

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2003**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, March 17, 2003, at 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. Jake Metcalfe, President, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

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

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Jan Christensen, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Jerry Sjolander, Jeff Wood, Dale Cope, Pam Chenier, Ray Amsden, Stan Syta, Steve Kalmes, Mike Price, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

D. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (30 Minute Time Limit)

E. CONSENT AGENDA

1. ASD MEMORANDUM #224 - RECOMMENDATION FOR WENDLER MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION DELIVERY METHOD

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to utilize the Design/Build project delivery method for the Wendler Middle School Project.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Mary Marks

to approve ASD Memorandum  
#224

Carol Comeau stated that the Administration believes this project delivery method will allow us to complete the project on time so we can open the school in the fall of 2004.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

F. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Carol Comeau stated that the President has increased the alert status to orange and the mayor's office sent out an alert. The Emergency Operations Center has been activated. Ms. Comeau believes our schools are aware that this will increase time getting on and off base/post. There will be more delays and the staff need to have their IDs and registration current. They will work through the Superintendent's Office and the Public Affairs Department. They will escort buses to the schools if needed. This is a very intense time and we are taking a day at a time. We are concerned about our employees who could be activated. The most critical part is that we are very conscious of our children and their feelings and that of their family's at this time.

Ms. Comeau informed the Board of the vandalism that occurred to the school buses in Eagle River. Steve Kalmes called at 5:40 am and notified her that all 50 buses in Eagle River were vandalized. The brakes were cut and the hydraulics on one of the buses. The police is working very hard to get this case solved. Ms. Comeau asked Captain Holloway to put extra officers on patrol to help with traffic. We have all but 15 buses fixed. The emergency activation system has been activated and we will send out a message as far as what routes will not run. Notices will be up on Channel 14. Extra people will be handling the phones at First Student and the Transportation Department. At this time, the estimate is a minimum of \$25,000 damage. It will probably be hire because we have had all of the mechanics coming in and working overtime. The cost is to the contractor. The drivers and attendants were paid for two hours because they were already there and they were the ones who detected the vandalism. First Student has a \$1,000 reward and Crime Stoppers has an additional reward offered.

Jake Metcalfe stated that this is a good reason to support the vandalism legislation to re-limit the liability.

Tim Steele commented that this afternoon there was a Judiciary Committee of the Senate that took testimony on Senate Bill 2 and companion legislation that is House Bill 18. They are working their way through system. We have a \$10,000 cap on the damages that we can get from a minor juvenile that commits a crime.

Mr. Steele did testify today and heard favorable comments. Mr. Steele encourages anyone who is concerned about the increase to contact their legislator and support those pieces of legislation.

Ms. Comeau commented that Dr. Larry Wiget is in Juneau and he set up an audio conference where Ms. Comeau spoke with Dr. Wiget and Tara Sweeney of the Governor's office and briefed them of this incident. Ms. Comeau reminded them how critical our transportation budget is. Mr. Kalmes will go to Juneau to speak to them about it as well, soon.

Harriet Drummond spoke of her concern of how isolated the bus yard is and asked what is being done to provide security for the bus yard. Carol Comeau stated that there is a fence, gates, and barbed wire in Chugiak. They will have to step up security.

Ms. Comeau commented that Janet Stokesbary informed her that the District will qualify for an increase of \$486,233 above what the Board approved on February 6, 2003. Therefore, we will be asking the Assembly to approve the S version of the budget at the Assembly meeting tomorrow night.

Superintendent Comeau announced that the Administration is working on an estimate of the wind damage from the other night.

The Administration will make a decision on student travel as far as international travel because of the alert status.

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

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

I. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:45p.m.

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Jake Metcalfe, President

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Mary Marks, Clerk

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Robin Siegfried, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved