

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #16 (2003-2004)

August 25, 2003

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP REPORT, 2002-2003

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Anchorage School Business Partnership programs continue to grow and prosper. Since 1991, the Anchorage School District has enjoyed over 600 School Business Partnerships. Approximately 200 are active at any one time. It is an expectation that all schools have at least one school business partnership.

Since the fall of 2001, the President and the coordinator for the School Business Partnership Board have worked directly with the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, meeting and conferring on a regular basis.

School Business Partnerships represent many forms of positive collaborations between schools and businesses, including mentorships, internships, on-the-job training, experiential learning and in-kind donations. School Business Partnerships are both small and large, ranging from the one-person business involved with a school to large corporations involved with many schools and/or the entire District.

This past year there has been a continuing effort to provide information, recognition, support and encouragement for the School Business Partnership program through four main venues: publication of the Best Practices booklet, the Anchorage School District web site, establishment of the annual Fall Kick-off breakfast, and the second annual May STAR Awards luncheon at the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. Through the use of the Anchorage School District web site, principals have had the ability to establish partnerships on line.

In 2002-2003, School Business Partnership coordinators were added to the six comprehensive high schools through the Smaller Learning Communities federal grant. The School Business Partnership Student Board completed its second year and increased fund raising for student scholarships. Students were involved in the Anchorage Charity Walk and working at Saturday Market.

Being a school business partner takes time, commitment, caring, relationship building, understanding, and planning. Effort on the part of schools and the business partners is essential in facilitating career and academic success for students.

Due to funding limitations, the School Business Partnership Executive Board eliminated the position of Executive Director and retained the coordinator's position with the possibility of adding another part-time coordinator. There is also discussion taking place with the Board of Junior Achievement to merge the two organizations at some point.

The fifth annual volume of Best Practices (Attachment A) represents partnerships that exemplify the highest levels of achievement. These partnerships also serve as exemplars of excellence that can be duplicated in other schools and businesses.

The School Business Partnership Board thanks the Anchorage School Board for its active support of the School Business Partnership program. Together we are able to build stronger relationships between schools and the business community, thus establishing more educational opportunities for students.

CC/JC/SS/BS

Attachment

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