

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 8, 2003**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, December 8, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. Vice President Tim Steele presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

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

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Jan Christensen, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Enid Hunter, Pam Chenier, Debbie Bogart, Steve Kalmes, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Eric Tollefsen, Stan Syta, Larry Wiget, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Comeau announced that there is a candlelight vigil for the Covenant House scheduled on Tuesday, December 9 in the Town Square. She encouraged the Board and community to attend to help homeless children and students in the city. Over 150 high school students have volunteered to help with clothing drives, making banners, etc. Ms. Comeau commented that there are almost 2,000 identified homeless students in the District. There could be five to six thousand more homeless people in Anchorage.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #128 - Alaska Teacher of the Year and Alternate Teacher of the Year

Kathie Steele, and English and reading teacher at Chugiak High School, was recently named Alaska's 2004 Teacher of the Year. This award, presented at the annual conference of the Association of Alaska School Boards, recognizes outstanding teachers who have succeeded in providing high quality learning opportunities for

students. She was cited as utilizing innovative approaches and earning respect among her students. In addition, Steele was recognized for having an outstanding reputation among CHS students, peers and the community. She is now in the running with 51 other state winners, to become a finalist eligible for national teacher of the year.

Koko Mikel, a Japanese language immersion teacher at Sand Lake Elementary School, was appointed the 2004 Alternate Alaska Teacher of the Year. Mikel has 14 years of teaching experience.

It is requested the School Board recognize honorees Kathie Steele and Koko Mikel for their professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm that led to this award.

2. ASD Memorandum #129 - AASB Boardsmanship Awards

Four members of the Anchorage School Board recently received boardsmanship academy awards at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual AASB Conference held in Anchorage. Anchorage School Board President Jake Metcalfe and Board Vice President Tim Steele received the Master Boardsmanship Award and board members John Steiner and Mary Marks received the Basic Boardsmanship Award.

The Boardsmanship Awards Program is designed to recognize school board members from across the state for outstanding service and participation in board activities beyond the local level. Through the program, board members earn points for attending various workshops and conferences which enhance their skills as local school board members.

It is requested that school board members Jake Metcalfe, Tim Steele, Mary Marks and John Steiner be recognized for their dedication to youth and participation in board activities beyond the local level through commitment to training, willingness to participate in workshops and a volunteer spirit.

Tim Steele commented that the AASB is a great organization. Both he and Mary Marks serve on the Board of Directors. He stated that he is proud to accept this award.

3. ASD Memorandum #144 - National Teacher Certification Recipients

National Board Certification, offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), is a demonstration of a candidate's teaching practice as measured against high and rigorous standards. It is a symbol of commitment to excellence in teaching. Once National Board Certified, a teacher holds a credential attesting to the fact that he or she has been assessed by their peers as one who is accomplished, makes sound professional judgments about student learning, and acts effectively on those judgments.

Candidates achieve National Board Certification if they meet or exceed NBPTS Standards by demonstrating their knowledge through portfolio entries and assessment exercises. Fifteen teachers from Anchorage School District schools are National Board Certified, including:

- Joellen Solmonson of Bear Valley Elementary School;
- Carole Schimscheimer of Klatt Elementary School;
- Derry Ruyle of Mt. Illiamna;
- Lisa Weight of Ravenwood Elementary School;
- Michelle Johansen of Rogers Park Elementary School;
- Jennifer Kueter of Scenic Park Elementary School;
- Valerie Oliver of Trailside Elementary School;
- Yvette Baxley and Jan Littlebear of Clark Middle School;
- Nancy Brown of Gruening Middle School;
- Marcia Indahl of Hanshew Middle School;
- Tara Lindh of Mears Middle School;
- Ruth Mount of Mirror Lake Middle School;
- Mark VanArsdale of Chugiak High School; and
- Chana Boyko of Highland Tech.

It is requested the School Board recognize these 15 individuals for their professional teaching excellence.

Channa Boyko, Nancy Brown, Tara Lindh, Ruth Mount, and Jan Littlebear made a presentation on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and non-governmental organization. NBPTS is devoted to the belief that the single most important way to improve education in the United States is to recognize and reward accomplished teachers throughout the country.

NBPTS standards emphasize that accomplished teachers in every field and at every level are aware of what they are doing as they teach, and why they are doing it. These standards represent a consensus among accomplished teachers and other education experts about what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. NBPTS standards for every field and development level are centered on five core propositions that express the effectiveness, knowledge, skills, dispositions, and commitments of accomplished teachers.

Candidates must hold a baccalaureate degree; have taught for a minimum of three years, whether in a public or private school; and have held a valid teaching license for those three years.

National Board Certification, offered through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) is a process designed to certify teachers so that they, like professionals in other fields, can achieve distinction by meeting rigorous standards of performance. This process is shaping reforms that build quality assurance into the teaching profession.

While mandatory state licensing systems set requirements to teach in each state. National board certification establishes high and rigorous advanced standards for experienced teachers to demonstrate accomplished teaching practice.

National Board Certification is a voluntary system based on the National Board's five core propositions and standards describing what teachers should know and be able to do.

NBPTS standards for accomplished teaching are based on the following:

1. Teachers are committed to students and their learning.
2. Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.
3. Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.
4. Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.
5. Teachers are members of learning communities.

Teachers must apply to achieve National Board certification, which consists of a demonstration of the candidate's knowledge and skills through a series of performance-based assessments. This is achieved through a two-step process, which takes approximately 200 to 400 hours.

The four portfolio entries are based on a candidate's classroom practice and include examples of student work, videotapes of the candidate teaching, and other instructional artifacts. The videos and student work are supported by commentaries on the goals and purposes of instruction, reflections on what occurred and the effectiveness of the practice, and the rationale for the candidate's professional judgment.

Once the portfolio is submitted to the NBPTS, it is scored by teachers who have attended an intensive training workshop and have qualified for scoring by demonstrating understanding of the National Board standards, the directions to candidates and the scoring guides.

Assessment center exercises are one day exercises that take place at assessment centers located across the United States. Candidates are responsible for content and professional teaching knowledge across the full age range of a selected content area. If a candidate is pursuing certification in middle childhood/generalist field, the prompts he or she responds to at the assessment center may ask the candidate to demonstrate content and professional teaching knowledge about students at any age from seven through 12.

The mission of the National Board is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by: maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do so; providing a national voluntary system certifying teachers who meet these standards; and advocating related education reforms to

integrate National Board Certification in American education and to capitalize on the expertise of National Board certified teachers.

Macon Roberts asked how long the certification lasts. Channa Boyko responded that it is good for ten years.

Mary Marks also congratulated the teachers for their hard work. She knows what it takes to educate the whole child; she is a former head start teacher herself.

Crystal Kennedy offered her congratulations. She is amazed at the time they have put into this process and understands that there are eight additional people beginning the certification process.

Tim Steele asked what the national certification gets you in monetary terms. Tara Lindh responded that in the Anchorage School District, you get a \$2,000 addendum once you are certified. You also get an advanced Type A teaching certificate from the State of Alaska. Ms. Lindh stated that the benefit comes from the camaraderie among other teachers.

Tim Steele asked Ms. Boyko to speak to the certification process and how it addresses NCLB.

Nancy Brown stated that the certification aligns with NCLB, accountability, and standards. She feels strongly that any teacher that achieves National Certification should become highly qualified according to state requirements. Ms. Brown stated that the National Board is the only organization of its kind helping states identify highly accomplished teachers. NCLB emphasizes the need for schools to identify student-learning deficiencies and develop specific interventions. Candidates seeking National Board certification do just that. Consistent with NCLB, the National Board places a premium on parent involvement. Candidates for certification must demonstrate how they make parents partners in the classroom. NCLB emphasizes and supports teacher-mentoring initiatives. States and local school districts are already using NBCTs as leaders in high-quality, standards based professional development programs. A key component of NCLB is to support programs that promote the retention of highly qualified teachers. National Board certification does just this. States and localities are using National Board certification as a tool to attract, reward, and retain highly accomplished teachers.

Jeff Friedman asked the School Board Legislative Subcommittee to look into seeing that those teachers who are Board certified are qualified under NCLB.

Tim Steele commented that he would like a memo to the School Board requesting support for these teachers citing them as highly qualified under No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Carol Comeau commented that she enjoyed the opportunity to meet with these very fine teachers. It is an incredible testament to their quality of teaching.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

The Student Representative was absent.

2. Military Delegate

The Military Delegate was absent.

3. MECC

William Johnson stated that the next MECC meeting will be held on January 15 at 12 noon in the Administration Building. He noted that he attended the Mayor's Public Safety Advisory Commission meeting. Mr. Johnson appreciates the participation of the School District, Municipality and those officials addressing the needs of students within our community.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Linda Sharp encouraged the Board to approve their request for a 180 student budget for 2004-2005. She informed the Board that they have stayed within their budget and have made good progress. Their facility lease requires the larger number and they need the flexibility to go up and down the ten percent authorized by the Board. They have developed a budget for 180 students. Ms. Sharp encouraged Board members to visit with their student council representatives from Village Charter School during their break.

Jo Sanders noted that her emphasis at Village Charter School is on world languages. All students attending know four languages. She encouraged the Board to support their request for 180 students in order to allow them to staff their immersion program.

Kathy Sue Justus explained the enrollment process and how it relates to the budget. They have began their open enrollment process with the public earlier than normal and anticipate high interest. Ms. Justus stated that they are receiving one to three calls per week regarding information on their school. They hope to have a waiting list for the next school year.

Walter Reihle requested permission to distribute posters and flyers in the schools on the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for the youth of the Anchorage community. The event is located at Lumen Christi High School gym on January 18, 2004. The event is open to all boys and girls age 10 through 14 years old.

Carol Comeau stated that there is an approval process in place and does not see why this would not qualify for approval. Ms. Comeau also stated that the schools have the latitude to hand out flyers to students.

John Steiner asked what the primary purpose of the event is and what do the students receive as an award.

Mr. Reihle stated that the students will receive a participation certificate and a patch. The students can then go onto the state and international level.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum #134 - 2004 General Obligation Bond Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Bond proposal package totaling \$162,210,000, comprised of Proposition 1 - School Renovations/Additions and Site Acquisition in the amount of \$95,830,000; Proposition 2 - Administrative and Training Facility in the amount of \$30,000,000; and Proposition 3 - Major Maintenance and Equipment in the amount of \$36,380,000. These propositions are summarized below:

Proposition 1- School Renovations/ Additions and Site Acquisition

East High School Phase 4A Construction (IMC relocation, South House) and Phase 4B Design (Southwest House/site)	\$7,500,000
Bartlett High School Phase 3 Design (Renovate East and West Wings)	\$2,000,000
Chugiak High School Phase 4 Design (House 4 renovation and site improvements)	\$900,000
Clark Middle School Request for Proposal Preparation	\$400,000 <sup>1</sup>
Muldoon Area Middle School Construction	\$52,000,000 <sup>2</sup>
Chester Valley Elementary School Construction	\$15,000,000
Sand Lake Elementary School Construction	\$10,900,000 <sup>2</sup>
West High School/Romig Middle School Planning	\$200,000
Inlet View Elementary School Design	\$700,000
Rabbit Creek Elementary School Request for Proposal Preparation	\$100,000 <sup>1</sup>
Turnagain Elementary School Design	\$900,000
Girdwood K-8 School Planning	\$100,000
Elementary School Planning (Airport Heights and New Southwest Area)	\$130,000
Site Selection and Acquisition	\$5,000,000
	\$95,830,000

Proposition 1 Total

<sup>1</sup> Design fees reduced from CRAC recommendation due to planned use of design/build process.

<sup>2</sup> Bond amount increased slightly from the CRAC recommendation.

Proposition 2- Administrative and Training Facility \$30,000,000

Proposition 3- Major Maintenance and Equipment

Districtwide Security Upgrades - Locks: Phase 2	\$1,300,000
Multi-School Security System Upgrades	\$1,250,000 <sup>3</sup>
Multi-School Sprinklers (Eagle River, Mt. View and Gladys Wood)	\$950,000
Districtwide Roof Replacement and Repairs	\$1,000,000
Districtwide Mechanical Upgrades	\$12,230,000 <sup>3</sup>
Heavy Equipment Replacement	\$985,000 <sup>3</sup>
Districtwide Minor Building Renewal Projects	\$6,890,000 <sup>4</sup>
Districtwide Code/Hazmat/ADA Projects	\$800,000
Replacement School Buses	\$830,000
Districtwide Electrical Projects	\$9,345,000 <sup>6</sup>
Multi-School Traffic Safety Planning/Design	\$200,000 <sup>5</sup>
Traffic Safety/Site Upgrades	\$600,000
	\$36,380,000
Proposition 3 Total	

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the project costs indicated above in accordance with updated project estimates.

2. ASD Memorandum #132 - Revisions to School Board Policy 445-445.4 and 453-460.5 Students and Student Services (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the proposed attached changes to School Board Policy 445-445.4 and 453-460.5 Students and Student Services.

3. ASD Memorandum #142 - Appointment of Additional Minority Education Concerns Committee Member

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint Dr. Steven Hrin (Attachment A) to the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) for a term expiring on June 30, 2005.

4. ASD Memorandum #141 - Appointment of Controversial Issues Committee Members

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint

Mary Rita Ely, Secondary Teacher  
Ghodsie Sabri, Minority Community Representative  
Brooke Hull, Elementary Teacher  
Glen Nielson, Elementary Principal  
Gina Pastos, Secondary Principal  
Susan Haines, PTA Representative  
Jacqueline Hutchins, PTA Representative  
Yin Tong, Student Advisory Board Representative  
Matthew Shuckerow, Student Advisory Board Representative  
Elizabeth Carter, Citizen-at-Large

to terms expiring June 30, 2005, and reappoint

Martha Aarons, Citizen-at-Large  
Jason Armstrong, Citizen-at-Large  
Mary Cook, Citizen-at-Large  
Phillip Giorgione, Citizen-at-Large  
Linda Kumin, Elementary Librarian  
Atisa Logo, Minority Community Representative  
Kama Mitchell, Secondary Librarian

to finish terms expiring June 30, 2004, on the Controversial Issues Review Committee.

5. ASD Memorandum #140 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Manning Family Foundation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept a cash grant from the Manning Family Foundation to Inlet View Elementary School in the amount of \$25,000.

6. ASD Memorandum #135 - Award of Contract: Central Middle School Home Economics Remodel

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

the 2003 Central Middle School Home Economics Remodel to Cook Inlet Contracting, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$111,000.

7. ASD memorandum #130 - Award of Contract: Fire Lake Elementary School North Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Fire Lake Elementary School North Roof Upgrades to the low responsive bidder, Rain Proof Roofing, LLC, for the Base Bid in the amount of \$152,000 and accept Alternate #1 in the amount of \$40,400 for a total award of \$192,400.

8. ASD Memorandum #131 - Award of Contract - Bear Valley Elementary School North Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Bear Valley Elementary School North Roof Upgrades to the low responsive bidder, Rain Proof Roofing, LLC for the Base Bid in the amount of \$156,000 and accept Alternate #1 in the amount of \$18,100, for a total award of \$174,100.

9. ASD Memorandum #143 - Award of Contract: Custodial Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Frontier Paper Inc. to furnish Districtwide Custodial Supplies in the estimated amount of \$237,448 from date of award through June 30, 2004 with two one-year renewal options.

10. ASD Memorandum #125 - Approval of Schematic Design for East Anchorage High School Renovation Project, Phase 4A

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve the schematic design for the East Anchorage High School Renovation Project, Phase 4A and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with the Design Development and Construction Documents for the East High School Renovation project.



(Renovate East and West Wings)	
Chugiak High School Phase 4 Design (House 4 renovation and site improvements)	\$900,000
Clark Middle School Request for Proposal Preparation	\$400,000 <sup>1</sup>
Muldoon Area Middle School Construction	\$52,000,000 <sup>2</sup>
Chester Valley Elementary School Construction	\$15,000,000
Sand Lake Elementary School Construction	\$10,900,000 <sup>2</sup>
West High School/Romig Middle School Planning	\$200,000
Inlet View Elementary School Design	\$700,000
Rabbit Creek Elementary School Request for Proposal Preparation	\$100,000 <sup>1</sup>
Turnagain Elementary School Design	\$900,000
Girdwood K-8 School Planning	\$100,000
Elementary School Planning (Airport Heights and New Southwest Area)	\$130,000
Site Selection and Acquisition	\$5,000,000
	\$95,830,000

Proposition 1 Total

<sup>1</sup> Design fees reduced from CRAC recommendation due to planned use of design/build process.

<sup>2</sup> Bond amount increased slightly from the CRAC recommendation.

Proposition 2- Administrative and Training Facility	\$30,000,000
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Proposition 3- Major Maintenance and Equipment

Districtwide Security Upgrades - Locks: Phase 2	\$1,300,000
Multi-School Security System Upgrades	\$1,250,000 <sup>3</sup>
Multi-School Sprinklers (Eagle River, Mt. View and Gladys Wood)	\$950,000
Districtwide Roof Replacement and	\$1,000,000

Repairs			
Districtwide Mechanical Upgrades			\$12,230,000 <sup>3</sup>
Heavy Equipment Replacement			\$985,000 <sup>3</sup>
Districtwide Minor Building Renewal Projects			\$6,890,000 <sup>4</sup>
Districtwide Code/Hazmat/ADA Projects			\$800,000
Replacement School Buses			\$830,000
Districtwide Electrical Projects			\$9,345,000 <sup>6</sup>
Multi-School Planning/Design	Traffic	Safety	\$200,000 <sup>5</sup>
Traffic Safety/Site Upgrades			\$600,000
			\$36,380,000
Proposition 3 Total			

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the project costs indicated above in accordance with updated project estimates.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner to approve Memorandum #134.  
 seconded Jeff Friedman

Superintendent Carol Comeau noted that the bond proposition package is becoming a year-long process. The administration works with the Capital Requests Advisory Committee as well as Operations, Instruction, Facilities, and the principals. She believes this to be a responsible bond package. Ms. Comeau stated that we must take advantage of the 60 percent debt reimbursement, which she is pleased that the Governor is going to support. This will be a huge benefit to the taxpayers in Anchorage. Ms. Comeau believes that almost all the projects will qualify for 60 to 70 percent reimbursement.

Ray Amsden stated that he believes that this bond package meets the District's needs. He explained the process used to determine what would be included in this package. Mr. Amsden stated that the attachments are detailed descriptions of the capital projects, excerpts from the Six Year CIP Plan, and minutes from the CRAC meetings, which reflect a close parallel to the recommendation brought forward tonight.

Ann Hayes, Research Director for Elliott Bay Research, went over the survey results. The survey was conducted on three nights, December 3-5, 2003. A total of 406 randomly selected respondents were surveyed within the Municipality of Anchorage. The criteria employed for the random selection of the target list were voters who had voted in any two out of the last three municipal or state elections, or had registered since, consistent with previous survey samples. The margin of error for the data collected is +/- 5 percent with a 95 percent confidence level; meaning that we can be 95 percent sure that if every resident of the Municipality of Anchorage were actually surveyed, the results would vary by no more than five percentage points in either direction. The average length of the completed interview was nine minutes. Data was analyzed utilizing SPSS Quancept Software. Interviews were conducted by trained staff with on-site supervision. Random interviews were monitored to assure quality control measures were followed. Dialing results were analyzed to assure statistically accurate distribution of call disposition in order to account for "non-response" variables. Survey results were organized with the executive summary detailing frequencies by actual numbers of responses and percentages of the total in section 2. Cross tabulations by voting district, gender, and district demographic information are in section 3. Section 4 contains select tables detailing notable data relationships concerning proposition 3.

Jeff Friedman asked if the Administration is exploring the idea of keeping a portion of the old Clark Middle School building. Ray Amsden responded that the focus is on structural capabilities which will determine if renovations can be done or if they will need to lean toward replacement. With program need, it looks very close to the cost of a new school. Mr. Amsden assured the Board that he will recommend the best business decision. The design solution has not been determined, but there is a concern on how to maximize the new library addition into the new design.

Carol Comeau stated that we need to process and discuss this school renovation/replacement with the community of Mountain View as well as the cultural arts community. We need to build a new school, but the library piece is a huge consideration. The Administration will bring back a recommendation through the CRAC next year. The delay will not alter the completion date.

John Steiner asked if the primary reason for not including Clark on the bond package is because we don't have a good estimate on the dollar amount. Carol Comeau responded yes and if we would have had more answers, we would have brought it forward. Mr. Steiner stated that he

respects that, but the debt reimbursement is a significant issue and the need is there. He would like to know what it would cost to tear the school down and get a maximum price so it could be put on the bond proposition package now. Ms. Comeau responded that even with the debt reimbursement issue, it is not a good idea to propose something we cannot stand behind. We just don't have enough information on the project at this time.

Jeff Friedman stated that the direction we are going with Clark is a good one, but it is not a good idea to put it on the bond proposition package at this time if we are not ready.

Macon Roberts agrees with Mr. Friedman, and it pleases him that we are considering keeping the library. Mr. Roberts asked Mr. Amsden when the library was renovated. Mr. Amsden responded that it was renovated in 1990. Mr. Amsden emphasized that he wanted to be very clear that it is not cost effective to renovate the school.

Jeff Friedman asked if Whaley is still on the priority list. Ray Amsden responded yes, the building is needed. Because the program is so unique, the Administration is spending the time to understand the program so good decisions can be made. Ms. Comeau stated that we really need to look at the program to make quality decisions; we should not be building more than what we need.

Crystal Kennedy asked if Chester Valley is going to be a renovation or a rebuild. Ray Amsden responded that it would be a renovation.

Crystal Kennedy asked what the \$5 million dollars for site selection would be used for since we still have \$10 million from last year. Mr. Amsden responded that the \$10 million will be expensed within the next year for four sites: one in Eagle River/Chugiak area; Southeast/Goldenview area; Southwest area; and a middle school site.

Tim Steele spoke on behalf of the site selection committee and stated that it is frustrating knowing you have needs and are not able to acquire the property. He agreed that we need to keep it in the bond package.

Mary Marks asked what the plans are for West High. Ray Amsden responded that planning money will be used to determine what is left to renovate at West High.

John Steiner noted that the administration training facility is \$12 million dollars less than last year. Ray Amsden stated that the Administration needed to revisit the issue due to the failure of the bond last year. He commented that the \$30 million dollar price tag does not meet the same needs as the \$42 million dollar facility previously presented. Mr. Amsden stated that we won't be able to buy as much as we had hoped. He hopes that we will get land and may be able to add on in the future if we can't get everything we want in this package.

Carol Comeau stated that this is a good compromise. The design last year was the best and would certainly meet our needs, but the post survey results said it was too much. Ms. Comeau stated that the public wants the District to look at renovation rather than building a new facility. This would be more realistic than a brand new building.

John Steiner stated that it makes more sense to own rather than rent and is pleased that we are bringing a new method forward to achieve getting a good facility.

Jeff Friedman agreed that this is the way to go, but is concerned that it may be more expensive to build our own. Carol Comeau responded that a lease would be more expensive. Ray Amsden stated that the basic premise is that we should own the building. Mr. Friedman suggested that the wording needs to be adjusted.

Tim Steele feels that it makes good sense to put the administrative training facility on the bonds. He is pleased that the Governor is supporting debt reimbursement and we must educate the community on the benefits. The survey results suggest that it is a good decision.

Jake Metcalfe asked the Superintendent to explain the cost of the bond package to the local taxpayers if the bonds should pass. Ms. Comeau explained that it would be approximately \$9.70 per \$100,000 tax evaluation.

John Steiner corrected Ms. Comeau and informed the Board that \$26.22 is the actual estimate based on debt reimbursement per \$100,000 tax evaluation.

Jeff Friedman noted that the decision to determine what goes on the major maintenance package is difficult to make. He stated that if we did not have a budget deficit, he would suggest taking funds out of the operating funds, but will approve as is. Mr. Friedman believes that we need to save

whatever is in the operating fund and the undesignated fund balance. He complimented Mr. Amsden on what projects were selected for the major maintenance package. Mr. Friedman appreciated the difficulty of that decision.

Tim Steele noted that since the District requires our contractor to replace buses that are 12 years old, we need to do the same. Transportation will become a huge issue under NCLB, and we must plan on maintaining our equipment.

Crystal Kennedy requested a follow-up on the difference between the Steller and Chugiak security system upgrades. Mark Mew agreed to follow-up with Ms. Kennedy with more information.

Ms. Kennedy requested information on the heavy equipment and is curious about the backhoe and how it is used. Larry Petersen stated that the equipment was used all year; grounds projects in the summer and snow removal in the winter.

Tim Steele noted that the District gets hand-me-downs from the Municipality. Much of our equipment is old and too much money is being put into the repair of old equipment according to Larry Petersen.

John Steiner asked about the closed circuit camera at Rogers Park and if we have them at other schools. Mark Mew responded that we are experimenting with the equipment to see how it works. Mr. Mew commented that it was added to that particular school due to the wide vandalism incurred at the school. The intention of the cameras is to cover the parking lots.

Tim Steele noted that he is happy with the effort from the Administration. It is always difficult to come up with such a large bond package. He stated that \$162 million dollars is a lot of money, but there is a need. The district is growing and we are currently overcrowded. Mr. Steele applauded the hard work of the CRAC and the Administration.

Superintendent Comeau commended the committee and noted that they took their job very seriously. She believes the Capital Requests Advisory Committee is truly a geographically balanced committee. Ms. Comeau commented that it use to be the most vocal ones that got the most representation on the bond packages. The committee is well versed on the needs of the whole District. With \$1.4 billion dollars invested in our facilities, we must maintain our structures. Ms. Comeau also emphasized

that renovations create pride in the learning environment and the community; the end result is truly significant.

Tim Steele stated that the District maintains and operates the largest facility plant in the state. We are also the 81<sup>st</sup> largest school district in the nation.

Jeff Friedman stated that the CRAC has been our biggest supporters on the bond packages. He urged them to testify before the assembly.

Crystal Kennedy noted that as a former member of the CRAC, it is one of the hardest jobs for anyone to decide what should and should not go on the bond package and understand that some must take priority. She believes that this is a very thought-out bond package.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #132 - Revisions to School Board Policy 445-445.4 and 453-460.5 Students and Student Services (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the proposed attached changes to School Board Policy 445-445.4 and 453-460.5 Students and Student Services.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner to approve Memorandum #132.  
seconded Mark Marks

Mike Graham spoke in favor of changing the policy regarding parental permission to attend clubs. He stated that students feel more connected to school if they attend clubs. There are currently over 30 active clubs at East High School. Mr. Graham commented that trying to stay in compliance with parental permission is a record keeping nightmare. The policy is also frustrating for sponsors and deters students from coming to clubs. He feels that high school students should be able to attend the clubs that they choose. Clubs outside of the school already require parent permission. Mr. Graham stated that parents should be able to indicate whether their student should be able to participate and the school will work with them on an individual basis.

Denise Trujillo favors the change of the policy; it removes the excessive burden of requiring parent permission. Ms. Trujillo commented that schools offer a safe environment and the current policy keeps some kids out of some of the clubs where they would feel safe.

Jeff Friedman commented that part of the policy is that the school newspapers should publish new clubs as they form. Mike Henry responded that schools already do this.

Superintendent Comeau stated that her expectation is that Mike Henry, Gail Opalinski, and Jan Christensen will meet to determine the consistency of how this process will work. If a parent objects, the parent should notify the office. It must be a simple procedure for both the parent and the school and be consistent in nature. Ms. Comeau noted that this will be difficult with the mobility factor.

John Steiner suggested that it would be useful to have an updated list of all the clubs for parents to have at registration time. Carol Comeau responded that these are the types of guidelines that need to be worked out; it is not a policy issue. Ms. Comeau suggested that the list could also be added to the web site.

AMENDMENT

Moved by Jeff Friedman  
seconded John Steiner

to amend the following:

Section 453.1 - If a student damages or destroys school property, ~~his/her~~ the student's parents/guardians may be held responsible in accordance with the policies of the Board.

Section 445.a -

Section 455 - Persons who do not have a valid reason for their presence, or who do not comply with school rules, ~~shall~~ may be denied access to the District property.

Section 456 © - Student clubs must have a club purpose statement and constitution that ~~which~~ is ~~are~~ approved by the school principal prior to initiation of club activities.

Section 460.3 - There must be a A plan to handle the cancellation of a participant, the trip itself or other factors that might result in financial liability associated with the scheduled trip advance ticket purchase. Advance ticket purchases and other non-refundable deposits are not the responsibility of the Anchorage School District.

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

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

ASD Memorandum #142 – Appointment of Additional Minority Education Concerns Committee Member

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appoint Dr. Steven Hrin (Attachment A) to the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) for a term expiring on June 30, 2005.

ACTION:

Moved by Macon Roberts to approve Memorandum #142.  
seconded Mary Marks

William Johnson noted that this whole process has been very educational and appreciates the opportunity to debate their choice. He stated that the collective judgment of the group was good and fair. Mr. Johnson encouraged the Board to support the nomination of Dr. Steven Hrin to the MECC.

Tim Steele stated that the Board referred this appointment back to MECC; they reviewed their decision and have now brought back a recommendation to the Board.

Mary Marks thanked Mr. Johnson for bringing back this recommendation. She noted that it proves that Dr. Hrin is a worthwhile candidate for MECC.

Macon Roberts stated that he supports the appointment of Dr. Hrin; he trusts the judgment of MECC and the leadership of Mr. Johnson.

Jeff Friedman noted that he is the School Board liaison to the MECC and believes Dr. Hrin will be a good addition to the committee.

Mr. Johnson stated that Dr. Hrin's residency issue was not the most important issue in his candidacy for MECC. They choose him for his qualifications and what he would bring to MECC.

Jake Metcalfe commented that he did not know the nominee, but could not support the appointment due to the residency issue. He also thought that there were more people that applied for the positions that were available. Mr. Metcalfe expressed his concern that Dr. Hrin was not a resident and a taxpayer of Anchorage. Mr. Metcalfe stated that if we have individuals who are residents and applied for a position on MECC, then they should be considered.

Tim Steele commented that he understands, but noted that this is a volunteer position on MECC. He stated that he has reviewed this appointment and feels Dr. Hrin would be an asset to the committee.

John Steiner suggested that Dr. Hrin be appointed for a one year term and let the committee decide on a recommendation after that one year.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner  
seconded Tim Steele

to modify the term of Dr. Hrin to end at  
of the 2003-2004 school year.

Tim Steele asked if the length of the term was discussed with the committee. William Johnson responded no, and pointed out that he should have the full term appointment.

Jake Metcalfe stated that he did not understand the intent of Mr. Steiner's amendment.

Mr. Steiner responded that Mr. Metcalfe raised a valid issue regarding the residency of Dr. Hrin. He suggested that it might be wise to have a one-year period to see if it has worked out and to offer a compromise to Mr. Metcalfe's concern and the recommendation of the committee.

Mr. Metcalfe stated that Dr. Hrin should be voted in or out; there should be no test period. He will not support the amendment.

William Johnson stated that there are many individuals who do not live in the Municipality of Anchorage and still contribute to our community. He feels that it is a mistake to not give Dr. Hrin a chance to participate in this process and volunteer.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner

Nays: Marks, Kennedy, Metcalfe,  
Steele, Friedman, Roberts

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

Macon Roberts agreed that there are a lot of people who volunteer in Anchorage that don't live in the community. His concern is that there were individuals who live in our community who applied to serve on MECC and were picked over for Dr. Hrin. Mr. Roberts stated that he will vote in favor of this appointment even though Dr. Hrin is not a resident in Anchorage.



H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #137 - First Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

For many years, Anchorage School District schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow 15 to 20 minute individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarters. More recently, the middle schools and high schools began the practice of providing opportunities at the end of the same grading periods for parents to pick-up their student's report cards and confer briefly with teachers.

These efforts have generally been well supported by parents and teachers, as can be seen in the information provided by each division. Where there has been a decrease in participation at a school, the appropriate Instructional Division supervisor works with principals, their staffs and PTA or parent group to increase involvement. Through work with the Public Affairs staff, the web site, and our School/Business partners, the District will continue attempts to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities in the hope that parents can be released from work to attend. At any time of the school year, parents are welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

2. ASD Memorandum #138 - First Quarter Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report - 2003-2004

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. The information is shown in the narrative information below and as Attachments A-F.

First Quarter Expulsion

Fifteen students, including two middle school students and 13 high school students, were expelled by the School Board during the first

quarter of the 2003-2004 school year; no elementary students were expelled. This compares to sixteen students expelled during the first quarter of 2002-2003. Both middle school students were expelled for having a BB gun on campus. Ten high school expulsions were drug/alcohol violations and three students were expelled for vandalism.

#### Discipline Reports

It is too early to determine overall success, but the numbers for fighting and assaults in the high schools have gone down dramatically this school year. The School Resource Officer Program has been a major factor in reducing incidents of fighting/assaults, particularly in the high schools. Their presence on campus has established a positive deterrent to inappropriate activities. Todd Arndt's, direction and leadership to a veteran group of assistant principals, the new second fighting offense consequence (long term suspension, then the Continuation program) and the safety/security training sessions are all contributing to this early success.

Carol Comeau noted that she is proud of this report; the reduction in fighting is very significant.

Mike Henry stated that this report for high schools is dramatically different from the past three years. There is a decline of students being suspended. Mr. Henry believes the decline is partially due to the School Resource Officer program in our high school buildings, and the assistant principals and Todd Arndt have been able to take additional steps to develop a plan to counsel the student and the parent. He noted that the Continuation School has also helped.

Gail Opalinski stated that she is pleased with the decline in fighting and assaults. She believes there are three reasons for that decline: anti-harassment and anti-bullying curriculum for the students; the opportunity to have two assistant principals at the larger schools allowing a proactive rather than a reactive atmosphere; and the ability to use the School Resource Officer program when needed.

Patricia McRae noted that during the elementary years, they are teaching students to solve problems peacefully and be responsible for their actions.

Carol Comeau stated the Administration is working with Highland Tech Charter School on some discipline problems that have been occurring (Attachment G).

John Steiner noted an error on page 5 regarding the high school suspension rate; the drop is more significant than previously reported.

3. ASD Memorandum #139 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of Nov. 13, 2003 through November 28, 2003.

4. ASD Memorandum #133 - Chugiak High School Renewal, Phases 1, 2, & 3 - One Percent for Art

Chapter 7.40 of the Anchorage Municipal Code defines the process for selection and acquisition of art to be displayed in public places, including public school buildings. This code authorizes the Municipality to select the artist and the artwork, with a review of the proposed artwork by the School District only as to its safety and maintenance factors. The artwork has been reviewed and approved by the District's Risk Management Department and Anchorage Fire Department. The artists have agreed to their safety recommendations, which will be addressed in the artist's contract.

The Jury established for the Chugiak High School Renewal Project, Phases 1, 2, & 3 has chosen artists to create artwork for the school.

The Art Selection Jury members included the architect of the project Scott Worthington, from Bezek, Durst and Seisor; Richard Volk, Principal of Chugiak High School; Ron Lange, representing the Arts Advisory Commission; Cindy Fritts a community member, professional artist and Urban Design Commission representative; Shannon Weiss, a student at Chugiak High School; Margaret Garcia, a parent and community member and Dorothy Cook representing the Eklutna Tribal Association and Eklutna, Inc. Wilda Marston was originally representing the Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Commission, but resigned when her term was up and has recently been replaced by John Reeder.

5. ASD Memorandum #145 - School Bus Diesel Oxidation Catalytic converter Retrofit

The State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has designated the Anchorage School District Transportation Department as the recipient of a supplemental environmental project (SEP) in the amount of \$80,000. In addition, the DEC has agreed to add an additional \$10,000 for this project. Invoices for this project will be paid directly by BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. (BPXA) under a release agreement between BPXA and the DEC.

The SEP is specifically intended to retrofit up to eighty ASD school buses with diesel oxidation catalytic converters (DOCC) in order to reduce exhaust emissions.

A contractor for this project was selected by the ASD Purchasing Department through a Request for Proposal process. Cummins Northwest, Inc. was the successful proposer and was notified to proceed on December 1, 2003. The project is to be completed in no more than 90 days. A total of 68 (out of 133 ASD-owned) buses will be upgraded with DOCC's. The specific buses chosen for this project were designated by the Transportation Department based on the age of the buses. The newest buses were top priority as they will be in use for the longest period of time and therefore will provide the greatest benefit.

Tim Steele stated that he is happy that the District is addressing this issue, and asked if there have been previous problems with the catalytic converters. Steve Kalmes responded yes, but this is new equipment.

Mr. Steele inquired about the cost of \$1,400 and what part of that was for labor and what part was for equipment. Steve Kalmes responded that it is approximately \$1,000 for equipment and the rest is labor.

John Steiner asked if we are acquiring new buses with this type of equipment. Mr. Kalmes responded that 68 will be retrofit; the 20 new buses have the existing equipment; and the rest of the bus fleet will not have the new equipment.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS
- K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - (PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/  
LITIGATION)
- L. ADJOURNMENT

The School Board meeting of December 8, 2003 was unanimously adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Jake Metcalfe, President

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Mary Marks, Clerk

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Mary Kay Sambo

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Date