

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2003**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, June 9, 2003 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: Mary Marks, Crystal Kennedy, Tim Steele, Jake Metcalfe, Jeff Friedman, John Steiner, and Macon Roberts

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Jeff Wood, Eric Tollefsen, Larry Wiget, Brent Rock, Pam Chenier, Stan Syta, Debbie Bogart, Ray Amsden, Loretta Nabong, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Steiner informed the Board and audience that the Chugiak High School Choir was the recent recipient of a gold medal. Mr. Steiner purchased a CD from the choir for each Board member and the Superintendent. He also asked that the music be played during the break.

Mary Marks congratulated all graduating senior and those moving upward into new grade levels. Ms. Marks invited the community to attend Spirit Days scheduled for June 21, 2003 at Service High School.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jake Metcalfe noted that ASD Memorandum #328 - Pencils Full of Stars is being moved on the agenda to number one under Awards/Recognition/Presentations. Tim Steele stated that an addendum has been added to the Personnel Report, ASD Memorandum #275; ASD Memorandum #193 has also been revised.

The agenda was approved with the noted changes.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #310 - 2003 Alaska School Nurse of the Year

School nurses play a critical role at schools throughout the District and have a substantial impact on the lives of the students. They contribute to improving the health of students and demonstrate excellence in school nursing practices and leadership in school health.

Recently, Chugiak High School nurse Debbie Turner, RN, ANP, was named the 2003 Alaska School Nurse of the Year by the Alaska School Nurses Association. Ms. Turner, who has worked at Chugiak High for the past 13 years, has many accomplishments under her belt. Her exemplary work as a school nurse includes skilled and compassionate nursing care for students, pioneering work with student peer-education programs, and extensive volunteer work in her own community.

It is requested the School Board recognize this award-winning professional who has demonstrated excellence in her role as school nurse.

2. ASD Memorandum #318 - Afterschool Champion Award

The Afterschool Alliance is a non-profit public awareness and advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs. In mid-May, the Afterschool Alliance presented Anchorage School District Board member Mary Marks with its Afterschool Champion Award at a Congressional breakfast in Washington, D.C. The award recognized Ms. Marks' efforts to expand afterschool programming and to involve parents and community members in supporting afterschool.

In 2002, Ms. Marks was elected to represent the Anchorage School District school board, making her the first native Alaskan woman to serve on the board. Prior to that, she served as the chairperson of the Parent Advisory Committee of Williwaw Elementary's 21st Century Community Learning Center and on the Native Education Advisory Committee/Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

It is requested the School Board recognize Mary Marks for being a leading advocate for Alaska's families, children and Native American communities.

3. ASD Memorandum #319 - World Space Week Award

World Space Week is an international celebration of the contribution that space, science and technology makes to benefit humanity everyday.

Recently, students at Ursa Major Elementary received notification that they had earned a World Space Week award. Belinda White's fifth- and sixth-grade combination class won a first place award in space-related web site design during the annual World Space Week. The students' Web site was a culmination of an intensive class study of space and constellations, which was integrated with lessons in literature and math.

In late April, Ms. White traveled to Greenbelt, Maryland, where she was honored by leaders of Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, the International Space Week Organization, and NASA. She accepted the award as well as a \$500 grant for Ursa Major Elementary.

Congratulations to Ms. White and the following 5th and 6th grade students:

- Andrew Anthony, Donald Arthur, Michael Brummer, Christopher Byrd, Dominique Crowell, Victoria Cagle, Frederick Delacruz, Zachary Feyer, Dalton Harrison, Brian Heste, Christopher Adam Hildreth, Paul Hunt, Eduardo Lopez, Derrick Miller, Brittinie Rasor, Kristine Realon, Felecia Rose Rogers, Shawn Sampson, T'Etta Smith, Raquiem Soto Moore and Joseph Vazquez.

It is requested the School Board recognize this outstanding teacher and her 21 students for their creative and award winning web page designed during World Space Week.

4. ASD Memorandum #328 - Pencils Full of Stars

The idea for a poetry booklet penned by students began in 1970 when Northwood Elementary School first grade teacher Bell Benton set out to collect student poetry to present at the District's

Fine Art Festival. Astonished with the number of submissions, Ms. Benton compiled the collection and titled it, "Pencils Full of Stars."

Each year since, with the help of the Poetry Committee, the booklet has been published to allow Anchorage elementary students the opportunity to see their creativity in print. Now in its 34rd year of publication, it is believed to be the longest continually published poetry anthology in Alaska. This year's publication contains 334 poetry selections from 93 classrooms of 36 elementary schools.

The year's Poetry Committee members include: Carol Dahl, Melinda Dale, Lori Davis, Beverley Fannesbeck, Louise Gallop, Celeste Long, Sean Murphy, Keith Perrins, Margaret Phillips and Magel Toyofuku.

Louise Gallop will present certificates to this year's Gold Nugget winners. The three winners are: **Lilly Harris** of Chugach Optional School, **Lorenzo Jenkins** of Inlet View Elementary, and **Morgon Riley** of Family Partnership Charter School.

In addition to the publication of their poetry, some students are honored with other special awards, such as the Margaret Mielke Memorial Poetry Award to Promising Young Poets. This award is given in honor of the late Margaret Mielke, the first poet laureate of Alaska. Bill Stolze, a Mielke family member, will make these presentations.

This year's Mielke Award winners include elementary students: **Grant Barras** from Baxter Elementary, **Ashley Hays** from Scenic Park, **Kaylah Hillery** from Muldoon, **Genieve Lynch-Rahe** of Lake Hood Elementary, **Rosie Mancari** of Family Partnership Charter School, **Kelsey Saakvitne** of O'Malley Elementary, **Thomas Savoini** from Kincaid, **Iziah Sherman-Newsome** of Muldoon Elementary, **Blake Steenholven** from Lake Hood, **Shelby Werstlein** of Muldoon, **Anna Wichorek** from Northern Lights ABC, and **Ziggy Unzicker** from Rogers Park Elementary.

Four years ago, another award was added to honor the late Bell Benton who was a creative inspiration to so many students. The Bell Benton Memorial Poetry Award honoring excellence in poetic expression will be presented by Lynn McNamara from the Eta

Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International, a society of women educators.

The winners include: **Matthew Biering** of College Gate, **Michelle Bottoms** of Family Partnership Charter School, **Amber Tatiana Diaz** of Inlet View, **Morgan Frank** from Denali Elementary, **Michael Kim** of Spring Hill, **Christina Knapp** of Chugach Optional, **Stephanie Moore** from Taku Elementary, **Hayley Suarse** from Tudor, **Jonathon Walther** of Northern Lights ABC School and **Shelby Werstlein** of Muldoon Elementary.

It is requested that the School Board recognize these young poets whose creativity and imagination inspired these awards.

John Steiner presented and read a poem, which he authored to each one of the students. He encouraged them to continue with their poetry.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Lorett Nabong noted that the last Student Advisory Board meeting was held on May 15 and thanked Carol Comeau for attending. Mr. Nabong stated that after the vandalism incident at Dimond, leaders from Dimond and Service High Schools gathered to discuss the future and how to prevent recurring incidents like this again. The school leaders expressed a desire to continue with friendly rivalry, but do not support acts of vandalism against either school.

2. Military Delegate

LTC Peter Mulcahy was not in attendance.

3. MECC

William Johnson stated that he had no report. There is a MECC meeting scheduled for June 19 at 12 noon in Room 320 in the Administration Building; the public is invited to attend. Interviewing potential members for the MECC is continuing. Carol Comeau commented that there was an advertisement in the

newspaper this past weekend inviting the public to apply for the MECC and Special Education Advisory Committees.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Monica Hall spoke before the Board on the potential budget cuts to the Chester Valley after school program. She is a single mom and relies on the program for her children. Cutting this program will put her children at a disadvantage. Ms. Hall reminded the Board that parents appreciate having their children in a safe environment after school hours, and having help for them with their homework.

Sharon Mitchell, Principal at Chester Valley, stated that the loss of the 21st Century After School Program would have a negative impact on the community. The program provides a safe environment for both academics and activities. Ms. Mitchell stated that 45 percent of the students are from single family homes. Without the program, students will be unsupervised for about two hours after school. Students receive extra help in academics, increased self-esteem, and involvement in the community; they deserve everything that other students have.

Jeff Friedman noted that the entire Board recognizes how important these programs are and encouraged the community to contact their legislator.

Macon Roberts stated that he personally knows the value of after school programs and questioned how many students would be affected by the loss. Denelle Baldwin, Coordinator for the program, responded that approximately 100 students would be impacted. The average attendance is 87 students with an all time high of 112.

John Steiner asked what the cost of the program was at Chester Valley. Carol Comeau responded that she did not have the information tonight, but will return with it at a later date. Ms. Comeau commented that grant funds are wonderful, but sometimes programs cannot continue when the funds are no longer available.

John Steiner asked if the District transports these students in the after school program. Carol Comeau responded that those

students who are normally transported are provided busing from the after school program. She also noted that the community school program has not been eliminated; a less senior person holding the position of the coordinator was laid off from the District.

Mary Marks inquired if there is a waiting list for students to enter the program. Sharon Mitchell responded no.

Rebecca Martinez, parent and Chester Valley PTA president, requested the Board keep the after school program open at Chester Valley. She indicated that her daughter, who is a special education student, was able to stay on grade level with the assistance of this academic program. Single/low income families need this assistance.

Carol Comeau asked Ms. Martinez if she has had any discussion with the Chester Valley staff about any interest they may have in running a program similar to the 21st Century after school program. Ms. Martinez responded no that the school year ended and they have not had an opportunity to fully discuss this issue.

Randy Hughes, President of Safety for the Chester Valley PTA, stated that this is a wonderful program and has enhanced his children's education. The program provides a structured and safe environment, which is essential to the community. He encouraged the Board to keep the program in tact.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum #323 - Frontier Charter School Contract

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the contract for the Frontier Charter School as shown on Attachment A with a program budget for the 2003-2004 school year of \$1,374,868. This ten year contract is effective July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2013, or until terminated, and is subject to an annual review and negotiation as per School Board Policy 333.

2. ASD Memorandum #330 - Sole Source Purchase of Highland Tech High Charter School Curriculum

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the sole source purchase of Highland Tech High Charter School curriculum to Lab Volt in the amount of \$124,834.

3. ASD Memorandum #269 - Award of Contract: Bartlett High School Phase 2A - Science Classrooms

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Bartlett High School Phase 2A - Science Classrooms to Christensen Builders Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$2,150,000 (including Allowance Assignment of \$112,619.00), to accept Alternate 2 in the amount of \$21,540 for a total award of \$2,284,159, and to accept all Unit Prices.

4. ASD Memorandum #315 - ESL Reading Foundation Course - Middle School Level

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the pilot of ESL Reading Foundations course for the middle school level during the 2003-2004 school year.

5. ASD Memorandum #317 - 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 amount of \$474,936 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 continue after-school programs in three high-needs elementary schools and one middle school. The sites are Fairview, North Star, Williwaw, and Clark.

6. ASD Memorandum #193 - Award of Contract: Rogers Park Elementary School Window Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Rogers Park Elementary School Window Replacement to Gallatin Construction for the Base Bid in the amount of \$143,600.

7. ASD Memorandum #287 - Award of Contract: O'Malley Elementary School Window Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the O'Malley Elementary School Window Replacement to Gallatin Construction for the Base Bid amount \$48,685, and to accept Additive Alternate #1 for \$47,294 and Additive Alternate #2 for \$33,384, for a total award of \$129,363.

8. ASD Memorandum #296 - Award of Contract: East Anchorage High School Renovation Project, Phase 3 - Auditorium and Fine Arts Building

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for East Anchorage High School Renovation Project, Phase 3 - Auditorium and Fine Arts Building to the low bidder, Cornerstone Construction Co., Inc., for the Base Bid in the amount of \$12,700,000 and to accept Alternate 9 in the amount of \$57,000, for a total award of \$12,907,073 (including Allowance Assignment of \$150,073), accept Unit Prices A-K. It is also the recommendation of the Administration the School Board authorize an increase of \$200,000 in the project funding.

9. ASD Memorandum #301 - Award of Contract: Huffman Elementary School Sewage Holding Tanks

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Huffman Elementary School Sewage Holding Tanks to the low responsive bidder Construction Unlimited, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$298,000.

10. ASD Memorandum #306 - Award of Contract: Miscellaneous School Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Corporate Express to furnish Miscellaneous School Supplies in the amount of \$164,534.

11. ASD Memorandum #305 - Award of Contract: Bakery Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a one-year contract with two one-year renewal options to Interstate Brands Corporation to furnish Bakery Products in the estimated amount of \$147,028.

12. ASD Memorandum #311 - Award of Contract: Food Service Expendable Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America and Frontier Paper to furnish Food Service Expendable Supplies in the estimated amounts of \$297,406 and \$199,030 respectively.

13. ASD Memorandum #312 - Award of Contract: Food Staples

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America, Northwest Food Services and Teddy's Tasty Meats to furnish Food Staples in the estimated amounts of \$194,765, \$274,074 and \$192,711 respectively.

14. ASD Memorandum #313 - Award of Contract: Frozen Food Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America, Mike's Quality Meats, Inc. and Teddy's Tasty Meats to furnish Frozen Food Products in the estimated amounts of \$333,866, \$815,295 and \$278,394 respectively.

15. ASD Memorandum #314 - Approval of Change Order: Chugiak High School Renewal Phases 2 and 3

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve change order number nine in the amount of \$454,151 to the Unit Company contract for Chugiak High School Renewal Phases 2 and 3 Gymnasium Cafeteria Renovation.

16. ASD Memorandum #322 - Renewal of Group Medical Contracts

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew the contract for the 2003-2004 plan year with Premera Blue Cross of Washington and Alaska for group medical and dental, Vision Service Plan for group vision care insurance and States West Life Insurance Company for life insurance.

17. ASD Memorandum #320 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Food Service Employees 2003-2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the collective bargaining agreement between the District and General Teamsters Local 959, which will establish terms and conditions of employment for Food Service employees during the period between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2006.

18. ASD Memorandum #275 - 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 #323, #269, #315, #314, and #322.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele
seconded by Jeff Friedman

to approve Memorandum #330 ;
Memorandum #317;
Memorandum #193 (Revised);
Memorandum #287;
Memorandum #296;
Memorandum #301;
Memorandum #306;
Memorandum #305;
Memorandum #311;
Memorandum #312;
Memorandum #313;
Memorandum #320, and
Memorandum#275 w/addendum.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele, Metcalfe,
Friedman, Steiner, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #323 - Frontier Charter School Contract

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the contract for the Frontier Charter School as shown on Attachment A with a program budget for the 2003-2004 school year of \$1,374,868. This ten year contract is effective July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2013, or until terminated, and is subject to an annual review and negotiation as per School Board Policy 333.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded by Tim Steele

to approve Memorandum #323.

There was discussion regarding the hiring of "highly qualified certificated teachers" among the Board and Tim Scott. Tim Scott assured the Board that they will be hiring qualified certificated teachers for their program. Frontier Charter School is a home school model and they will not be providing direct instruction to students. Ms. Comeau stated that she and the State Board of Education are comfortable with this particular model. They will work through the system to determine, between the

state and federal government, what actually is the definition of a “highly qualified certificated teacher.” Mr. Scott assured the Board that he will comply with the requirement and will not be in violation of their contract. Carol Comeau stated that the charter school contract needs to be revised, which will be completed through the School Board policy subcommittee.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele, Metcalfe,
Friedman, Steiner, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #269 - Award of Contract: Bartlett High School
Phase 2A - Science Classrooms

It is the Administration’s recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Bartlett High School Phase 2A - Science Classrooms to Christensen Builders Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$2,150,000 (including Allowance Assignment of \$112,619.00), to accept Alternate 2 in the amount of \$21,540 for a total award of \$2,284,159, and to accept all Unit Prices.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele to approve Memorandum #269.
seconded by Jeff Friedman

Superintendent Carol Comeau stated that the District was notified two weeks ago that there was a protest to this bid award; David Ruskin, a third party reviewer, was hired to scrutinize the bid document.

David Ruskin is an attorney in Anchorage who has practiced for over 40 years. His practice involves mediation and no private clients. Mr. Ruskin stated that during the bid review, Christensen was found to be the low bidder and the award of contract was made and then reconsidered due to a bidding irregularity. The contract required an insurance binder and Christenson did not comply with that provision. Mr. Ruskin stated that the administration had to determine if this was a minor irregularity or one with real substance due to the fact that Board policy states that some irregularities can be waived. He noted that this particular irregularity was not covered by Board policy. He also commented that if this is a minor irregularity that has no real significance, the Board is required by case law to waive; if it is more

substantive, the Board does not have that authority. Mr. Ruskin stated that all the bidder had to do was get a note from his insurance broker to say if the contract is awarded, the contractor will produce a policy for all of the insurance required under the contract. He does not see that it adds anything to the District and doesn't see how it has any affect on any other bidder. Mr. Ruskin feels that it is an unnecessary hurdle that can provide a trap for bidders. He was given six bids to review; four out of six were defective. His conclusion is that it is a minor irregularity and feels that the administration is correct in waiving the requirement and awarding the bid to Christensen.

Jeff Friedman inquired if Consolidated had a binder. Mr. Ruskin responded that the insurance documents provided by Consolidated were very accurate and listed all of the insurance provided; Denali also had the required documents.

John Steiner asked if bidders could lose their bid security if they chose to not go forward or get the required insurance. Mr. Ruskin responded yes.

Julia Holden, attorney for Christensen Builders, stated that they did submit the low bid and believes the award is appropriate; the lack of insurance documents was a minor irregularity. In the bid document, Christensen Builders did say they would provide the necessary insurance. Ms. Holden concurred with Mr. Ruskin's review.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele, Metcalfe,
Friedman, Steiner, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #315 - ESL Reading Foundation Course - Middle School Level

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the pilot of ESL Reading Foundations course for the middle school level during the 2003-2004 school year.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded by Mary Marks

to approve Memorandum #315.

Carol Comeau stated that the memorandum is clear with the intent on how we are going to assist young people in becoming proficient in their reading. Ms. Comeau commented that this course will give more consistency to the student. Student achievement will be monitored very carefully to see if this approach has been successful.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele, Metcalfe,
Friedman, Steiner, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #314 - Approval of Change Order: Chugiak High School Renewal Phases 2 and 3

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve change order number nine in the amount of \$454,151 to the Unit Company contract for Chugiak High School Renewal Phases 2 and 3 Gymnasium Cafeteria Renovation.

ACTION:

Moved by Crystal Kennedy to approve Memorandum #314.
seconded by Tim Steele

Jeff Friedman has a concern with the request of the change order and asked if the reference was due to design deficiency. Ray Amsden responded that the power was a known item and the resolution rested with MEA relocating utilities. This resulted in extra work and extra time, which are both being addressed through the change order.

Mr. Friedman commented that we pay professionals to provide quality documents, which has resulted in too many change orders. Ray Amsden agreed and stated that the District does a very comprehensive review and has beefed up our designer work plan to identify the schedule delivery; they have high expectations for the designer. He doesn't believe that the designer is doing anything deliberately. This continues to be a sensitive issue for Facilities. Mr. Friedman is concerned that the taxpayers are paying for the designer's mistakes.

Macon Roberts asked for the total cost of the project. Mike Price responded that the contract award was around \$10,400,000.

Tim Steele expressed concern over this change order and is glad that Facilities is taking more precautions at the beginning of a project. Mr. Steele knows that this high school has experienced a lot of surprises once the project began.

Crystal Kennedy asked what would happen if the Board did not approve this change order. Ray Amsden responded that we would most likely experience a law suit. He commented that we must face our issues and deal with them because they always cost more when action is delayed.

John Steiner stated that the total change order percent is about eight percent on this project and this causes him some concern.

Carol Comeau commented that we must consider our experience with this particular firm and address them. She has all the confidence in the world with the Facilities Department who is watching this project very carefully. She agreed that we must hold all the designers to a high standard.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele, Metcalfe,
Friedman, Steiner, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #322 - Renewal of Group Medical Contracts

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew the contract for the 2003-2004 plan year with Premera Blue Cross of Washington and Alaska for group medical and dental, Vision Service Plan for group vision care insurance and States West Life Insurance Company for life insurance.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner to approve Memorandum #322.
seconded by Jeff Friedman

Jake Metcalfe asked what the amount was from the last increase. Eric Tollefsen responded that the overall increase was 8.55 percent for all of the plans. He stated that we were under the national average last year and are over this year. Mr. Tollefsen stated that the cost of health care is rapidly increasing, and if we have a healthier work force, the costs will decrease.

Carol Comeau noted that the Risk Management office has been aggressive in working with employees on safe practices and reducing worker's compensation claims.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele, Metcalfe,
Friedman, Steiner, Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #280 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of May 12, 2003 through May 29, 2003.

2. ASD Memorandum #308 - Facility Change Order and Completed Projects Report for the Month of April 2003

The monthly Facility Change Order Report for the month of April 2003 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

John Steiner asked Mr. Amsden if it would be a major undertaking to have the items split out and put past totals in a, b, and c so they could see a running total in each category. Mr. Amsden responded that it could easily be accomplished. The majority of the Board agreed. Mr. Steiner would also like the contractor and designer noted.

3. ASD Memorandum #316 - East High School Renewal Project Phase 1 - 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 artwork has been reviewed and

approved by the District's Risk Management Department. The artist has agreed to their safety recommendations.

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

Artist:	Marcus Tingle, Girdwood, AK
Location:	Window at new main entrance
Artwork:	Untitled at this time
Description:	Stained glass window thermal paned into existing windows and installed by contractor
Budget:	\$29,085
Account Code:	83037-5430 \$ 5,600 83044-5430 \$23,485

The jury for East High School Renewal Project includes the architect for the project, Jerry Winchester; Assistant Principal Mary McKean representing the Anchorage School District; James Dougherty from the Urban Design Commission; Pat Petrivelli from the Historical and Fine Arts Commission; Henry Hedberg representing the Arts Advisory Commission; Vonnie Gaither representing the school and community; Brianna Klutz representing the students at East High School; and, Graham Dane a professional artist and community member. A public meeting was held on March 27, 2003 at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art.

In accordance with the 1% for Art ordinance, the School Board may file an objection to this selection with the Public Art Committee by June 11, 2003, based upon technical reasons of safety or maintenance.

4. ASD Memorandum #276 - Annual Review/End of the Year Report for FY 2002-2003: Aquarian Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

"Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter

school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, recommendations for remediation of poor student performance, school goal attainment, trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility, a list of working capital assets, an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures, minutes of the meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, copies of any leases signed by the charter school, current bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee, notification of establishment of non-profit 501 (c) (3) status, list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization, any changes in facility location, any major changes planned for the following school year, and other information of interest to the local School Board. A list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school year, including officers, and staff members by position will be included.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Aquarian Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Overall, the Administration feels this charter school is successful. They have a strong and viable academic program which is well-supported by the parents and staff. They have faced major obstacles related to housing and rapidly increasing enrollment in the past with positive energy and a problem-solving attitude over the past 6 years. Connie Bensler, the District’s Liaison to Aquarian Charter School, has attended the monthly meetings of their Academic Policy Committee, made up of parents and staff. There is a good working relationship between Ms. Bensler and the APC.

This charter school has a full-time type B certificated principal, Marguerite Cherry-Hao, who is completing her second year as principal of the school. There is a strong commitment to a high academic focus and integrated, thematic curricula which is

enhanced by outdoor education, community service learning, and technology infused throughout the day. There has been little dissention this year among the teaching staff; one teacher has requested a transfer. A greater ownership in the school's mission was part of a discussion between the teaching assistants and the principal that resulted in a movement toward a better working relationship between the two. Special education issues have been the focus of the school's administration and the part time special education teacher. Much progress has been made since the 2001-2002 school year with additional need for continued effort in this area.

After the School Board's renewal of the school's charter last January, the State Board of Education and Early Development renewed their charter at the state level in June 2002.

The Village Charter School continues to be partially co-located with Aquarian Charter School in the Charter School Center. As Aquarian grows and develops new programs, the need to obtain additional classroom space continues to be discussed by the APC. At the Charter School Center, Aquarian occupies the larger part of the space with Village Charter School occupying four classrooms, some support facilities and partial use of the multi-purpose room. Both schools continue to work together to share space and costs of maintenance and utilities. Both schools will be allowed to continue in this space as long as it is cost-effective to maintain the structure.

We believe that this charter school can continue to thrive as a popular K-6 alternative school.

Carol Comeau introduced Margueritte Cherry-Hao and Ava Goodman to the audience and the Board. She noted that the Administration did have concerns last year and delayed their ten year renewal. They complied with the requirements, which then allowed the renewal process to be completed.

Ava Goodman gave a brief presentation on the program. Overall, parents seem to be satisfied with the program offered at Aquarian. A parent survey indicated that the school could do better with their Spanish program, but overall, parents were happy with their child's education. Ms. Goodman invited the Board to visit their school.

Margueritte Cherry-Hao stated that they have been able to concentrate on the student achievement and making the school a safe environment for all students. She feels the program has stabilized with many of the students returning each year. Ms. Cherry-Hao noted that the District has worked very well with their staff and their program continues to be a wonderful option for families in Anchorage.

Tim Steele commented on the number of hours that parent volunteers put in at the school each week and complimented the parents for being so involved in their child's education.

Carol Comeau asked about the six school/business partners they reported. Ms. Cherry-Hao stated that they have many business that they work with but Aquarian is not part of the School/Business Partnership Program.

Carol Comeau stated that both, Village and Aquarian Charter Schools, would be allowed to continue in the space at the Charter School Center as long as it is cost effective to maintain the school. She further commented that the Board has talked about setting a policy on charter school housing. Ms. Comeau stated that the former Superintendent made a commitment to this school to allow them to remain in the Charter School Center as long as it was cost effective to the District for them to occupy the space. At the present time, all routine maintenance costs for the Charter School Center are assumed by the School District.

5. ASD Memorandum #277 - Annual Review/End of the Year Report for FY 2002-2003: Family Partnership Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

"Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, recommendations for remediation of poor student performance, school goal attainment, trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility, a list of working

capital assets, an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures, minutes of the meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, copies of any leases signed by the charter school, current bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee, notification of establishment of non-profit 501 (c) (3) status, list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization, any changes in facility location, any major changes planned for the following school year, and other information of interest to the local School Board. A list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school year, including officers, and staff members by position will be included.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Family Partnership Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Family Partnership Charter School has had a productive year in several areas including business management practices and Individual Learning Plan development and accountability. By putting the ILP process on line, the school’s ability to efficiently manage students’ ILP increased many times. Included in the on line features in the near future is the ability for families to review statements and track progress of their orders. Connie Bensler, the Anchorage School District Charter School Liaison, has worked closely with the administration and Academic Policy Committee of this school. Ms. Bensler attended APC monthly meetings and provided assistance to these groups in working within the confines of the Anchorage School District and Charter School rules and regulations. The principal, Tim Scott, resigned May 1, 2003. The APC is currently conducting interviews to replace Mr. Scott with a type B certified administrator as principal of the school.

The intent of this particular charter is to provide an opportunity for a partnership between home-schooling parents and the Anchorage School District to give students an opportunity to have

some of their education provided by certificated teachers in the ASD in classrooms or one to one or small group instruction after regular school hours.

This unique school combines the structure of the Anchorage School District in the larger arenas of standardized testing and high school graduation requirements with the home school philosophy of individualized learning. Parents who become their children's teachers have received training in Six Traits Writing and Interventions Techniques. The latter was a class focused on developing learning profiles for students and assessment techniques that can be used to develop curriculum that is data driven. The school's goals continue to include more participation by their students in the District wide testing to achieve a 95 percent participation level.

Family Partnership Charter School is appealing the Commissioner of Education's decision and State Board of Education and Early Development's decision to fund the school as a correspondence school. The appeal is currently being litigated with a possible decision being made in July. If their appeal is successful, the District would make the appropriate budgetary adjustments as directed by the Court at that time.

We are very proud of having this successful charter school as part of the Anchorage School District and look forward to another successful school year next year.

Carol Comeau stated that the State of Alaska has concerns with this school due to the fact that only 95 percent of the students are involved in state-wide testing. She emphasized that it is absolutely required by both the state and the District to have all students participate in the mandated testing.

Tim Scott noted that they are actively appealing the correspondence school designator applied to them by the State of Alaska. He stated that oral arguments were completed in March 2003, but no ruling has come down to date. Mr. Scott complimented the District for their positive working relationship with their school. He also thanked Jerry Sjolander for helping them comply with special education issues that came up over the past year.

Theresa Kress, President of the APC, commented that she has enjoyed working with Connie Bensler, Charter School Liaison, and

applauds Mr. Scott's work as principal at FPCS as well as Scott Grant, Business Manger for FPCS. She announced that Mr. Scott will be leaving FPCS and will become the principal at Frontier Charter School, which will open in September 2003.

Carol Comeau stated her objection to having a student representative on the Academic Policy being a part of an evaluation process. This concerns her in the area of personnel when issues of performance are discussed. Ms. Comeau explained that the School Board decided not to give their student representative voting power, but to use him/her as advisory only. Teresa Kress noted many people are uncomfortable with this situation and this has been a discussion with APC since the opening of the school. Currently, the APC is divided on this issue. Mr. Scott noted that Frontier Charter School has a student on the APC but he/she is in an advisory capacity only.

6. ASD Memorandum #278 - Annual Review/End of the Year Report for FY 2002-2003: Village Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

"Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, recommendations for remediation of poor student performance, school goal attainment, trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility, a list of working capital assets, an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures, minutes of the meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, copies of any leases signed by the charter school, current bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee, notification of establishment of non-profit 501 (c) (3) status, list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization, any changes in facility location, any major changes planned for the following school year, and other information of interest to the local School Board. A list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school year, including officers, and staff members by position will be included.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract."

Representatives from Village Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

This is the fifth year of operation for Village Charter School. It has also been a somewhat contentious year for several families, teachers and the Village Administration. Efforts are ongoing to settle the differences and include several parent meetings, staff mediations, and a new committee formed by the Academic Policy Committee to provide an additional place for members of the Village Charter School Community to voice concerns and present ideas. Connie Bensler, the Anchorage School District Charter School Liaison, attends the monthly meetings of the Academic Policy Committee and the Village Administration. She works closely with the Village Charter School Community to facilitate communication between parents, staff and the APC and Village Charter School Administration.

The Administration continues to be concerned about the high rate of transience. Village Charter School was approved last year for an enrollment of 220 K-8 students. Their current enrollment is 152 students, down from the October, 2002 enrollment of 185 students. Efforts are underway to recruit new students and retain current ones. There are currently five (5) teachers who have submitted transfer requests to the Human Resources department from Village Charter School. This presents greater challenges for Village in retaining families whose children have experienced success while in these teachers' classrooms. Village has discussions underway with the Academic Policy Committee and current families to introduce in the near future 2-3 world language immersion programs. Parents may be attracted to Village as a means of getting world language instruction for their elementary and middle level students.

The school shares a facility with Aquarian Charter School at the Charter School Center. While Aquarian occupies most of the structure, Village currently uses 4 classrooms and the multi-

purpose room on a limited basis. The two schools have worked out a joint use agreement for the facility, shared custodial and utility costs, and use of the multi-purpose room. This facility will be available to these two schools only as long as the Anchorage School District considers the facility is cost-effective to maintain.

The Administration feels that this charter school has begun the process of dealing with the concerns that surfaced during the past year and must continue to examine its policies and practices in light of these concerns. If the school meets its enrollment projection and works through the communication issues it has with its own community as well as the Anchorage School District, it will be a successful charter school. The Administration feels strongly that a full-time principal with a current Type B certificate would allow the staff, parents, and the APC to focus on increasing student achievement and maintaining a more stable student/parent enrollment at the school. Village Charter School is part of the Anchorage School District and as such must follow all policies and negotiated agreements in order to receive funding from the District and remain as part of the ASD.

Meta Baxter stated that she reviewed the parent surveys and found that most parents were happy with the program at Village Charter School. She asked the Board, on behalf of all the individuals who have put in time to address their issues, to extend their contract from two years to ten years. Ms. Baxter feels that most issues can be resolved at the school in less than two years; therefore, she requested that the contract be extended for ten years.

Dois Dallas is a math counts volunteer at Village Charter School and offers a variety of math tutorials for grades K-8. He joins in the recommendation that the school be granted a ten year contract.

Jo Sanders stated that Village is the only school in the state to enable elementary students to take three languages simultaneously. She urged the Board to consider a renewal for ten years.

Karen Rhimschmidt, first year teacher at Village and tenured teacher with the District, commented that she has received support and encouragement from parents, the APC, and Linda Sharp. She would like to continue teaching at Village Charter School.

Jennifer Hatley noted that her daughter has completed her third year at Village. She has enjoyed the extra help that her daughter has received at the school. Ms. Hatley stated that she has seen growth at the school come out of the struggles they have endured. She is a new member of the APC and assured the Board that the schools goals will continue. She encouraged the Board to extend their charter for ten years.

Nathan Seaman asked the Board to consider a ten year renewal for Village Charter School. Ten years would allow the school to find a new facility to place all of the students in one place.

Sante Macado has worked at Village for three years. She is very happy with the students and gives her full support for the school.

Charlotte McCay is the parent of a first grader at Village and urges support for a ten year renewal. She believes that everyone has agreed that the program at Village is viable and is supported. Ms. McCay hosted two meetings to discuss issues of concern where everyone had an opportunity to speak.

Vincent Lease is grateful for Village Charter School. He believes that the kindergarten teacher cannot be matched in the District. Mr. Lease encouraged support from the Board for Village Charter School.

Charlotte McCay read a letter from Margo Tevault who was unable to attend the School Board meeting. Ms. Tevault supports the renewal of the charter for ten years. Without the ten year renewal, they will be unable to find a suitable facility.

Jake Metcalfe stated that it is important to point out that the Board is not taking any action on the Village Charter School contract renewal at the Board meeting tonight. The Board is only here to listen to the annual review of their program.

Carol Comeau commented that the Board has already made the decision to renew their contract for two years instead of ten years. She understands and appreciates all the hard work the parent volunteers have put in and applauds their efforts to address the communication issues. Ms. Comeau stated that they still have a long way to go. She noted that the minutes from the April and May meetings were not included in the annual report and that troubles her. Ms. Comeau is also concerned over the mobility

issue with such a small student population and the fact that five staff members are requesting transfers. She feels there are still many issues that need to be resolved.

Jeff Friedman noted that the contract could be terminated at any time by the Board whether it was a two year or a ten year contract. He further stated that a two year contract does not preclude long-range planning.

Tim Steele commented that parents on all sides of the issues support the programmatic design of the school. He feels that there should be a period of time allowed for individuals to work on the serious issues. Mr. Steele applauds what the parents are accomplishing by working honestly and openly. He supports the two year contract to make sure that progress is being made.

Carol Comeau asked Jerry Sjolander and a representative from Village to come forward to discuss some special education compliance issues that have been identified. Mr. Sjolander stated that he has been working with Kathy Sue Justus on issues to establish some procedures at the school, which will bring them back into compliance. Both Ms. Justus and Linda Sharp assured the Board that they have worked diligently with the Special Education Department to develop a plan of improvement and will work in the future to be in total compliance with state and federal regulations. Kathy Sue Justus confirmed that she will continue as the special education teacher for 2003-2004 if the school is unable to attain a teacher transfer.

John Steiner asked for a clarification on whether the charter school may apply for an extension of their contract or do they have to wait until the two years are up before they can ask for reconsideration for a ten renewal. Carol Comeau responded that she believes if the school shows substantial progress, she would be more than willing to review and bring forward a recommendation to the Board.

Jeff Friedman asked what the connection and the differences were between the 501C3 and the school funds. Linda Sharp responded that Village Charter School contracts with Mike Boots to complete all accounting requirements. Village Charter School Inc. is similar to a parent/teacher organization that does fund raising, special events, volunteer help, etc. There is an accountant who works

professionally to oversee that organization. Carol Comeau asked why the statement from that organization was not in the annual report; she only found the application to the State and the Internal Revenue Service. Linda Sharp responded that she will fax it to the Superintendent in the morning. Jeff Friedman noted that he was not indicating that something was wrong, he was only wondering how the school had set up this account.

Macon Roberts noted that he is interested in reviewing this topic again and asked Ms. Sharp what her best guess would be when she feels she can be in total compliance. Linda Sharp responded that she feels they have addressed about 90 percent of the District's concerns. She feels that several unique things have occurred over the past year. Ms. Sharp noted that the last ten percent is the facility issue which will be addressed this next year, although she has found it impossible to secure another facility with a landlord under a short-term contract.

Mary Marks indicated that she will move favorably to renew the contract for Village once she sees that they are making progress. She would like the mobility, special education, and teacher transfer issues addressed before she makes a decision.

Carol Comeau commented that last year the Board approved the enrollment to 220 students. Linda Sharp stated that they plan to recruit to 180 students for the 2003-2004 school year. To enroll 220 students, they will need more space.

Jeff Friedman stated that if there is another facility that is larger and cheaper, the APC should look into it. The landlord may not be as concerned as she may think. Mr. Friedman feels that they could sign a ten year commitment now even though they have a two year contract with the District.

John Steiner stated that it is important that full disclosure be made with the landlord. He commented that it is not the intent of the Board to only approve this school for two years. Mr. Steiner would like the relationship with the school to improve prior to extending the contract. This is not a short-term concept. He expects the school to be around for a long period of time.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMSJ. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mary Marks thanked the Administration for the team building session today. She remarked that it was a great opportunity to work with the new School Board members and looks forward to the upcoming school year.

John Steiner announced that the funding bill was signed by Governor Murkowski today and the District will not be taking a massive hit this year. He does have concerns for the future.

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

The Regular Meeting of June 9, 2003 adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Jake Metcalfe, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved