA.

Roger Fiedler, Public Affairs Specialist, and Pam Butcher, Publications Specialist, worked diligently together on the 2002-2003 school year calendar, a color, multi-page publication that not only provides notable school dates, but additional material on district policies, programs and procedures, and District/school contact information. This year's calendar, they decided, would combine several existing district publications into one format, thus reducing on-going printing costs. In addition, they reduced costs by receiving monetary contributions from several school business partners.

Upon distributing the calendars to schools, employees, parents, community members and others at the beginning of the school year, the Public Affairs office received numerous positive comments about the calendar's new format. In addition, a local newspaper wrote an article about it, whereby it was referenced as a 'one-stop' information source.

It is requested the School Board recognize Mr. Fielder and Ms. Butcher for earning the PRSA Award of Excellence for Special Printed Promotional Materials.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Corey Rennell noted that the next Student Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2002 at 11:30 a.m. at King Career Center. The school club policy and the development of the CIP student list will be discussed.

Debbie Ossiander notified Mr. Rennell that the School Board Policy Subcommittee will be discussing the school club policy at their next meeting.

2. Military Delegate

No Report was given.

3. MECC

The MECC representative was absent.

G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (30 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

Moria Sullivan, senior at Dimond High School, spoke on the Lifetime Personal Fitness course. She stated that if a student opts to not take the required one-semester course because he/she would rather take another elective, he/she may "test-out" of the class by taking the Life Personal Fitness test, which is usually offered two or three times per semester. The problem lies in the way the test is administered and the "catch-22" rules that the District has put in place. For example, if a student has a physical ailment preventing him/her from doing any part of the physical test, he/she could bring in a doctor's note to waive the requirement. However, if this student has ever participated in an after school sport, the requirement cannot be waived because the administration assumes that anyone who has ever participated in an after school sport can do all of the physical tests and could not possibly have a physical ailment.

Ms. Sullivan further commented that the whole course does not make any sense. She suggested that the coaches and P. E. teachers teach healthy life skills. A better solution would be to simply require two semesters of P.E. credit and a passing score on a written Lifetime Personal Fitness test. That way, students who do sports can be administered the written test during the sports season and can be assumed to meet the requirements of the physical portion of the test, as they are already. Using this as a solution, students would have more flexibility to choose courses, and the District could find a definitive way of testing the effectiveness of P.E. classes and after school sports.

Debbie Ossiander thanked Ms. Sullivan for coming to speak before the School Board, and asked if she knew approximately how many students have had difficulty with this requirement. Ms. Sullivan responded that she knows of 12 students who have been affected. Ms. Ossiander asked the Administration to look into this situation.

Carol Comeau commented that this topic has been under review this year. Jan Christensen also thanked Moria Sullivan for expressing her

view so eloquently. Mike Henry stated that he has met with Sharon Vaissiere and some P. E. teachers to discuss some of the concerns raised and will be bringing forward a recommendation to the Superintendent that will be shared with the School Board.

Theresa Obermeyer commented how wonderful it is to have the Trailside Madrigal Singers at the meeting. She requested that the Board take a vote to go into an executive session to discuss Carol Comeau's contract. She asked for the meeting based on the open meetings law and does not support renewal of Ms. Comeau's contract. Jake Metcalfe stated that he is not interested in an executive session to discuss Ms. Comeau's contract. Ms. Obermeyer stated that the District has excellent teachers.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum #42 - School Board Goals FY 2002-2003

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals as shown on Attachment A.

2. ASD Memorandum #137 - New Eagle River Area High School Instructional Programs

It is recommended that the New Eagle River Area High School offer a traditional core curriculum of academics and electives. In addition, the school should provide optional programs for students who would benefit from the on-line method of course delivery, a variety of career technology courses still to be determined, and an alternative program for students that are at-risk of graduating.

3. ASD Memorandum #133 - 2003 General obligation Bond Recommendation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Bond proposal package totaling \$209,326,000, comprised of Proposition 1 - Major Maintenance, Equipment, Land Acquisition in the amount of \$41,786,000; Proposition 2 - Administrative and Training Facility in the amount of \$42,000,000;

and Proposition 3 - School Renovations/Additions/Replacement in the amount of \$125,540,000. These propositions are summarized below:

Proposition 1 - Major Maintenance, Equipment, and Land Acquisition

Districtwide Major Maintenance

Districtwide Mechanical Upgrades	\$3 ,990,000
Districtwide Code/Hazmat/ ADA Projects	\$ 2,365,000
Districtwide Electrical Projects	\$5 ,257,000
Districtwide Roof Replacement and Repairs	\$ 3,499,000
Districtwide Minor Building Renewal Projects	\$ 5,674,000
Districtwide Restroom Upgrades	\$ 2,083,000
Districtwide Traffic Safety/Site Upgrades	\$ 4,128,000
Security Upgrades - Locks: Phase 1	\$ 750,000
Districtwide Major Maintenance Subtotal	\$27,746,000
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 3,200,000 ¹
Student Transportation (10 Replacement School Buses)	\$ 840,000 ²
School Site Acquisition	\$10,000,000

Proposition 1 Total **\$41,786,000**

Proposition 2 - Administrative and Training Facility **\$42,000,000**

Proposition 3 - School Renovations/Additions/Replacement

Bartlett High School

Phase 2 Construction \$26,940,000

Chester Valley Elementary School

Design Funding \$ 750,000

Chugach Optional School

Construction Funding \$ 7,000,000³

New Eagle River Area High School

Construction Funding \$51,000,000⁴

¹ Bond amount reduced to \$3,200,000 from the \$3,700,000 the CRAC recommended due to reduction of supplies, which is not bondable.

² Bond amount reduced to \$840,000 from the \$900,000 the CRAC recommended due to updated bus cost estimate.

³ Bond amount increased to \$7,000,000 from the \$5,900,000 CRAC recommendation due to increase in cost estimate following completion of the Schematic Design phase.

East High School

Phase 3 Construction and Phase 4 Design Funding	\$18,200,000
--	--------------

Polaris K-12 School

Construction Funding	\$18,600,000
----------------------	--------------

Sand Lake Elementary School

Design Funding	\$ 750,000
----------------	------------

Service High School

Phase 2A Deferred Inflation, Phase 2B Design, Phases 3 and 4 Preliminary Design Funding	\$ 2,300,000
---	--------------

Proposition 3 Total	\$125,540,000
----------------------------	----------------------

4. ASD Memorandum #134 - Recommendation for New Eagle River Area High School Construction Delivery Method

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to utilize the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) project delivery method for the New Eagle River Area High School.

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

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board 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. 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 #130 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Community Learning Centers

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department Of Education and Early Development in the

⁴ Bond amount increased to \$51,000,000 from the \$49,500,000 CRAC recommendation due to increased costs for Hiland Road intersection upgrades and Emergency Preparedness.

amount of \$499,988 for the first year of a five-year grant period. The Alaska Community Learning Centers competition carries forward the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program through the No Child Left Behind federal authorization. Funding will establish new after-school programs in five high-needs elementary schools. The additional sites are Mountain View, Government Hill, Northwood, Taku, and Willow Crest.

7. ASD Memorandum #131 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: National Science Foundation Math and Science Partnership Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the superintendent to apply for a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the improvement of K-8 student achievement in mathematics and science. This competition requires partnerships with institutions of higher education, and calls for enhancement of teaching using best practices in professional development as well as in classroom delivery. The Anchorage School District is the applicant, in collaboration with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, University of Alaska system, and Alaska Pacific University. The model is a revision of the District's spring 2002 application to the NSF. The partnership will propose a five-year process for significantly improving the performance of the learning communities of teachers and students through professional development.

8. ASD Memorandum #132 - Acceptance of Contract: Alaska Partnership for Teacher Enhancement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept six contracts from the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) totaling \$109,665 for the 2002-2003 school year. This contract is part of a continuation grant award to UAA from the U.S. Department of Education. UAA's Alaska Partnership for Teacher Enhancement (APTE) program is designed to improve recruitment, preservice training, and retention for Alaskan teachers. Contracts are to six Anchorage School District schools serving as Professional Development Schools for the project.

9. ASD Memorandum #143 - 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 #137, #133, #134, #107, and #131.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #130;
seconded by Harriet Drummond Memorandum #132; and
 Memorandum #143 with addendum.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #137 - New Eagle River Area High School
Instructional Programs

It is recommended that the New Eagle River Area High School offer a traditional core curriculum of academics and electives. In addition, the school should provide optional programs for students who would benefit from the on-line method of course delivery, a variety of career technology courses still to be determined, and an alternative program for students that are at-risk of graduating.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

to approve Memorandum #137 with the following change: It is recommended that the New Eagle River Area High School offer a traditional core curriculum of academics and electives. In addition, the school ~~should~~ will provide optional programs for students who would benefit from the on-line method of course delivery, a variety of career technology courses still to be determined, and an alternative program for students that are at-risk of graduating

Ms. Holthouse explained that the reason that she is making the change is to be certain that the program at Eagle River will include alternative programs. Carol Comeau stated that she does not have an objection to this recommendation and asked for Mr. Henry's reaction. He stated that it is the District's intent to put a regular core program in the school and felt they could also offer alternatives. He is personally comfortable with the word change.

MOTION:

Moved by John Steiner to lay the pending question on the
seconded by Debbie Ossiander table.

John Steiner asked the School President to allow him to explain why he moved to table discussion on ASD Memorandum #137. Mr. Metcalfe allowed the explanation.

Mr. Steiner is concerned that no consensus was raised in the community because only small groups of people attended the meetings. He would like to take the recommendation back to the community to publicize the information.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE:

Ayes: Steiner

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

MOTION TO TABLE FAILS

Carol Comeau stated that she was given a specific direction by the School Board to have the recommendation for the instructional program at the new high school completed prior to the bond package being approved. She explained that although the attendance at the meetings has not been good, the Administration has been very clear and discussed in great detail their intent to provide a viable program for this school. It has also been discussed in the Alaska Star. Ms. Comeau stated that if the new Eagle River Area High School is to be included on the bond proposal, we need to have the instructional program in place. She has a concern with deferring this topic until January. Ms. Comeau believes that this recommendation offers a wide range of opportunities for the community.

Tim Steele noted that he is comfortable with the presentation on the range of options available, but also realizes that there is much detail that needs to be worked out.

Rita Holthouse urged approval of this memorandum and hopes the Board will approve the alternative programs in the Eagle River area. Ms. Holthouse believes that this is an excellent use of the building and the recommended programs will provide relief to Chugiak High School.

Harriet Drummond offered a friendly amendment on adding the word "not" before graduating in the last line of the recommendation.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Harriet Drummond
seconded by Mary Marks

to approve Memorandum #137 with the following change: It is recommended that the New Eagle River Area High School offer a traditional core curriculum of academics and electives. In addition, the school ~~should~~ will provide optional programs for students who would benefit from the on-line method of course delivery, a variety of career technology courses still to be determined, and an alternative program for students that are at-risk of not graduating

Amendment to the main motion passed unanimously.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES AS AMENDED

ASD Memorandum #133 - 2003 General obligation Bond Recommendation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Bond proposal package totaling \$209,326,000, comprised of Proposition 1 - Major Maintenance, Equipment, Land Acquisition in the amount of \$41,786,000; Proposition 2 - Administrative and Training Facility in the amount of \$42,000,000; and Proposition 3 - School Renovations/Additions/Replacement in the amount of \$125,540,000. These propositions are summarized below:

Proposition 1 - Major Maintenance, Equipment, and Land Acquisition

Districtwide Major Maintenance

Districtwide Mechanical Upgrades	\$3,990,000
Districtwide Code/Hazmat/ADA Projects	\$2,365,000
Districtwide Electrical Projects	\$5,257,000
Districtwide Roof Replacement and Repairs	\$3,499,000
Districtwide Minor Building Renewal Projects	\$5,674,000
Districtwide Restroom Upgrades	\$2,083,000
Districtwide Traffic Safety/Site Upgrades	\$4,128,000
Security Upgrades - Locks: Phase 1	\$750,000
Districtwide Major Maintenance Subtotal	\$27,746,000
Emergency Preparedness	\$3,200,000 ⁵
Student Transportation (10 Replacement School Buses)	\$840,000 ⁶
School Site Acquisition	\$10,000,000
Proposition 1 Total	\$41,786,000

Proposition 2 - Administrative and Training Facility **\$42,000,000**

⁵ Bond amount reduced to \$3,200,000 from the \$3,700,000 the CRAC recommended due to reduction of supplies, which is not bondable.

⁶ Bond amount reduced to \$840,000 from the \$900,000 the CRAC recommended due to updated bus cost estimate.

Proposition 3 – School Renovations/Additions/ Replacement	
Bartlett High School	
Phase 2 Construction	\$26,940,000
Chester Valley Elementary School	
Design Funding	\$750,000
Chugach Optional School	
Construction Funding	\$7,000,000 ⁷
New Eagle River Area High School	
Construction Funding	\$51,000,000 ⁸
East High School	
Phase 3 Construction and Phase 4 Design Funding	\$18,200,000
Polaris K-12 School	
Construction Funding	\$18,600,000
Sand Lake Elementary School	
Design Funding	\$750,000
Service High School	
Phase 2A Deferred Inflation, Phase 2B Design, Phases 3 and 4 Preliminary Design Funding	\$2,300,000
Proposition 3 Total	\$125,540,000

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #133.
seconded by Mary Marks

Carol Comeau stated that she would like to take the public testimony first and then have Jean Cracium come forward to discuss the survey. She commented that this is a very large bond in total, but our needs have not gone away. Ms. Comeau stated that if we don't continue to maintain buildings and the infrastructure, the community will heavily criticize us. The Administration did not deviate from the original recommendations from the Capital Requests Advisory Committee (CRAC), but believed that the recommendations needed to be divided into three propositions. Ms. Comeau feels that the administrative facility needs to stand alone.

⁷ Bond amount increased to \$7,000,000 from the \$5,900,000 CRAC recommendation due to increase in cost estimate following completion of the Schematic Design phase.

⁸ Bond amount increased to \$51,000,000 from the \$49,500,000 CRAC recommendation due to increased costs for Hiland Road intersection upgrades and Emergency Preparedness.

She stated that with the 60 percent reimbursement from the state, it is the right time to bring this item forward. Ms. Comeau reviewed each of the bond propositions and gave the rationale for putting the package together in the way it is being proposed to the Board.

Peggy Robinson, Chairperson for Bartlett parents and for safety access, provided information to the Board with a packet that was delivered last week regarding a need for a traffic light at the entrance into Bartlett High School. Ms. Robinson would like to include Bartlett in Proposition 3 for a cost of \$500,000. She later noted that after reviewing proposition 1, the Bartlett traffic light request might better fall within this category for traffic/site upgrades.

John Steiner asked for a comment from the Administration. Carol Comeau asked that all speakers finish before discussion begins.

Kitte' Miller, parent at Polaris K-12 and a member on the CRAC, believes that all of the projects look reasonable. Even though the administrative facility is not in the CIP, it makes logical sense to proceed with it. Ms. Miller commented that Polaris has had a wonderful year of planning and working with architects. She is excited about the progress and feels that the new Eagle River Area High School is ready to be bonded.

Lynn Hammond recommended that we bond the administrative facility. He feels that it makes sound financial sense because there is a lot of time wasted with employees traveling from location to location. Mr. Hammond asked how anyone can say that ASD is inefficient when they are trying to solve the problem. He encouraged the staff to get out and let people know what the new federal law requires and encouraged the Board to support the bond package.

Debbie Ossiander asked Mr. Hammond if he thought the best approach was to try to get this accomplished in the least expensive way as possible. Mr. Hammond responded yes, it will save the taxpayers money over time.

Harriet Drummond asked Mr. Hammond if he would agree to do bond presentations to the public. Mr. Hammond responded that he would be happy to help the District with bond presentations.

John Steiner asked Mr. Hammond to explain his background with the District. Mr. Hammond stated that he spent six years on the School

Budget Advisory Committee and the news media often referred to him as a frequent critic of the District.

Mr. Steiner asked Mr. Hammond if he was making a specific recommendation to construct a building versus acquisition. Mr. Hammond stated that the District needs a building and should acquire one in the least expensive way as possible.

Rita Holthouse commented that Lynn Hammond is a highly respected voice in the community and that she would be happy to share a speaking engagement with him during the bond presentations to the public.

Debbie Ossiander commented that Lynn Hammond offered constructive criticism of the District that was much appreciated by the Board and the Administration.

Jake Metcalfe asked Mr. Hammond if he considered the debt reimbursement in his recommendation. Mr. Hammond responded yes, it is a big plus to get state reimbursement if you bond now.

Joe Daniels has two daughters that attend Polaris. He commented that the process was slow, but he is impressed how steady the focus on children has been. He believes that the potential reimbursement to the taxpayer is an important piece of information that must be made public to the taxpayer. He also appreciates the efforts that the Board makes on behalf of children.

Theresa Obermeyer stated that she signed up to speak on the goals and asked if there will be time during the work session for her comments. Jake Metcalfe responded that there is no public testimony taken during work sessions, but she can speak again before the Board when the item is reconsidered for action in January.

Jeff Friedman urged support of all three bond propositions as each is critical to the District. The District cannot meet the challenges of the federal government unless we have decent buildings for our children to learn in. Mr. Friedman feels that \$209,326,000 is a lot of money, but is worthy of our support.

Kelly Smith has three children at Polaris and believes that the program is in a substandard facility. She is delighted to see the prospect of seeing a new facility and urged support of the Board to include it in this bond package.

Jean Cracium, Cracium Research Group, went over the School Bond Survey Research Report. The questions asked were similar to those in past studies with the exception of content changes based upon the current possible bond package. Telephone interviews were conducted November 29 through December 2, 2002. Professional telephone interviewers contacted residents utilizing the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system. The state-of-the-art technology allowed the interviewing team to conduct customized, interactive interviews with both speed and accuracy. The average length of time to conduct each survey was 11 minutes. The sample size of 401 Anchorage "super voters" was drawn at random from telephone numbers of MOA residents who are registered voters and who have voted in two of the last three municipal elections. The demographics of the sample were controlled to yield the same proportionate gender and age ratios as the group of "super voters" from which it was drawn. They also controlled for district representation to exact Anchorage proportions. Screening ensured that respondents were registered to vote in Alaska and were likely to vote in the next April city election. They anticipated a margin of error to be +/- 4.9 percent at 95 percent confidence. Cross tabulations describe data that may be related in some way. In many cross tabulations, categories are combined or omitted because the numbers are too small to be statistically significant. This manipulation may change the totals on which percentages are based, but does not affect the relationships between percentages. Cross tabulations may also be used to indicate differences (or lack of differences) between subgroups of people. When a lack of difference is being shown, a footnote is appended to the table indicating that the differences are not "statistically significant."

Harriet Drummond asked if Ms. Cracium had information on how Anchorage voted on the state-wide bond proposal. Carol Comeau responded that Roger Fiedler is researching this information. She noted that this information is needed prior to the April election.

The Board recessed at 8:25 p.m. and returned at 8:45 p.m.

Carol Comeau asked Ray Amsden, Mike Price, and George Vakalis to come forward for discussion with the Board.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she heard at the previous work session on the administrative facility that we needed to move forward with the least expensive process. Her understanding is that being our

own developer is the least expensive way to go and that renovation is typically more expensive. Carol Comeau responded that the District has learned a lot from the experience with the Alyeska Building. She understands that the current tenant is still going through some heating and ventilation problems. Ms. Comeau noted that taking on an aging facility is sometimes not as cost effective as starting with a new facility.

Debbie Ossiander is concerned that the administrative facility project has not received the same thorough review that all other projects on the bond have had to endure. George Vakalis responded that even though there was one consultant, there was a team under the one consultant that came up with the analysis. He emphasized that the target of opportunity is this year or next. The Administration thought about going for design money, but the size and magnitude and time to come up with the design before taking it to the voters determined that there was not adequate time. Mr. Vakalis explained that this is the best way to go at this time. There is nothing that precludes the Board from doing it another way if something opens up. The Administration is looking at having it built on municipal land. He stated that it is best to design something around our needs; designing around an existing building increases the cost.

George Vakalis noted that we need to basically improve service to the public as well as to District employees. If all of our employees were located in one facility, it would save the taxpayers approximately \$1 million dollars per year.

John Steiner asked if the \$42 million dollars for the administrative facility includes the cost of land. George Vakalis responded that it does not include land acquisition. The District has currently contracted with the Municipality to complete a master plan on 3500 Tudor. Other options include the Heritage Land Bank as well as some District land that we currently own. Mr. Vakalis noted that how the language is crafted on the bond proposition will determine how the money is spent.

Mary Marks asked about Attachment C, School Bus Reimbursement. Janet Stokesbary responded that buses are reimbursed for the cost of the buses, but not the interest. Mr. Vakalis noted that he received permission through bonding for the purchase of ten new buses. His plan, in conjunction with the Wendler move, includes the use of the ten new buses along with ten that normally would be removed from the fleet to help transport students to and from Dimond for one year. Mr. Vakalis noted that the Administration would like to expedite the purchase of the new buses, which would allow a savings of \$27,000. A letter of intent is

due by December 31, 2002, which would allow an earlier delivery of the buses. If the Board disapproves the request, the letter of intent becomes null and void. This is similar to the forward funding approved last year on construction projects. The bus fleet needs to be replaced and this gives us the opportunity to purchase the buses and save \$500,000 in lease payments.

Tim Steele asked if the District would keep the 20 buses that were scheduled to be replaced. Mr. Vakalis noted that the bus fleet would increase from 114 to 134 buses for the 2003-2004 school year only.

Ray Amsden noted that it is very important to understand that the administrative facility is considered class B office space.

Rita Holthouse asked if the 60 or 70 percent reimbursement is definite. Carol Comeau responded no. The GO bond language is very clear that the Municipality can request reimbursement through the state for 60 percent if they did not meet DEED requirements and 70 percent if they did. Ms. Comeau commented that we must put pressure on the legislature to fund education

Janet Stokesbary noted that in order to receive reimbursement, we must have voter approval within the two year window period to bond, sell, and build the new administrative facility.

Rita Holthouse asked for an administrative response to Peggy Robinson's request on Bartlett. Carol Comeau acknowledged the need at Bartlett, but is concerned if bond funds can be used. She suggested that it be included in the legislative priority request package and the Boards needs to lobby the legislature for an appropriation instead of bonding. Ms. Comeau stated that the Administration is not denying the need, but is concerned with the best approach to this problem. She spoke with Gretchen Guess, who is willing to work on this issue. It is also her understanding that Tom Anderson also may want to work on this issue as well.

Tim Steele noted that the locks upgrade is a large amount of money and asked if this is a system change. Carol Comeau responded that this is a number one priority for her since the incident at Mountain View Elementary School. She noted that this is also a number one request from staff. Ms. Comeau stated that the Anchorage Police Department has also reviewed the proposed locks. The inside of the door will have either a

button or a switch on it that must be unlocked from the outside with a key.

John Steiner expressed a concern over the \$100,000 for carpet replacement at Aquarian Charter School. He is concerned with this being on a 20 year bond. Ray Amsden responded that the project was identified through the Capital Requests Advisory Committee. He noted that the existing carpet is long past its use and has been a health/safety issue. Harriet Drummond stated that we are responsible for keeping our schools upgraded and she will support this item.

Rita Holthouse asked how the existing carpet is a health hazard. Carol Comeau responded that the carpet is worn out and has become an air quality issue.

Carol Comeau noted that charter school housing is a big issue that must be discussed in great depth with the School Board. She emphasized that the students housed at the Charter School Center are ASD students.

Debbie Ossiander also expressed a strong desire for the Board to talk about equitable charter school housing and the implications of the path that the District is taking. She is not against charter schools or housing, but is strongly against not planning our actions more carefully.

Rita Holthouse requested clarification that the new Eagle River Area High School be a separate school and not an annex of Chugiak High School. Carol Comeau stated that it is her intent to build a separate high school. Boundaries will be drawn and it will be a self-sustaining high school. Ms. Comeau will be looking at North Anchorage boundaries as well. She stated that the community on Fort Richardson is interested in attending the new high school in Eagle River. Mike Henry commented that the programs offered in the school will be "programs" instead of stand-alone schools within a high school.

Harriet Drummond asked what the design capacity of Chugiak High School will be when it is complete. Debbie Ossiander believes it to be about 1,780. Ray Amsden will get this information for Ms. Drummond.

Tim Steele asked about school site acquisition and if it will be reworded to use site analysis and site selection as well as acquisition. George Vakalis recommended that the term should be site selection and acquisition.

Debbie Ossiander acknowledged that we need to move forward on purchasing an administrative facility, but has yet to see a budget that is clear enough to see what kind of savings there will be. She believes that we must move forward within the next two years, but the proposal before the Board is not one she can support or urge voters to approve. She does not believe the plan has gone through enough analysis and believes success will occur when the plan has been thoroughly reviewed. Ms. Ossiander commented that the survey showed that only a small percentage of voters are in favor of this facility.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to delete Proposition 2 for \$42 million dollars for an administrative facility.

MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to amend Proposition 2 by seconded by John Steiner substituting \$31,259,045 for \$42 million dollars for an administrative facility.

Tim Steele expressed a concern over whether or not the District can build an administrative facility for \$31,259,045. He feels there are too many assumptions in the report.

John Steiner agreed with Mr. Steele, but is concerned that \$42 million dollars may not be an accurate figure. He believes in order to sell this to the community, the project needs a more rigorous review. Mr. Steiner believes that there is wisdom in owning and building a facility, but the Administration is going to have to explain the rationale when there is a report that shows it can be done cheaper.

Harriet Drummond asked when Assembly approval will be obtained if the Board approves the Administration's recommendation. Carol Comeau responded that it would be early February. She suggested that this is an item that should be discussed in great detail at a joint School Board/Assembly meeting.

Tim Steele asked if there was enough time between now and February to flush out the specs and get answers to some of the questions raised tonight. Carol Comeau responded that she believes there has been a lot of analysis on the administrative facility. She commented that Jeff Barnes has spent a lot of time interviewing people. Ms. Comeau believes this is a good plan for the depth of analysis that was completed. She stated that more questions could be asked, but we have a very good understanding of our needs. George Vakalis asked Mr. Barnes for his comments.

Jeff Barnes stated that his background for the analysis went through three reiterations. He started out with 160,000 square feet and worked back; he has since knocked out 30,000 square feet. Mr. Barnes commented that schools are bonded on conceptual designs and there is no more information provided on the schools than on this building or the process that was used. He noted that there could be \$4 million to \$6 million dollars saved if an existing facility were used, but is not sure what will be available when the decision has to be made. New construction is much easier to estimate and the two year window period is critical. Mr. Barnes emphasized that if we take this to the voters in April and it fails, we will have another chance the following year.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Ossiander

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

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by John Steiner

to delete \$100,000 for Aquarian
Charter School from Proposition 1
- Major Maintenance Minor
Building Renewal Projects.

Debbie Ossiander reminded the Board that School Board policy does not allow the District to house charter schools. She further commented that the Board found significant reasons why Northern Lights ABC structure should be rebuilt. Ms. Ossiander asked if it would be amenable to the Board to hand the Charter School Center over to a charter school alliance or to the Municipality. She feels that we are putting ourselves in a bad position by bonding for Aquarian and Village Charter Schools and not providing housing for other charter schools. She does not believe that we

should keep students in an unhealthy situation, but charter schools are independent; it becomes an equitable issue.

Carol Comeau understands Ms. Ossiander's points, but conditions at the school are causing health problems. Ms. Comeau believes that if we don't do something now, we may be ultimately replacing the carpet because of an OSHA complaint. She further explained that charter schools are not independent, but are part of the Anchorage School District. Funding is not independent. Ms. Comeau reminded the Board that they made the decision to use the former Northern Lights ABC building to house Aquarian and Village Charter Schools. She agreed that the policy needs to be revised in numerous areas regarding charter schools. Ms. Comeau also agreed to have a serious discussion on charter school housing with the Board.

John Steiner asked what the contractual and financial responsibility is with respect to housing and could the charter schools be charged back for the carpet. Carol Comeau responded that we provide maintenance costs on any other facility and the charter schools provide the educational costs.

Tim Steele noted that the Board needs to make a decision on dealing with charter school housing. He stated that he will vote for this amendment to force the Board to deal with this issue.

Rita Holthouse believes that this is not the time to make a decision on student housing for charter schools. She stated that charter school students are ASD students and should not be made to go to school on a moldy carpet.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele

Nays: Marks, Metcalfe, Steiner,
Holthouse, Drummond

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

Harriet Drummond offered a friendly amendment that we include a charter school housing study in the \$10 million dollar site selection/acquisition study. Debbie Ossiander called for a point of order and noted that this is against School Board policy. She is not supportive of a study when there hasn't been a work session scheduled to discuss the topic.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Tim Steele to delete "school" and replace with
 seconded by Harriet Drummond Site Selection and Acquisition.

John Steiner asked what the money could be used for other than for schools. Carol Comeau stated that this change will allow the District more flexibility on the bonds. Any change to the bond language would require voter approval.

George Vakalis noted that the District has several parcels available, one of which could be used for one of the school sites noted in the bond package. He further stated that the District does have some flexibility pertaining to lands that could be used for some of our other uses. Mr. Vakalis noted that the purchase of land for the administrative facility was never considered when he suggested the change in wording. This change gives the Board the latitude and flexibility in purchasing property for either a school or some other use.

Debbie Ossiander strongly encouraged the board to move along with school site needs. She stated that there is a need for more school sites in this community.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Marks, Steele, Steiner,
 Holthouse, Drummond

Nays: Ossiander, Metcalfe

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Tim Steele to delete "Administrative Facility"
 seconded by Harriet Drummond and replace it with Education and
 Training Center.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Steele

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

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES AS AMENDED

ASD Memorandum #134 - Recommendation for New Eagle River Area High School Construction Delivery Method

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to utilize the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) project delivery method for the New Eagle River Area High School.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #134.
seconded by Mary Marks

Carol Comeau noted that this alternative process to building schools was discussed a few years ago with the Board. Ms. Comeau turned the discussion over to Ray Amsden and Mike Price.

Mike Price explained the process, benefits, and risks associated with this type of construction delivery method. He feels that this method would result in a decrease of construction costs and provide earlier delivery of the completed school building. In this method, the general contractor is selected during the design process in order to provide pre-construction services. The selection process would be via a Request for Proposal (RFP) with cost as one of the evaluation factors. The District is proposing to hire the services of a third party to assist in the preparation of the GC/CM Request for Proposal and in the evaluation of proposals.

The GC/CM provides pre-construction services such as value engineering, constructability review, schedule preparation, and cost estimating. By procuring these services during the design, the District maximizes the opportunities for cost savings and can verify the cost of construction earlier in the process. The General Contractor reviews the design at each stage, offering comments regarding constructability issues and cost reduction opportunities. The General Contractor also provides a cost estimate at each design phase, which allows the School District to better verify the actual cost of construction. The design scope can be adjusted as needed during the design providing cost savings during the design process rather than waiting for the sometimes unpredictable results on bid day.

The District is facing construction cost challenges due to the anticipated escalation of statewide construction costs and competition for contractors

will increase. It is becoming clear that the Alaska construction market is going to exceed the available contractor resources in the next few years. Using an alternative that locks in a General Contractor this year is important to this project's success.

The use of the GC/CM method will decrease construction costs in two ways. In the typical design-bid-build process, the design is completed before the General Contractor looks at it to prepare bids. In some cases, the General Contractor may have cost reduction ideas that cannot be incorporated due to associated need for redesign or schedule constraints. The ability to incorporate this input during the design phase will allow the District to take advantage of these cost reductions.

By selecting the General Contractor early in the process, the on-site construction work can start sooner. As the design is completed, the General Contractor can start the construction planning and scheduling.

The use of the CG/CM method for the new Eagle River Area High School project will result in a reduction in construction costs and delivery of the school one year earlier.

Debbie Ossiander noted that this is a radically different approach and thinks that there will be community interest and concern in being fair in awarding this contract.

Harriet Drummond asked if this recommendation must be passed tonight or can the Board review old notes from previous discussions. Mike Price responded that it was important to get this done quickly due to the many projects available to contractors. He hopes to have the firm selected by late February.

Debbie Ossiander urged support of this memorandum due to the volume of work currently available to contractors. She has had the privilege of seeing other agencies using this process very successfully and urges Board support.

John Steiner asked if the District has received legal review on this process. Carol Comeau responded yes.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES

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

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board 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. 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 Rita Holthouse to approve Memorandum #107.
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Carol Comeau commented that this memorandum was revised due to the concern from the Board over the amount of release time for teachers. Jan Christensen noted that the number of sub days was reduced by over 50 percent. Ms. Christensen stated that Sharon Vaissiere and Bev Thornburg have talked with individuals in the federal office that controls the grant and have been assured that as long as the essence of grant remains the same, funds can be moved into added duty addenda thus reducing the number of release days during the school year.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES

ASD Memorandum #131 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: National Science Foundation Math and Science Partnership Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the superintendent to apply for a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the improvement of K-8 student achievement in mathematics and science. This competition requires partnerships with institutions of higher education, and calls for enhancement of teaching using best practices in professional development as well as in classroom delivery. The Anchorage School District is the applicant, in collaboration with the Fairbanks North Star

Borough School District, University of Alaska system, and Alaska Pacific University. The model is a revision of the District's spring 2002 application to the NSF. The partnership will propose a five-year process for significantly improving the performance of the learning communities of teachers and students through professional development.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #131.
seconded by Mary Marks

Carol Comeau noted that she is pleased that the Administration was able to put this application together to help reduce achievement gaps in the math and science performance of students.

Rita Holthouse explained that she pulled this memorandum because she was unaware of the number of release days. Bev Thornburg and Sandy Schoff explained that complete information was not available to them at the time of submission so a budget has not been developed. It is anticipated that approximately 80 days of release time per year for 20 mentor teachers will be experienced. By the end of five years, Ms. Thornburg projects that all elementary and middle schools will be participating and release time is anticipated at 276 days per year.

Rita Holthouse stated that she will support this, but is concerned over the number of days at the end of the fifth year.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES

I. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #135 - First Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

For many years, elementary schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow 15 to 20 minute individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarters. More recently, the middle schools and high schools began the practice of providing opportunities at the end of the same grading periods for parents to pick-up their student's report cards and confer briefly with teachers.

These efforts have generally been well supported by parents and teachers, as can be seen in the information provided by each division. Where there has been a decrease in participation at a school, the appropriate Instructional Division supervisor works with principals, their staffs and PTA or parent group to increase involvement. Through work with the Public Affairs staff, the web site, and our School/Business partners, the District will continue attempts to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities in the hope that parents can be released from work to attend. At any time of the school year, parents are welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

Gail Opalinski reported that Hanshew Middle School experimented with student led conferences where each student/parent scheduled an appointment, had a portfolio, and met with the team. There was wonderful participation with this process and they will try it again in April. If it continues to be successful, Ms. Opalinski will seek permission for other schools to participate.

Jake Metcalfe noted that the number of participants at Clark has dropped considerably. Gail Opalinski reported that the principal has been ill and there is a new administrative team in place. Clark staff is currently working on ways to attract parents to the conferences.

Carol Comeau announced that she is pleased with the increased participation in West High School's attendance.

2. ASD Memorandum #136 - First Quarter
Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report 2002-2003

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. The information is shown in the narrative information below and as Attachments A-F.

Carol Comeau reported that they had no firearm incidents to report and that they continue to work on the drug/alcohol problems. The Continuation School will be beginning the second semester; the principal is on board and position vacancy announcements are out for an administrative assistant and teachers; computers and furniture have also been ordered. Recommendations will come to the Board within the next three weeks.

Rita Holthouse asked if students currently out on expulsion will be eligible to attend the Continuation School. Mike Henry reported that he will be happy to contact all students currently in an expelled status to see if they have an interest in attending the new program.

Rita Holthouse noted that there were three causalities and asked if the new process that was previous discussed is being used. Jan Christensen stated that there were actually four causalities that she reviewed and agreed with all of the recommendations from the Executive Directors.

Rita Holthouse asked why the charter school student who assaulted a staff member was not recommended for expulsion. Jan Christensen stated that she was previously unaware of this incident, but will work with Connie Bensler to make sure all incidents of this nature in charter schools are reported.

John Steiner asked if the reason for the increase in suspensions for middle school students is due to more strict enforcement by staff or by the actual conduct of students. Gail Opalinski responded that the increase was probably due to both. More training in harassment with staff and the addition of assistant principals are probably the reasons for the increase. Ms. Opalinski reported that "Aggressors, Victims, Bystanders" training is currently occurring with the assistance of the Police Department.

Mary Marks suggested the use of the Assets Program at the middle schools for students transitioning out of elementary school. She stated that it has been very successful in the villages.

3. ASD Memorandum #138 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of, November 15, 2002 through November 27, 2002.

Rita Holthouse inquired about the 21 percent change order on Service High School (page 4). Ray Amsden responded that two elements drove that change order up significantly. One was related to utility relocation, which was identified later in the project and the other was the replacement of significant broken asphalt and paving that was identified after the contract was released.

4. ASD Memorandum #139 - New Dimond High School One Percent for Art

Chapter 7.40 of the Anchorage Municipal Code defines the process for selection and acquisition of art to be displayed in public places, including public school buildings. This code authorizes the Municipality to select the artist and the artwork, with a review of the proposed artwork by the School District only as to its safety and maintenance factors. The artist is working directly with the architect on the design of the plaza area and sculptural light fixtures, which will be integrated into her artwork. At this point there is no design or materials to review or approve. When the design for the sculptural lights and the details of the plaza are complete, they will be submitted to the Risk Management and Maintenance Departments for review regarding safety and maintenance.

The Jury established for the New Dimond High School has chosen an artist to create artwork for the school. The artwork consists of the following:

Artist: Vickie Scuri, Seattle, WA
Location: Exterior Plaza and Sculptural Light Fixtures
Artwork: Aurora

Description: Plaza area design with benches and modified seating and walking arrangement and to design, oversee fabrication and installation of 3-8 sculptural light fixtures within the allocated budget.

Budget: \$88,500

Account: 82032-5430

The New Dimond High School Art Selection Jury members include: Jim Huetl from USKH Architects; Marianne Beckham, Arts Advisory Commission; Brian Davies, Historical and Fine Arts Commission; Robin Smith, Urban Design Commission; Les Matz, an artist and the art teacher at the school; Principal Guy Okada; Jim Tilly, a graphic artist, designer and PTA member and Becky Voris, a community member along with Carol Bryner, and artist representing the Public Art Committee.

John Steiner asked if a review of the safety issues has been completed. Ray Amsden responded that it's a plaza area design with benches and light fixtures.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Rita Holthouse reminded Board members to check their schedule for individual meetings with legislators and let her know if their plans change.

Jake Metcalfe noted the special meeting on Thursday, December 16, 2002 to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation.

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of December 9, 2002 was adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

Jake Metcalfe, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved