

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2003

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, August 25, 2003, at 6:31 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. Vice President, Tim Steele, presided.

Board Members Present: Tim Steele, Mary Marks, Crystal Kennedy, John Steiner, Macon Roberts, Jeff Friedman, and Jake Metcalfe, via teleconference.

Others Present: Jan Christensen, Mike Henry, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Debbie Bogart, Jeff Wood, Eric Tollefsen, Dr. Robb Boyer, Michelle Egan, Janet Stokesbary, Loretta Nabong, Mark Mew, Ray Amsden, Rhonda Gardner, Mike Price, Brent Rock, Pam Chenier, Steve Kalmes, Stan Syta, LT.COL. Pete Mulcahy, William Johnson, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

- A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, Tim Steele Presiding
- B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Macon Roberts announced that last Thursday he attended the Black Caucus of State Legislators, hosted by Senator Bettye Davis. About 30 states were represented at the caucus. Mr. Roberts also responded to some questions from parents regarding how they can get involved. Mr. Roberts stated that with NCLB mandates to meet, it will be extremely important that parents participate as much as possible with their children and do their part in helping them to pass the test and meet those mandates. One suggestion is to make sure the home environment is conducive to study - clear, free of clutter, and well lighted with no distractions such as television or radio. The quality of the student's studying and homework time and environment is very conducive to the quality of the work the student does at home and on tests. Mr. Roberts recommends also for the parents to make an occasion to do something cerebral themselves while their children are studying, i.e. read a book or work on the computer, so the student sees that the parent is also doing something constructive. Make sure the students have some break time. Sometimes they are forced to go the entire evening with no break when there is a lot to do. When the break is taken, take a break with them. It is very important for parents to attend functions at school, even if they only have 30 minutes at a 2 1/2-hour function. It lets the school administrators and teachers know that you care enough to attend and it lets the student and fellow students know that the parents are involved. One of the worst things that happen with a student is that other parents are there and his/her parents are not

there. In order to meet the mandates we are going to depend more on the parents to be actively involved in the students' education on all levels. To the parents who feel they are not high school and college educated and that they can't contribute, a lot of those who have advanced degrees cannot do the type of new math and work that is coming home. There are things they can do such as taking a dictionary and help the child look up words, and explain the different meanings that the word has to the subject.

Tim Steele thanked Mr. Roberts for those words of advice to parents and added that he hasn't met a parent yet that does not want to see his/her child succeed and sometimes we don't realize the example we are setting. It is important to have a clean environment and regular time to do things but it is also extremely important that the parents are good role models and show the school that they are involved as well.

Mary Marks stated that there is a lot going on for the school boards across the country, especially since the Adequate Yearly Progress reports were released. Ms. Marks commented that the District would be asking the community to participate more in education at a stronger pace and will not take "no" lightly. Ms. Marks mentioned that the H.U.G.G.S. program is still going on. Ms. Marks thanked the School Board members for attending the totem pole celebration last weekend. There is a purpose and a lot of pride when a totem pole is raised. Ms. Marks thanked the community and School Board members for attending and learning more about the Alaskan Native culture. Tim Steele stated that there was a great parallel with the ceremony in regards to the advice Macon Roberts gave in terms of involvement of family and community education.

Carol Comeau announced that the Denali Elementary School dedication is at 5:00 Thursday night. School begins September 2 for every grade level except kindergarteners, who will have their interviews the first four days and start school the following Monday. Ms. Comeau warned the public to slow down in school zones. For the month of September, the police department has a grant for increased traffic enforcement in school zones.

Tim Steele announced that one of the items on the Superintendent's report tonight is the budget development process and a recommendation to reinstate the budget review teams used successfully a few years ago. The District is looking forward to community involvement.

John Steiner commented that when the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report was released the District published a chart that indicated the reason

a school did not make adequate yearly progress. Mr. Steiner stated that the District appreciates the press not sensationalizing the results and is helping the community understand the fact that the labels do not tell the whole story. The District commends the press and the community for looking deeper beyond the headlines. Mr. Steiner urged the public to contact the District for more information.

Carol Comeau added that the ASD website has the results for every school as well as other information on this. The Administration will also make additional copies of the chart published in the newspaper available. Ms. Comeau appreciates help from the media in getting the information out.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved by the Board.

D. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Lorett Nabong stated that the Student Advisory Board has not had a meeting as of yet since school hasn't started. Mr. Nabong commented that he attended the Dimond High School ribbon cutting ceremony and thanked everyone for attending. It was a chance for everyone to see the new school. Mr. Nabong participated in registration and noticed that the students are very eager to start the year.

2. Military Delegate

LTC Pete Mulcahy commented that tonight's theme seems to be parental involvement. The Army and Air Force has tried to stress this also, and the military schools did quite well in the AYP report. In spite of high mobility they did and the key is parental involvement. LTC Mulcahy added that the public will also see extra police in the school zones on Post and Base.

3. M.E.C.C.

William Johnson stated that the M.E.C.C. met on August 21 and did not have a quorum. Rhonda Gardner spoke to the committee regarding NCLB. Mr. Johnson also mentioned the upcoming

agenda items. The next M.E.C.C. meeting is scheduled for September 18th 12:00 in Room 320.

E. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (30-minute time limit)

Speaker, Matt Moon, spoke to the Board on the Community Dividend Plan. This plan was introduced by former Governor Wally Hickel in the Alaska Municipal League. Mr. Moon stated that Alaska spends about a billion dollars on permanent fund dividends. If you split that number in half and give 500 million dollars in dividends and give 500 million dollars to different municipalities and boroughs you would get the decision-making level down to the cities on what to do with that money. Anchorage, being half the population, would get two hundred and fifty million dollars. The advantage is that it can either supplant the community revenue sharing or it can add to what we already have through our constitutional budget reserve. Mr. Moon asked the Board to talk to the legislators about the plan once they become more informed about it and have a stronger relationship with Juneau.

Jeff Friedman suggested that the Legislative Subcommittee should take a look at the Community Dividend Plan. Mr. Friedman added that the majority of legislators were not interested in long range planning when the Board members spoke with them earlier. Jake Metcalfe added that the leadership of our fiscal plan has to come up from our Governor on down and until the Governor and legislature comes up with a plan to fund education, that is not going to happen. Tim Steele agreed. John Steiner stated that he looked forward to being kept informed of packages put together by any organization that we can take a look at and consider. Macon Roberts asked if there is any area in the country that has tried this. Matt Moon replied that there is no other area that has tried this because Alaska is the only state that has this kind of wealth. Mr. Moon added that Alaska is a state that should act like a business. No business gives out a billion dollars in dividends and has a multi-million dollar budget deficit.

Speaker, Theresa Obermeyer, stated that she has never been able to get the names and addresses of the board members that she previously worked with from AASB. Ms. Obermeyer added that she does have their e-mail addresses. Ms. Obermeyer stated that

she is an honest person and agreed with Matt Moon and would prefer an education to a handout.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda is attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda Recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's office.**

1. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. Special Meeting - June 9, 2003 9:00 p.m.
  - b. Special Meeting - June 9, 2003 4:30 p.m.
  - c. Regular Meeting - June 9, 2003 6:30 p.m.
  - d. Special Meeting - June 23, 2003 4:30 p.m.
  - e. Regular Meeting - June 23, 2003 6:30 p.m.
  - f. Special Meeting - July 21, 2003 1:30 p.m.
  - g. Special Meeting - August 5, 2003 9:00 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #13 – 2003 Charitable Giving Campaign

It is the Administrations' recommendation that the School Board approve the inclusion of United Way of Anchorage and Alaska Community Share and their member agencies as shown in Attachments A and Be in the District's 2003 Charitable Giving Campaign.

3. ASD Memorandum #7 – Revisions to School Board Policy 433.443.2 Students and Student Personnel Services (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading, the attached proposed changes to School Board Policy 433-443.2, Student Services.

4. ASD Memorandum #14 – Appointment of Minority Education Concerns Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint the following individuals (Attachments A, B, and C) to the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) for terms expiring on June 30, 2005:

Charlene Gibbs  
Diane Heard  
Helen Sharratt

5. ASD Memorandum #19 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Project Adelante!

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$174,917 for the third year of a three-year grant period. The project strengthens and expands the two-way Spanish immersion programs at Government Hill Elementary School and Romig Middle School, creates high school level courses for heritage Spanish speakers and Spanish language students, and provides articulated professional development.

6. ASD Memorandum #20 – Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award Project VOCES

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$146,633 for the third year of a three-year grant period. This project extends the benefits of the Spanish Immersion Program to include Spanish Language and culture opportunities for all students in the Chugiak attendance area.

7. ASD Memorandum #21 – Acceptance of Title IIA Supplemental Technology Institute Grant Award

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept \$15,181 in Title II Supplemental grant funds. This particular supplemental grant provided for a four day, hands on "Leadership in Technology" Institute for principals and teachers engaged in technology integration.

8. ASD Memorandum #4 – Revision of FY 2003-2004 Food Service Fund Budget

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to increase the Food Service Fund by \$319,550 using the Food Service Fund Undesignated Fund Balance as the revenue source. The transaction would allow for the

purchase of hardware necessary to support the breakfast and lunch point of sale program.

9. ASD Memorandum #15 - Personnel Report

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Personnel Report.

The following memoranda were removed from the Agenda: the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 9, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.; the Special Meeting of June 9, 2003 at 4:30 p.m.; the Special Meeting of June 23, 2003 at 4:30 p.m.; the Special Meeting of July 21, 2003 at 1:30 p.m.; and the Special Meeting of August 5, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.; and ASD Memorandum #4.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner  
seconded by Mary Marks

to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.; Regular Meeting of June 23, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.; Memorandum #13; Memorandum #7; Memorandum #14; Memorandum #19; Memorandum #20; Memorandum #21; and Memorandum #15.

The motion was unanimously approved.

John Steiner moved to approve all of the special minutes and modify them by deleting the flag salute since there is no flag in Room 320 and the Board does not salute the flag during the Special Meetings.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner  
seconded by Jeff Friedman

to approve all of the special minutes and modify them by deleting the flag salute.

Tim Steele added that the agenda also needs to be corrected.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #4 - Revision of FY 2003-2004 Food Service  
Fund Budget

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to increase the Food Service Fund by \$319,550 using the Food Service Fund Undesignated Fund Balance as the revenue source. The transaction would allow for the purchase of hardware necessary to support the breakfast and lunch point of sale program.

ACTION:

to approve ASD Memorandum #4

Moved by John Steiner  
seconded by Mary Marks

Carol Comeau stated that this recommendation is to try to help the District be as efficient as possible with our food service program. Brent Rock explained the food service program and the need for this recommendation to be approved.

John Steiner reminded the community that the food service program is self-sustaining and this recommendation will not result in a higher deficit to the budget.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #23 - FY 2004-2005 Budget Development Process

During the past three years the Anchorage School District actively sought community input in the budget development process. In preparing the

FY2001-2002 budget, the District engaged 200 community members, employee and students in budget review teams. The FY 2002-2003 budget was prepared after contact with the budget review team members and gathering input from four community forums and online and written suggestions.

Carol Comeau stated that the District is projecting, at this point and time, a potential budget deficit of 26.2 million dollars to keep all programs current and without using five million dollars of the fund balance. Ms. Comeau explained that last year we had a projection of about a 16 million dollar gap. The State notified us in the spring that we had a 9.9 million dollar increase cost in the teacher retirement PERS and TERS program, by the State. Page two and three of the memorandum lay out increases and decreases. Based on all of this information, we anticipate this potential gap. We believe it is essential to bring back budget review teams with some modifications. We have looked at past evaluations and people wanted larger parts of the budget to look at. Therefore, we will have four large budget review team sections to review. We will ask a community member to facilitate with administrative staff and clerical support in order to record the notes of the meetings. Ms. Comeau explained the four groups. We are recommending these four larger budget review teams for them to look at economies, duplications of effort, program alternatives to provide services to students in a more effective way, and also recommendations that won't violate the law or labor agreements but that will have an impact on services in a positive way or will allow us to be more efficient. We also want them to look at any revenue enhancements to support the programs, such as perhaps increasing the rental rate and activity fees. We also need each committee to look for a 7 percent reduction in each large committee. We need to have the Board hear recommendations and use them as we put the budget together in January.

Jeff Friedman stated that he feels this is wonderful. Mr. Friedman has been on a budget review committee in the past and it was a real eye opener for him. There are a lot of good things that can come out of this, and he encourages anyone with time to do this. This takes an enormous effort on the staff's part. They all come open to change and criticism and it speaks well of their professionalism. Jake Metcalfe stated that he supports this plan. The Administration did a good job and he likes the timeline as well. Mr. Metcalfe served on a budget review committee with Mr. Steele and it was very educational. Mr. Metcalfe stated that he would like to see legislators and the Governor's staff to participate. Carol Comeau stated that we can invite them to participate, as well as Cheryl Frasca in

the OMB department of the Municipality. We did discuss this with the Assembly. Mr. Steiner suggested inviting the major employers who have a big stake on students being well-educated and secondly, major taxpayers. School Business Partnerships are also a group to call upon. Carol Comeau agreed.

Ms. Comeau added that the kick-off meeting will be held on Sept. 16, 2003, at Dimond High School. They will break into the four teams to decide their schedule then and wrap up by Oct. 24th. On Oct. 30th the teams will meet back at Dimond High School to have the teams give their final report. We will then have the November work session as we move forward in the budget process.

#### ASD Memorandum #16 - School Business Partnership Report, 2002-2003

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.

Sharon Sellens and Karla Korman, Alaska Airlines, gave an overview of what is going on in the School Business Partnership program. Business leaders are recognizing the importance of their involvement with our youth. There are numerous partnerships that go undocumented. They are involved for the kids and the community - not the recognition. Mary Marks commented she is looking forward to being a liaison with the SBP. Tim Steele added that this is a great experience and a great group. It is not just about giving money but it is involvement. Jake Metcalfe stated he was very excited at the kick-off. His employer is a partner with Denali Elementary School and they have a lot of ideas as to how to make it a success. Mr. Metcalfe asked about the discussion of combining SBP with Junior Achievement. Jan Christensen stated that there have been discussions between JA and Barbara Stallone with SBP. They will have a meeting later this month and are just in the talking stages. There could there be some cost savings involved.

#### ASD Memorandum #17 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of July 26, 2003 through August 15, 2003.

Ms. Comeau stated that the Facilities, Operations, Maintenance and Warehouse departments have done an incredible job in getting the schools prepared for the opening next week.

Tim Steele stated that it is interesting to note that there will be some items falling off the report.

John Steiner requested that ASD Memorandum #5 be moved ahead in order to accommodate Mr. Amsden. The Board unanimously agreed.

ASD Memorandum #5 - Facility Change Order Report and Completed Projects for the Months of June & July, 2003

The monthly Facility Change Order Report for the months of June and July 2003 is attached.

Jeff Friedman suggested the idea of having a subcommittee that addresses construction and major maintenance. The Board often has questions and if there was a committee involved in some of these decisions he would have a better comfort level. John Steiner commented he would also support an idea of having board members take a closer look at some of these items.

Carol Comeau stated that she thinks it would be appropriate to have a work session on construction issues. Tim Steele agreed that a work session is good place to talk about this. There are a lot of surprises with renovation work.

Jake Metcalfe added that the work session is important but if Board members do not have comfort levels they should try to talk to the Administrators and staff to get their comfort levels up. Mr. Metcalfe encouraged them to reach out and go talk to those people and do it in person or phone instead of e-mail.

ASD Memorandum #24 - Semi-Annual Report of Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts Over \$10,000

In accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.132, the semi-annual report for Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$10,000 for the period January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2003 is attached.

ASD Memorandum # 22 - Abbott Loop Elementary School Emergency Siding Replacement

This Memorandum documents action taken by the Administration to procure Construct Contract services on an Emergency basis in accordance with Board Policy #725.23. This course of action was necessitated by the extent of dry rot and structural deterioration to the exterior siding, sheathing, studs and sole plate of the 1972 addition to Abbott Loop Elementary School (the classroom pod on the west side of the building by Lake Otis Parkway).

ASD Memorandum #30 - Dimond High School Replacement - 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 and Anchorage Fire Department. The artist has agreed to their safety recommendations, which will be addressed in the artist's contract.

Ms. Comeau pointed out the examples of the artwork in the back of the Board Room.

ASD Memorandum #31 - Ptarmigan Elementary School Additions and Renovations - 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 and Anchorage Fire Department. The artist has agreed to their safety recommendations, which will be addressed in the artist's contract.

Ms. Comeau pointed out the artwork for the project displayed in the back of the Board Room.

John Steiner asked what part the District plays in the choice of the artwork. Jocelyn Young explained that we have an ordinance we work with. There is a public hearing when the jury selects an artwork. Joscelyn then takes it to the school site for review. The district's overview is for safety and maintenance, only.

John Steiner mentioned the fact that the totem pole in the artwork looks scary. Jocelyn Young stated that the committee could take that information back to the artist. Mary Marks stated that the artwork is very insulting to her as an Alaskan native. If there is any kind of way to have this redone she would appreciate it. Ms. Marks added that in her culture there is no contemporary totem pole and would like to see something with more value to it. Jocelyn Young appreciated the comments. The carved ptarmigan heads are what the things that look like ghosts in the drawing will be. The artist is a contemporary artist. He may be pushing the boundaries further than we want to go. Ms. Young stated that she respects Mary Marks' comments.

ASD Memorandum #18 - Operating Budget Transfers - June Monthly Report FY 2002-2003

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of June 2003 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000—  
Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000, which includes summarized justifications.

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of June 2003 and the budget transfer forms and related information for all of the transfers are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

Mary Marks thanked George Vakalis and the Support Services staff for the tour they hosted last week. It was a good eye opener and Ms. Marks appreciated the opportunity to participate.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

William Johnson noted for the record that he wanted to thank Diane Heard, Charlene Gibbs, and Helen Sharratt for volunteering to be the new members of the M.E.C.C.

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

The Regular Meeting of August 25, 2003, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:30 p.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