

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

The Anchorage School Board met for a Special Meeting on Monday, September 29, 2003, at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, Jake Metcalfe, presided.

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

Others Present: Jan Christensen, Gail Opalinski, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Larry Wiget, Jeff Wood, Ray Amsden, Mike Price, Rick Barrier, Mike Franks, Mike Stephenson, Pam Chenier, Ophelia Dargan-Steed, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, Jake Metcalfe Presiding

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Macon Roberts announced that he was recently in Washington D.C. attending a congressional conference on city education. The goal is to take a five-year plan sponsored by the senate and reinstitute civic education in some schools and support in others. Mr. Roberts stated that he came away with the conviction that it is a legitimate worthwhile effort being supported and sponsored by congress.

Mary Marks announced that the Cook Inlet Tribal Council annual meeting would be held at 6:30 on Friday at the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #53 - BOOKS FOR STUDENTS

Even with the growing dependence on computers, books remain an invaluable component in education. Our school libraries still rely on the written word in its traditional format to inform and enlighten students. So anytime a school district receives a donation of quality books, it is accepted with sincere appreciation.

E. DISCUSSION/WORK SESSION

1. Construction:

Vince Beltrami, President of the Building & Trade Commission provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the topic of Project Labor Agreements. A PLA is a contractually binding agreement negotiated between a construction project owner, developer, and the Building Trades Labor Commission. Mr. Beltrami stated that PLAs help streamline management of construction projects and can save money through better use of union apprenticeship programs.

George Vakalis, Ray Amsden, and Mike Price presented to the Board an overview of a new school or school renovation project from the beginning to end. The discussion turned to the amount of change orders that occur during a project.

Macon Roberts asked if we are obliged to take the lowest bid. Mike Price answered that if we go out to competitive bidding we are obliged to take the lowest responsible bid. If they cannot comply with the requirements to execute a contract they can be excluded from being selected. Mr. Roberts asked if the contractors are locked in to one price for material or can it go up. Mike Price responded that if there was an inflation price in i.e. steel the contractor would have to absorb the price.

Jake Metcalfe asked for a description of the public process. Ray Amsden described the function of the Capital Request Advisory Committee. The public is included in the development of the educational supplements, the design committee; there is a public site plan review process, and the public input is also included in zoning issues. All of this information is available on the website. The design committee is intended to represent the staff. We rely on them to reach out to their groups to carry out the status and need for input.

Tim Steele asked what would be the official way for a principal to identify a renovation project he/she would like to see done. Ray Amsden replied that they should first contact the Facilities Department. The Capital Request Advisory Committee members are encouraged to visit the schools and see what their needs are.

Mike Franks has identified the anticipated life spans of equipment in the schools. He also validates in the field conditions. Mr. Franks has a 22 year plan that addresses all the building systems and we take a look at them if it gets to be close to the time for a system to end it's valued life. George Vakalis added that the Maintenance Department uncovers a lot also.

Jeff Friedman asked if it is possible to coordinate between the different construction projects when ordering the materials. Mike Price answered that we do not pre-purchase materials so we don't look at those options as cost savers. Each contractor sets up their own ordering. Furnishings, fixtures and equipment are sometimes purchased for several schools. The master schedule helps plan these purchases.

John Steiner asked how the budget is set when designing, and how the team is told what quality to design to. Mr. Amsden replied that we start with the education specifications. Mr. Amsden added that we have a program to deliver and we establish a budget to deliver that program. Our objective is not to spend all of the money. Carol Comeau commented that we have to rein in the school design teams and the architect sometimes so they don't build an elaborate building.

Crystal Kennedy asked what criteria is given for change orders that are more of a whim than a necessity. Mike Price replied if a program change is directed by Jan Christensen, the Assistant Superintendent, of Instruction, it will be done.

Jake Metcalfe asked why not plan for major maintenance in the general fund. George Vakalis replied that due to unforeseen system failure, we don't know how much to budget for it. It is also too expensive to fund out of the general budget.

F. SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

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

The Board unanimously agreed to move to Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

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

