

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #319 (2003-2004)

June 14, 2004

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END OF THE YEAR REPORT FOR FY 2003-2004  
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 years, 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 (Attachment A). The Administration requested that Ms. Sharp be present at the meeting, but she will be out of town. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

This is the sixth year of operation for Village Charter School. It provides an educational program that is enriched with several world languages offered to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Those languages include Norwegian, Spanish, German and English. Students are taught basic skills in English and the target language as well as songs, traditions and history. The principal, Linda Sharp and several staff members accompanies some of Village's students on trips to Mexico, Norway and Germany during the school year to experience first hand the language and customs of those countries. 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 Village Community to facilitate communication between parents, staff and the APC and Village Administration.

Village Charter School has been operating under a calendar that allows students to attend classes Monday through Thursday in an extended day format. The Department of Education and Early Development ruled that such a calendar is not legal under 2003 state law. That law has been changed in 2004 to make some flexibility in a school's calendar possible. However, the calendar needs to be approved by the Commissioner of Education as well. His decision is still under review. In the meantime, Village is holding classes six days a week during the month of June.

The Administration of the Anchorage School District and Village Charter School met in June 2003, to implement policies and procedures to ensure Village's compliance with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. There were a number of changes that needed to be implemented during the 2003-2004 school year. Village's special education teacher and TA have worked to comply with these changes. However, additional effort in this area is recommended for the 2004-2005 school year.

Test scores as Village have caused some concern for the administration. There is a large proportion of students who do not perform at the proficient or above level on the Benchmarks and who do not perform at or above the national average on the Terra Nova, CATs. While in-house criterion reference tests show higher results, the State and District required test results are not as high. Village has several remedial programs that are on going and that have produced positive results for kids.

The school shares a facility with Aquarian Charter School at the Charter School Center. While Aquarian occupies most of the structure, Village currently uses four 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.

CC/JC/CB

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Charter School Liaison

Approved by: Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction