

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #317 (2003-2004)

June 28, 2004

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END OF THE YEAR REPORT FOR FY 2003-2004
FRONTIER CHARTER SCHOOL

PERTINENT FACTS:

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 Frontier 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.

Frontier Charter School has enjoyed an extremely successful first year as a charter school in the Anchorage School District. Tim Scott, principal, the Academic Policy Committee, and the Frontier office staff have worked to create a school of excellence for home-schooled students and their families. Through their efforts, the school has grown to over 200 students, with the expectation of an increase in enrollment for the 2004-2005 school year. The cornerstone to the school's philosophy lies in a free individualized learning profile that includes diagnostic achievement testing, cognitive evaluations and ongoing parent training opportunities. The school community greatly relies on technology to communicate, evaluate, and participate in all aspects of the school. 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.

Frontier attained a 96 percent participation rate in the Terra Nova, Benchmark and HSGQE testing. There is a concerted effort on the part of the administration to provide remediation activities for those students who did not perform at the proficient or above level. The academic facilitator, Cal Dunham was greatly influential in such a successful turnout for this testing. The principal, Tim Scott, is also on the State Board of Education. He has provided a leadership role in education for the state in a variety of areas. As principal of both Family Partnership Charter School in the past and now Frontier Charter School, he has first-hand knowledge of how to operate a charter school that has been officially designated as a correspondence school by the Department of Education and Early Development. Many of the regulations developed under Mr. Scott's leadership and the ASD administration are being considered for adoption state-wide for correspondence schools.

It is a pleasure for the ASD administration to work with Mr. Scott, the APC, and Frontier staff. The school has done well and is certainly on its way to a successful first ten years as a charter school.

CC/JC/CB

Attachments

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Charter School Liaison

Approved by: Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction