

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 21, 2003

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, July 21, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, Jake Metcalfe, presided.

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

School Board Members Excused: Mary Marks

Others Present: Ray Amsden, George Vakalis, Jeff Wood, Alan Feters, Mike Franks, and Pam Chenier.

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

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jake Metcalfe reminded the Board of the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Eagle River High School July 31, 2003. John Steiner announced that he regrets he will be out of town the day of the groundbreaking. Macon Roberts joined the meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Unanimously approved with change to the Personnel Report. There was a mention on the Personnel Report listing Melissa Janigo, Speech Pathologist at Mt. Iliamna, as failed to respond. That is incorrect and she has responded. Her name needs to be removed from the list on page two of the report.

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

E. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum #1 – Award of Contract: Districtwide Material Procurement of CISCO Routers and Switches

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Purchase of Cisco Network Equipment to Northrop Grumman IT for the amount of \$1,346,106.83.

2. ASD Memorandum #2 - 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: ASD Memorandum #1 and Memorandum #2.

ASD Memorandum #1 - Award of Contract: Districtwide Material Procurement of CISCO Routers and Switches

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Purchase of Cisco Network Equipment to Northrop Grumman IT for the amount of \$1,346,106.83.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele to approve ASD Memorandum #1
seconded by Jeff Friedman

Tim Steele stated that in reading through the memorandum it sounds as if this gets everything set for actual connecting and it mentions 72 schools. Mr. Steele asked if all the others are already connected. Ray Amsden stated that the 72 identified are a part of our bond packages. There should not be any schools left except West, which is covered in our 2003 Bond. Mr. Amsden added that this brings the schools into compliance with the District Technology Standards. Tim Steele asked what this will provide. Jeff Wood stated that this will install the electronic network LAN (Local Area Network) equipment. Previous projects upgraded the physical plant infrastructure. This project will provide students and staff greater access to the District network. This will provide access on all active ports. There are five active ports per classroom. This makes them hot. The students will be able to connect to the network and it also increases the backbone capacity in some of the schools that are reaching limitations. It does not increase the bandwidth or the ability to put more information through the network. It allows us to connect equipment up to the network.

John Steiner stated that he heard that because of the predominance of wireless networks it doesn't make sense to wire buildings for new wire-based systems. Jeff Wood replied that this will support both and it does not preclude adding wireless capability later. The wireless systems don't have the same level of band pass through them. In a lot of our schools they live off an image that resides on a server. Under a wireless system the transfer is too slow for them to work effectively. The wire system will always maintain the level of capacity it currently has. We can add to it with wireless technology but the bottleneck will always be the wireless technology. It is changing rapidly but right now it doesn't have the capacity to support that type of an image load between two systems. John Steiner asked about image load and asked if it is unique to schools and different from a lot of other applications where wireless is beginning to predominate. Jeff Wood answered that it is not unique to the schools but is unique to the Anchorage School District because we have student computers, and in the labs the students can manipulate the computers any way they want. When the next group of students come in they need to restore the computers to their original state. The way they do that is by downloading everything off the servers again. Mr. Steiner asked if the same servers would supply the same work if we went to wireless. Jeff Wood stated that the computer servers would provide the same functionality though wireless components and would allow someone to move around the classroom without a cable.

VOTE:

Ayes: Roberts, Kennedy, Steele,
Metcalf, Friedman, Steiner

Nays: None

Absent: Marks

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #2 - Personnel Report

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

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner to approve ASD Memorandum #2
seconded by: Crystal Kennedy with the correction of the deletion
Melissa Janigo's name.

John Steiner stated that he noticed that he saw Rhonda Gardner's name on the Certificated Employee list and for a split second he thought she was

leaving. She was one of Mr. Steiner's daughter's favorite teachers at Chugiak High School. Mr. Steiner added that he is sorry she is leaving the classroom. It is always a mixed blessing when you have very good people moving to the Administration because you lose them in the classroom.

VOTE:

Ayes: Roberts, Kennedy, Steele,
Metcalf, Friedman, Steiner

Nays: None

Absent: Marks

MOTION PASSED

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

G. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

John Steiner stated that on the Audit Subcommittee will meet on August 11. The Audit Subcommittee has asked the Administration to give an outline of what an RFP and Scope of Work might look like to look at what we need to move into database budgeting. They talked about the financial aspects being something within the purview of the Audit Subcommittee but we were looking more at like a consultant's report auditing what we have and what we need to be able to do data-based budgeting and getting a better hand around what that means. The committee wasn't sure whether it is technically within the Audit Subcommittee or whether we should even do it at all or if it should be done outside of the committee. It may come back to the Board as a separate item for the Board to approve as opposed to something the committee just does as a committee. Mr. Steiner encourages non committee members to attend the meetings to discuss it.

Tim Steele asked for a definition of database budgeting. John Steiner answered that the Curriculum Audit mentioned that we should go to database budgeting. We are being accountability judged. We are looking at the gaps between our sub groups as we look at our data. We are looking at how we fare on NCLB. They are saying that you can't go on just basing your budget on last year. You need to look at where your biggest problems are in your data and budget so you are allocating resources specifically to correct them

Jake Metcalfe commented that it means spending the money where you need to spend it. Jeff Friedman added that if you are spending money on a program you ought to have the data to show that it is working. John Steiner asked if any kind of work has been done to look at other districts of our same size and climate, to look at the allocation of our budget and see how it compares with other school districts, successful or not, throughout the country. It appears that we do not have that data and Mr. Steiner added that he is not sure that it is a highly valuable thing that we should spend a lot of money doing. Mr. Steiner added that the Budget Advisory committees give recommendations where we could make adjustments. We are looking at having to reduce the budget because we are not expected to have as many students next year. Mr. Steiner stated that he is trying to get some guidance as to where we could look for money savings and it occurred to him that it would be useful to find out how we compare with the average or other districts that are comparable. Mr. Steiner mentioned the School Match people did a proposal for a district and the consultant's company stated that you should not compare yourself with national averages. Compare yourselves with schools that are similar to you and you have a more valid comparison. Jake Metcalfe stated that he would like to know how much staff time is involved and how much it would cost before we do anything. John Steiner stated that it does take a lot of staff time. We may decide that it is not worth it at that kind of level. Tim Steele stated that we have had a lot of reports such as CUBE reports that report how we compare with urban districts of a similar size. From AASB we get salary listings of superintendents and teachers across the State and it seems whenever we go into any major effort for comparability Portland always comes up as one that is comparable to our District. Mr. Steele added that he feels we do need to look at cost benefit.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of July 21, 2003, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:00 p.m.

Jake Metcalfe, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Robin Siegfried, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved