

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2003**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 13, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Jake Metcalfe presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

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

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Jan Christensen, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Enid Hunter, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Eric Tollefsen, Stan Syta, Larry Wiget, Loretta Nabong, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Macon Roberts announced that he represented the School Board at the Alaska Council of School Administrators Conference in Girdwood on October 3, 2003. He congratulated Superintendent Comeau for receiving the Alaska State Superintendent of the Year Award.

Mr. Roberts reported that he and School Board President Jake Metcalfe attended a legislative briefing at Commonwealth North on October 7, 2003. The group was scheduled to be addressed by Commissioner Roger Sampson, but due to illness, Carol Comeau addressed the group. Approximately 100 business and civic leaders attended and were very supportive of the Anchorage School District.

Tim Steele noted that Superintendent Comeau was the guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce Monday Forum on Monday, October 6, and discussed the ASD budget process. He also stated that October 8 is Walk your Child to School Day. Mr. Steele reminded all students to be safe while crossing streets and to put reflectors on their outerware. He commented that there have been two very serious accidents recently with one student passing away. He sent condolences to the Osborn family and wishes a speedy recovery for the other student who sustained a broken leg. Mr. Steele noted that the Alaska Federation of Natives Conference begins on October 20.

Mr. Steele announced that the Legislative Subcommittee will meet on October 17 at 1:30 p.m. in the Administration Building.

Jeff Friedman announced that the School Board Policy Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, October 16 at 8:30 a.m.

John Steiner announced that the School Board Audit Subcommittee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 27, 2003.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Carol Comeau stated that she is pulling ASD Memorandum #74 - Appointment of Military Delegate and ASD Memorandum #37 - School Board Goals 2003-2004. The agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

John Steiner requested reordering the agenda items; he would like ASD Memorandum #63 - Resolution for School Bus Safety Week listed as number two on the agenda. Macon Roberts requested ASD Memorandum #64 - Resolution for Parent Involvement in Education be renumbered to number three on the agenda. Members of the School Board agreed.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #79 - Richard E. Lomax National Trig-Star Competition

The national Trig-Star competition is an annual high school mathematics competition sponsored by the National Society of Professional Surveyors. This year 6,500 students from 350 high schools across the country participated in local competitions. From that group 29 state winners were selected and participated in the national competition.

Mason Victors, a junior at Chugiak High School took top honors at the national competition held this past summer. In April 2004, Mason and his high school teacher, Jon Goniwiecha, will travel to the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee. There Mason will receive the Richard E. Lomax National Trig-Star Scholarship and Jon will be honored with the Richard E. Lomax National Teaching Excellence Award for being Mason's instructor.

It is requested the School Board recognize Mason Victors for his outstanding performance and his high school teacher Jon Goniwiecha for his creative and inspiring methods of teaching trigonometry.

2. ASD Memorandum #82 - Pacific Northwest Council for Languages Award

The American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages is a national organization dedicated to the improvement and expansion of the teaching and learning of all languages at all levels of instruction. The Pacific Northwest Council for Languages is one of five regional associations representing Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Recently Janice Gullickson, World Language Coordinator at the Anchorage School District, was named recipient of the "Outstanding Contribution to the Teaching of World Languages in the Pacific Northwest" award. In early October Ms. Gullickson was presented with her award at the Alaska Foreign Language Association's annual conference held at Dimond High School.

It is requested the School Board recognize Janice Gullickson for her outstanding leadership and mentorship in the teaching of languages in the Anchorage School District as well as around the State of Alaska.

3. ASD Memorandum #83 - Health Services Providers and Clark Middle School Staff Donate Time

Anchorage School District middle and high school students who want to participate in athletics, cheerleading or other strenuous activities must have a physical examination prior to participating in practices or athletic activities.

In early September, 200 Clark Middle School students received free athletic physicals. Thanks to the following local physicians, physician assistants and nurses: John Christopherson, Michelle Hall, Betty Toney, William Lubke, Laurie Olnes, Leslie Fox-Leyva and Ben Westley. Also 16 Clark Middle School staff members generously donated their time, including Loi Bourne, Josh Brekken, Joe DeArmoun, John Gallup, Scott Kluever, Sara Lee, Tony Lutes, Pat O'Neal, Lena Palmer, Dan Pinkerton, Michael Pinkney, Sharon

Pinkney, Liz Sandhofer, Denise Tilley, Cherry Warden and Jerry Whitney.

It is requested the School Board recognize the above mentioned local health care providers and Clark Middle School staff members for their generous donation of time in providing this service to our students so they could participate in middle school activities.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Lorett Nabong reported that Nina Johnson is the new SAB president for 2003-2004. Ms. Carrie Flieshacker, AP at KCC, is the new advisor. The next meeting is scheduled for October 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., location to be announced at a later date. He also stated that the policy review committee will be meeting soon to discuss hot topics.

2. Military Delegate

Carol Comeau thanked LTC Peter Mulcahy on behalf of the military families and students in the Anchorage School District for his services as the Military Delegate to the School Board. Ms. Comeau stated that this is LTC Mulcahy's last evening in this position.

LTC Mulcahy thanked the Superintendent for her participation in the town hall meetings that were recently held on Fort Richardson. He also thanked her for keeping military families in the forefront when making decisions. He announced that he is retiring from the military and will remain in Anchorage. His experience has been very rewarding and hopes that his involvement has made a difference in education, not just for the military, but for all children. LTC Mulcahy noted that the biggest impact is the relationship between the military and the District. He encouraged the Board to keep the military families in mind when determining No Child Left Behind requirements.

LTC Mulcahy stated that LTC Michelle Holtery is his replacement and will take over the responsibilities at the next meeting. She is actively involved in education and has two children attending District schools.

LTC Mulcahy thanked the School Board, Administration, school principals, teachers, and support staff for their positive interaction with him during his service as the military representative.

Jake Metcalfe thanked LTC Mulcahy for providing leadership to the Anchorage School District.

3. MECC

William Johnson noted that the next MECC meeting is scheduled on Thursday, October 16 at 12 noon in Room 320. He stated that two additional members were selected to serve on the committee. Mr. Johnson thanked all of the individuals who applied.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Robert Hayes spoke on school safety and the tragic accident that occurred near Hanshew Middle School this past week. He noted the dark conditions and the speed limit of 45 MPH, which he feels is unsafe. He would like to see strobe lights so people will see the school zone. Mr. Hayes stated that Hanshew area has minimum lighting and he would like to see lighting installed similar to those around malls. He thanked Janice Shamberg for becoming involved with this safety issue and following up on his suggestions.

Carol Comeau thanked Mr. Hayes for coming forward to testify. She stated that she had a meeting today on safety issues with the Municipality, Anchorage Police Department, Traffic Department, principals, staff, Maintenance Department, and internal administrators who are sorting through suggestions to prevent this tragedy from happening again.

Mr. Hayes commented that the District could do a better job on snow removal by North Star Elementary and Steller Secondary Schools.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda attached. **All attachments referred to in memoranda recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's Office.**

1. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Special Meeting August 11, 2003 4:30 p.m.

- b. Regular Meeting August 11, 2003 6:30 p.m.
- c. Special Meeting August 25, 2003 4:30 p.m.
- d. Regular Meeting August 25, 2003 6:30 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #96 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Teamsters Local #959, Bus Drivers and Attendants, 2003-2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the collective bargaining agreement between the District and General Teamsters Local #959, Bus Drivers and Attendants Unit, which will establish terms and conditions of employment for individuals in this unit during the period between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2006.

3. ASD Memorandum #78 - Naming of the South Anchorage Area High School

It is recommended that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to name the new high school South Anchorage High School.

4. ASD Memorandum #74 - Appointment of Military Delegate

Memorandum was pulled during the approval of the agenda for the October 13, 2003 School Board meeting and rescheduled for the October 27, 2003 meeting.

5. ASD Memorandum #63 - Resolution for School Bus Safety Week

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating October 19-25, 2003, as School Bus Safety Week in the Anchorage School District.

6. ASD Memorandum #64 - Resolution for Parent Involvement in Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating the month of October 2003, as Parent Involvement Month in the Anchorage School District.

7. ASD Memorandum #76 - Early Entry Procedures

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the early entry to kindergarten procedures as outlined in this memo and shown on attachments A and B.

8. ASD Memorandum #69 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Title VII Bilingual Program Development - Lake Hood Elementary School

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 Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (OBEMLA) in the amount of \$162,033 for the third year of a three-year project. The funds for the third year of this award will be used to provide comprehensive professional development for all Lake Hood Elementary School staff members in order to improve bilingual services for English as a Second Language (ESL) students in every classroom.

9. ASD Memorandum #67 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Agreement: The Association of Alaska School Boards for the Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation contract agreement from the Association of Alaska School Boards in the amount of \$264,300. These funds will be used to continue community-based efforts to educate children and youth.

10. ASD Memorandum #66 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant: Safe and Drug-Free Schools Drug and Violence Prevention Coordinators for Middle Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$188,080. These funds will be used to continue funding two full-time prevention coordinators and purchase training materials for the program.

11. ASD Memorandum #77 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Reading is Fundamental

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from Reading is Fundamental, Inc., in the amount of \$17,488. Funds will be used to purchase books for elementary students across the District.

12. ASD Memorandum #51 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Department of Education and Early Development Teaching and Learning Support for Web-based IEP System

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) for \$358,515. Funds will enable the Special Education Division to develop and implement a web-based electronic system for Individual Education Plans (IEP) and for IEP reporting.

13. ASD Memorandum #65 - Sale of Surplus Property

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the listed surplus property by sealed bid sale or public auction in accordance with Board policy 732.1. Prior to the sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

14. ASD Memorandum #80 - Award of Contract: Fire Lake Elementary School Piping Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the 2003 Fire Lake Elementary School Piping Upgrade to Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$105,000, plus Allowance/Assignment of \$17,068, for a total award of \$122,068.

15. ASD Memorandum #81 - Award of Contract: Districtwide Cisco Network

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for

the Districtwide Cisco Network Deployment to Northrop Grumman IT for the Base Bid in the amount of \$194,352, with the Allowance-Assignment of \$1,346,107, for a total award of \$1,540,459.

16. ASD Memorandum #95 – Award of Contract: Individual Education Plan Software

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract to Learning Tools International for an Individual Education Plan Software system in an amount not to exceed \$358,515. Upon acceptance of the system, an annual maintenance contract will be required in an amount not to exceed \$108,770, which will vary based upon the actual number of special education students.

17. ASD Memorandum #75 – Nomination for AASB Board of Directors

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board nominate Mary Marks for a seat on the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Board of Directors.

18. ASD Memorandum #70 – 2004 Legislative Priorities

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the 2004 Anchorage School District Legislative funding priority (Attachment A).

19. ASD Memorandum #37 – School Board Goals 2003-2004

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Anchorage School District Mission Statement and Goals as shown on Attachment A. For comparison purposes, the Goals for 2002-2003 are shown on Attachment B.

20. ASD Memorandum #44 – Personnel Report

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandums #96; #78; #74; #76; #63; #64; #66; #75; #70; and #37.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner  
seconded Mary Marks

to approve minutes from the  
Special Meeting of August 11, 2003;  
Regular Meeting of August 11, 2003;  
Special Meeting of August 25, 2003;  
Regular Meeting of August 25, 2003;  
Memorandum #69;  
Memorandum #67;  
Memorandum #77;  
Memorandum #51;  
Memorandum #65;  
Memorandum #80;  
Memorandum #81;  
Memorandum #95; and  
Memorandum #44.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #96 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Teamsters  
Local #959, Bus Drivers and Attendants, 2003-2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the collective bargaining agreement between the District and General Teamsters Local #959, Bus Drivers and Attendants Unit, which will establish terms and conditions of employment for individuals in this unit during the period between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2006.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner  
seconded Tim Steele

to approve Memorandum #96.

Carol Comeau stated that she is happy to bring this contract forward for ratification. She commended both bargaining teams for working through the contentious issues.

Tim Morgan, Business Representative, stated that it was a long process and mutually agreed that a three year contract is better. They are very happy with this contract.

John Steiner stated that he pulled this memorandum to recognize and thank our bus drivers and attendants; he appreciates the work that they do. He noted that this is a very difficult time regarding our budget and knows that the raise was not what most would like, but nothing is more important than the safety of our students.

Jeff Friedman added that the drivers and attendants are the first and last ones to see the students each day.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #78 - Naming of the South Anchorage Area High School

It is recommended that the School Board approve the Superintendent's recommendation to name the new high school South Anchorage High School.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele to approve Memorandum #78.  
seconded Jeff Friedman

Carol Comeau noted that this is a very difficult decision for those involved, but feels comfortable with the name being recommended. She does understand that it is disappointing for many of those individuals in the audience. Ms. Comeau stated that she believes the committee and Mr. Henry took their responsibility very seriously and weighed each of the nominations very carefully.

Mike Henry thanked Principal Chuck Fannin and Kelly Hall, Administrative Assistant, for their hard work on this project.

Sandi Crittenden emphasized that she is not here out of emotion and was hurt by the fact that the school was not named "Sheri Stears High School." She is upset that Ms. Stears name received the most votes and was not

considered in the top choices. Ms. Crittenden feels that the committee was not aware of all of Sherrie's accomplishments. She noted that Ms. Stears spent over 23 years with the District, emphasized her many awards and feats, and outlined her many accomplishments in those 23 years. She also stated that the Board does not care about the accomplishments of their teachers and principals. Ms. Crittenden stated that Sheri Stears was a secondary teacher and the best way to honor her would be to name the new high school after her. Ms. Crittenden stated Mike McDonald was an elementary school teacher and the next elementary school should be named after him. She stated that by not naming the school after her negates what the community really wants.

Gio Floyd stated that he is new to the community. He stated that Carol Comeau assured him last spring that the school would not be named South Anchorage High School. He believes that the popular vote should be to name the school after Sheri Stears. Mr. Floyd thinks that the school should be named after something or someone who provided an accomplishment to education.

Mary Marks mentioned Ms. Crittenden's remark that the Board does not care about the accomplishments of their employees. She wanted Ms. Crittenden to know that the Board is here to listen to the community and does not always have to go with the recommendation from the Superintendent. Ms. Marks also wants Ms. Crittenden to know that the Board does value an employee's accomplishments.

John Steiner stated that he did not know Sheri Stears, but has always heard wonderful stories about her. He would like the community to know that the Board will not denigrate the memory of Ms. Stears. Mr. Steiner confirmed that if he chooses to not vote for Sheri Stears High School, it is not a vote against her—something else down the line could be named after her. He suggested that the Board should consider naming a middle school after Ms. Stears. Sandy Crittenden responded that Ms. Stears started her career in South anchorage and that no one has ever reached the accomplishment at the national and state level that Sherri has.

Janice Littlebear is in her 13<sup>th</sup> year of teaching in Mountain View and is the spokesperson for three of Sherri's colleagues. She noted that she is a better teacher because of Sherri. Ms. Littlebear feels the name "South Anchorage High School" is cold and would be much better named after a person. She further commented that Ms. Stears inspired leadership among her peers and should be remembered for the greatness that she inspired in the District. Students felt better and more confident in her

presence; she demanded better students, teachers, and gymnasts. Ms. Stears committed her life's work to education, especially to the secondary students in Anchorage. She stated that fourteen out of 24 years were spent teaching in South Anchorage. Ms. Littlebear further stated that South Anchorage High School is a good name, but Sheri Stears South Anchorage High School is better.

Bill Bajczyk has been at Clark Middle School since 1996 and stated that Sheri Stears is the best principal he has ever worked with. He feels naming the school South Anchorage High School is too easy--this is an opportunity to name a school after a true role model. Ms. Stears always reminded the administration at the school to be nice to the students they are kicking out of school. This incident may be the last thing that the student remembers about his/her education. Mr. Bajczyk stated that the community should be proud to have a high school named after Sheri Stears and we owe her memory just that. He also agrees that an elementary school should be named after Mike McDonald.

Cheryl Myers, Naming Committee member, asked to share some thoughts over the decision making process. She thanked the District for being a part of the committee and making it a public process. She explained that it was difficult to come to the decision, and noted that they identified three basic categories. Ms. Myers stated that in no way did they dismiss the contributions made by Ms. Stears by choosing another name for the school. The Committee realized early on that it would be difficult to choose between Sheri Stears and Mike McDonald. She explained that the Committee worked through the names, but always came back to a geographic area. She wants everyone to know that South may be a simple name, but the process used was taken very seriously by the Committee.

Brian Hosken stated that he is speaking as a parent and supports the public process for naming the school. He feels that the Board should support the Committee's recommendation.

John Steiner asked Ms. Myers if the Committee considered the compromise of naming the school Sheri Stears South Anchorage High School. Ms. Myers responded that the Committee was only told of parameters for names submitted; this name was not submitted. She further explained that they had all the names and justifications to review and then described the process used to choose the top eight names.

John Steiner noted that since the committee did not consider the compromise, did Ms. Myers have any sense of the committee if they would

have seriously considered this name had it been submitted. Ms. Myers responded that the Committee did not feel constrained, but that the names of Mike McDonald and Sheri Stears were a very emotional topic. Both of these individuals were very powerful educators. She could not choose between them.

Carol Comeau stated that this has been a very emotional decision for her and she could not choose between these two educators. She respects both of them for what they were able to do for all young people. Ms. Comeau also respects the committee's recommendation to the Administration to take the existing policy on school names to the Board for an indepth review. They are recommending that a school should not be named after a deceased person unless he/she has been deceased for at least five years. This would prevent the emotionalism tied to naming a school after a deceased person.

John Steiner asked if the Board chooses to accept the compromise of naming the school Sheri Stears South Anchorage High School, would the name be too long. Carol Comeau responded no, but this has to be an entire Board decision.

Ron Fuhrer is in his 24<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher and is a coach at Clark Middle School. He stated that Sheri Stears was the best of the best. He respectfully requested the Board name the new school after Sheri Stears. Mr. Fuhrer cited Board policy on naming a school a special name that means something to students. He further commented that this name received the most votes, and we need to validate the community's choice. Mr. Fuhrer noted that AEA supports the naming of the school after Ms. Stears.

Tim Steele commented that this is an extremely difficult process and reminds him of the effort put forth in naming one's child. You want to give a name that gives hope and motivates the child and others to high accomplishments. He stated that in terms of messages and phone calls received, the public has chosen South Anchorage. He also noted that even though it is difficult to choose between the two, it does not mean that they should not do it. Mr. Steele also commented that he recognizes the Superintendent's point over the freshness of the loss of these two wonderful educators.

Jeff Friedman commented that this is not an easy decision and that he took the time to read the notebooks with the names and rationale. He stated that he is not sure what the right decision will be, but noted that what goes on inside the school is the important issue.

Macon Roberts commented that everything that has been said about Sheri Stears is true. This is a very difficult decision for everyone. Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Metcalfe for a brief recess to allow each Board member to make a decision on their vote.

Jake Metcalfe commented that we need to respect the Committee's work and the time they spent making a recommendation. He feels that there should be a period of time passed before a building is named after them. Mr. Metcalfe stated that both Ms. Stears and Mr. McDonald are both worthy of having a building named after them. He has received a lot of e-mail and there was a wide range of comments. Mr. Metcalfe feels that the Board has enough information before them to make a decision tonight.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner  
seconded by Crystal Kennedy

to name the new high school  
Sheri Stears South Anchorage  
High School.

John Steiner is concerned that the legacy of Sheri Stears will not be kept in tact if the school is not named after her. By naming the school after her will give cause to remember the accomplishments of Ms. Stears. By waiting five years, something else may take the place. Mr. Steiner emphasized that this is by no means to dishonor Mike McDonald – this is a tribute to Ms. Stears. He feels that the committee was constrained in their decision making by not being allowed to consider combining two names. Mr. Steiner stated that the Board could vote to combine the names and ultimately name the new school Sheri Stears South Anchorage High School.

Jeff Friedman appreciates Mr. Steiner's comments, but is concerned over the length of the school name. He would be more supportive if we drop South Anchorage from the name and call the new high school Sheri Stears High School.

Mary Marks responded to Mr. Steiner's comment over the committee feeling constrained by not being able to consider using both names. She personally feels that it was an emotional constraint. Ms. Marks stated that when one passes in her culture, that person is honored for one year. She clearly understands the waiting period.

Macon Roberts likes the five year waiting period before a school/building can be named after a deceased person. His feeling is that even if the school

is not named for her tonight, her memory will endure. There will be another opportunity to name a school after her. Mr. Roberts is concerned over being caught up in the emotional aspect of this. He will vote his conscience.

Crystal Kennedy expressed her concern over naming the school after a person. There is a sense of pride in the area of town where the school is located. It is very important to those community members and students who will go to school at South Anchorage Area High School. She commented that she wishes that she had heard more from the particular community in this area and what they wanted.

Carol Comeau stated that there were two community council representatives from South Anchorage who served on the committee.

John Steiner clarified the fact that it appears the committee felt too emotional choosing between Mike McDonald and Sheri Stears for potential names for the school; they did not look at combining names.

Mike Henry stated that he can't remember anyone on the committee who felt limited. They were told to consider all names submitted. The committee looked at all names brought forward and could also nominate any name they wished to be considered.

Jake Metcalfe commented that the committee did what they should have done--they reached a consensus. They did their job and considered the nominations and came up with their best recommendation. The Board must respect that.

John Steiner agrees that letting a name settle for a period of time is a good idea, but with Sheri Stears, it is different. He stated that we must preserve her legacy and let the community deal with choosing the name.

Macon Roberts responded to Crystal Kennedy's remark about the feelings of the community in south Anchorage. Mr. Roberts commented that he has talked with many parents in the south Anchorage area and they all like the name of South Anchorage High School.

The Board recessed for a break at 8:20 p.m. and returned at 8:40 p.m.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner, Roberts

Nays: Marks, Kennedy, Steele, Metcalfe,  
Friedman

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

Jeff Friedman stated that he feels that we should name the school after Sheri Stears.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Jeff Friedman  
seconded by Mary Marks

to amend the motion to delete words "South Anchorage" and substitute "Sheri Stears" High School.

VOTE:

Ayes: Friedman, Steiner

Nays: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,  
Metcalfe, Roberts

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES

John Steiner noted his appreciation to everyone who came tonight to testify in support of Sheri Stears. He emphasized to the audience that the Board really does care and honors Ms. Stears' memory. He does not want people to feel that this is the only opportunity to honor Ms. Stears.

Crystal Kennedy commented that there are other ways to honor Ms. Stears. Fire Lake opted to name their library in honor of Linda Connelly, former principal, who was killed in an automobile accident this past spring. Chugiak High School named their auditorium in honor of one of their teachers who passed away.

Macon Roberts agreed with both Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Steiner and noted that perhaps something at Service could be named after Ms. Stears since she was a former teacher at the school. He also appreciated everyone who spoke tonight.



Macon Roberts is very pleased to see parent involvement recognized. He feels that some parents do not really understand how much their help means to the success of the child and the school.

Each Board member read a section of the resolution

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #76 - Early Entry Procedures

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the early entry to kindergarten procedures as outlined in this memo and shown on attachments A and B.

ACTION:

Moved by Jeff Friedman  
seconded John Steiner

to approve Memorandum #76 and adopt the early entry to kindergarten and first grade standards as outlined in this memorandum and shown on attachments A and B.

Carol Comeau noted that the recommendation in the memorandum is slightly different than the motion made by Mr. Friedman because it also deals with first grade as well as kindergarten. After review with Mr. Friedman and legal counsel, it was determined that the recommendation should be changed.

John Steiner agreed that the original recommendation only addresses kindergarten and should address first grade. Patricia McRae agreed and Mr. Steiner offered an amendment.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner  
seconded Tim Steele

To amend paragraph lettered "A: on page one of Attachment A: To be considered for early entry to kindergarten, the child must become five years of age between August 15 and September 14. That is, a child whose birthday falls between August 15, and September 14 of the same school year may seek early entry. Children who become five on September 14 or later are not eligible for early admission to kindergarten. Exceptions to these cutoff dates will be made only for children whose parents will be returning to another state or country where entry requirements differ from those in Alaska, in that if the family returned to that state or country the child would be eligible for kindergarten. Those parents will need to submit documentation to the school principal from their employer stating that they will be returning to their home country or state within four (4) years from the date of application for early entry and have documentation regarding the entry date requirements in their home country or state. ~~Students in this category will not be required to meet the testing guidelines due to the fact that they will return to their home country or state where the requirements differ. This does not supercede the trial period, which will remain in place.~~

Carol Comeau commented that we must have the ability to make exceptions for those students who meet the criteria except for the date. It will be a disservice to families if we are not given the latitude to look at a case-by-case basis. The state has said if you limit the numbers and have a consistent practice, then it is allowable.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

John Steiner noted that there may be a problem for first grade as well as kindergarten. Patricia McRae responded that our procedures are sound. Those students who have attended private or public kindergarten and are of age (September 14) can apply for early entry.

Carol Comeau commented that there has not been a problem with first grade and does not recommend changing our procedures at this time.

Jeff Friedman commented that our procedures seem to work and agreed that they should not be changed.

Mr. Steiner proposed a change on Attachment A-C1c on the checklist.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Jeff Friedman  
seconded John Steiner

to amend Attachment A - C1c: If the child has not been enrolled in preschool or daycare, a parent or other caregiver may complete the checklist.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

VOTE:

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

Nays: None



Tim Steele noted that with 40 percent of the students in the state, we typically have one to two individuals on the AASB Board of Directors. Debbie Ossiander will be leaving in November, which leaves only one representative. It is appropriate to put forth Mary Marks as a candidate.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #70 - 2004 Legislative Priorities

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the 2004 Anchorage School District Legislative funding priority (Attachment A).

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele to approve Memorandum #70.  
seconded Mary Marks

Tim Steele announced that the Legislative Subcommittee made a decision to stay with the main legislative priority, which is funding. This document was put together in three paragraphs to address accountability, debt reimbursement, and employer contribution increases to the Teachers Retirement System (TRS) and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS)

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Tim Steele  
seconded Mary Marks

to amend the following: Under Funding, second paragraph, last sentence: To achieve this goal, the Board ~~requests~~ seeks increased funding in three critical areas:

#1 - Accountability, fourth paragraph: State and Federal funding for Education has lagged behind educational costs. Appropriating an adequate amount of funding for education is the responsibility of federal, state, and municipal policymakers.

AMENDMENT CONT:

Moved by Tim Steele  
seconded Mary Marks

#1 - Accountability, fifth paragraph: With today's student achievement challenges and state and federal mandates, "full funding" or "level funding" of the education funding formula is not "adequate" funding. Meeting the needs of the Alaska Performance Standards, ~~and~~ NCLB and IDEA requires an investment in people, process, and accountability measures. The Anchorage School Board is committed to doing its part to ensure success and calls upon the legislature to increase education funding to meet these needs through a significant increase in the education funding formula. Meeting these mandates ~~it~~ cannot be ~~done~~ accomplished without adequate support from all levels of government.

#2 - Debt Reimbursement, second sentence of first paragraph. This has largely been accomplished for ASD through the successful partnership between the Legislature and local taxpayers

#3 - Employer contribution increases to the TRS and PERS, third sentence. The Anchorage School Board requests the Legislature and Governor's Office to fully fund this increase to ensure that we are not forced to use instructional funding to pay for this substantial state mandated and unanticipated obligation.

The Amendment to the Main Motion passed unanimously.

Tim Steele gave the history on how this document was formed. Larry Wiget drafted the document and the Legislative Subcommittee revised and amended it before bringing it before the full Board for review and approval.

John Steiner noted his appreciation for the addition of Municipal policymakers. He stated that it is important to work with our local policymakers. Mr. Steiner commented that when the federal government does not fund their mandates, it becomes the burden of the state.

Carol Comeau noted that our focus should be on state responsibility. We must focus on the state, but should lobby all levels of government.

Jake Metcalfe commented that this document is pretty straightforward. It is all about funding and the economy. He noted that we are looking at serious budget problems and must educate our legislative delegation. Mr. Metcalfe offered his appreciation to Larry Wiget and Tim Steele for their work on this document.

Tim Steele stated that the bottom line is that we are being mandated with massive requirements. Teachers and schools are being held responsible for societal conditions. As requirements mount, we are not even keeping pace with inflation. Mr. Steele further stated that if the federal government is not funding and we don't want to lose ground in education, we must look locally and ask what does this community want in their schools.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #43 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of September 12, 2003 through October 1, 2003.

Tim Steel asked what happens if the Wendler project does not come in on time. Ray Amsden responded that this project is being watched very carefully.

2. ASD Memorandum #72 - Enrollment Status Update: September 30, 2003

Enrollment as of September 30, 2003, the official membership date for the District, was a total of 49,663 students. This enrollment represents 366, or 0.7percent, fewer students than the 50,029 reported for the same time last year.

Table 1 compares the September 30, 2003 enrollment, by category, to the comparable figures for September 30, 2002.

3. ASD Memorandum #73 - High School Military Child in Transition Program

The first year of the transition pilot program at Bartlett High School, which was implemented during the 2002-2003 school year, was a success. The program assisted students in their transition into BHS from other schools within the District and from schools across the nation. The program focus was to provide a friendly place for students new to the school to become familiar with the school and their community.

The pilot project was successful beyond our projections, but also taught us a great deal about improvement. The program will be expanded to include both Bartlett and West high schools during the 2003-2004 school year. Emphasis will remain on providing incoming students with vital information about the school and community, but will also incorporate the extensive use of student facilitators. The Facilitator Training held in July of 2003 in Talkeetna, Alaska, allowed students from West High School and Bartlett High School to work together with students from Colorado, Hawaii and Japan in developing skills as facilitators of transition programs for their schools. ASD students who attended the training will be involved in the development of programs designed for teambuilding at West and Bartlett. Student facilitators will also be active participants in the development of skill-building activities for a variety of career preparation, college preparation, service learning, communication and public speaking activities.

The School Business Partnership (SBP) organization has become interested and involved in the transition program. With the help of SBP, it is our goal to get representatives of the business community to help students prepare for their future and to provide services to new students. SBP has also indicated an interest in assisting us with the design and development of welcome packets for students and their families new to the community.

As new students continue in the transition program, they will have the opportunity to earn credit toward graduation by accessing academic work through the Plato online program designed for self-paced instruction and learning. Credit opportunities for students in transition will also be developed to include community service, peer tutoring and prescriptive remediation programs.

Mike Henry introduced Brian Griggs, Youth Education Services person for the Military. Mr. Henry noted that a transition program is important in a high school to help new students feel comfortable in their new surroundings. With Mr. Grigg's help and the U. S. Army, the program with the District has been very successful. The District offered a ten day program for the new students, but has now expanded that program for an entire semester.

Brian Griggs noted that this is an evolving program, which is based on the efforts of the faculty and administration at high schools on how to best serve students. The program has since been turned over to student facilitators. Mr. Griggs commented that other states are looking at the program in Anchorage as an example.

LTC Mulcahy commented that Brian Griggs has been a major factor in making the Military Delegate's job much easier. He encouraged the Board to visit Bartlett and the program.

Carol Comeau stated that one of the things we are learning is what is making our kids successful; we may be getting away from the traditional methods. She mentioned that we need to learn from these strategies and use them with other students to make them feel successful while keeping them connected and in school longer. Ms. Comeau noted that we are learning that there are specific interventions we can also use with mobile students.

Mary Marks asked how this transition program is used in our schools and are we inviting in other supplemental services, i.e.,

Indian Education, Johnson O'Malley, etc. She asked if we are using this transition program for rural/urban native students. Mike Henry responded that we are currently using the program with these students. The Plato program is also helping and has improved academic credits for these students.

Crystal Kennedy commented that she understands transition; she went to 14 different schools. One of the schools she attended had a transition program and it made an impression when it had a student component section. Ms. Kennedy encourages students to find out about this program and how they can offer their services. She would like to see this transition program expanded to include middle schools.

John Steiner suggested the District think about serving exchange students in the transition program as well.

4. ASD Memorandum #71 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: August 31, 2003

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis with year-to-date information as of August 31, 2003.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Jake Metcalfe noted that the work session will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15, 2003.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of October 13, 2003 adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:25 p.m.

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Jake Metcalfe, President

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Mary Marks, Clerk

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Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved