

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2004**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 12, 2004 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

John Steiner announced that there will be a School Board Audit Subcommittee meeting at 12 noon on January 15, 2003 in Room 320/ Administration Building.

Carol Comeau noted that the upcoming budget presentations are scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on January 13 and January 15. They will begin with an overview of the Superintendent's budget and the recommendation she is making to the School Board. The first reading is scheduled for January 21 at 5:00 p.m. and second reading will occur on January 29 at 5:00 p.m. All of the meetings will be televised and rebroadcast on Channel 14.

Jake Metcalfe stated that he attended the King Career Center recognition luncheon and the Chester Valley spelling bee. He noted that the District is lucky to have such outstanding students.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for January 12, 2004 was approved unanimously by the School Board.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #185 -Wells Fargo Donation

In early November 2003, a portable building at Bartlett High School was destroyed when it caught fire and burned to the ground. Although not being used at the time of the fire, the building was planned for use in the Spring of 2004. With budget reductions already underway at the time of the fire, ASD personnel began discussions to discuss whether to be rebuild the classroom.

Upon hearing news of the fire at the Bartlett campus, a local Wells Fargo employee asked management at her organization if there was anything Wells Fargo could do to help the Anchorage School District. Wells Fargo, through their continued community involvement and support of education, came to the decision that they indeed wanted to provide the district with a \$100,000 donation to help offset the unexpected expenses associated with the unfortunate fire at Bartlett.

It is requested that the School Board recognize Wells Fargo for their generous monetary donation and continued emphasis on the importance of education.

Jake Metcalfe thanked Mr. Strutz for his help. Mr. Strutz responded that he is a product of the Anchorage School District and appreciates the opportunity to help the District. Wells Fargo is a long-time doner to various universities and colleges. Mr. Strutz noted that one of committee members suggested a donation to the District for the Bartlett fire that destroyed a relocatable. He further noted that a good high school education is important for all employees, and that not everyone that works at Wells Fargo is a college graduate. Mr. Strutz thanked the Board for allowing him to come to his first Board meeting.

2. ASD Memorandum #147 - West High Danz Team Award

In mid-November, West High School's 10-member Danz Team headed to San Antonio, Texas, where they competed in the 2003 National Cheer Association/National Dance Association's Fiesta Classic. The coed team was awarded first place in both the team performance and jazz performance divisions. The team also received a bid to the national competition in Orlando, Florida,

scheduled for Spring 2004. Coach Gabe Harvey also received an award for innovative choreography.

Members of the West High Danz Team include seniors Annette Alfonsi, Jonathan Bretz, Angela Janssen, Jennifer Jemison, Kris Palmatier; juniors Sophia Hoger, Sarah Medley, Tressa Medley and Anishia Pedroza, and sophomore Paul LeRay.

It is requested that the School Board recognize and honor the West High Danz team members, Coach Gabe Harvey and Sponsor Lori Bradford, for their award-winning performance at the 2003 NCA/NDA regional competition.

3. ASD Memorandum #149 - Transportation's Staff Life Saving Efforts

On Thursday, December 4, bus attendant, Kathie Muir, revived a 4-year old girl who appeared to have stopped breathing on the way to Bowman Elementary School.

Muir, who is employed by First Student and works as an attendant on a special education bus, typically sings songs and plays with each child as she straps them in. Muir thought however, that the young girl wasn't quite herself so she kept a careful watch on her. A short time later Muir observed that the 4-year old had stopped breathing and immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on her.

Bus driver Hank Phillips also became involved and contacted bus dispatchers and requested that a school nurse be prepared to meet them upon their arrival at the school. Bus dispatcher Ron Coan called 911 and followed notification procedures, and Phillips pulled the bus off the road to a safe location until the student began breathing again. She was then transferred to Providence Alaska Medical Center by paramedics for observation.

Bus drivers and attendants are trained in CPR and first aid, and those working with special needs students are given additional training on how to handle medical and disability issues that arise.

It is requested that the School Board recognize Kathie Muir and Hank Phillips for their life savings efforts.

4. SEAC Presentation

Michael Baldwin, Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee presented Brenda Ross with a special recognition for outstanding efforts of an employee. He noted that losing a member that has been so outstanding to the community and the Anchorage School District will be difficult. Ms. Ross is a strong advocate for children with disabilities and will be sorely missed.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Lorett Nabong noted that the last SAB meeting was held on December 2 at Steller Secondary School and thanked the school for hosting the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27 at 9:00 a.m. at Romig Middle School. The agenda will include a memorandum on the Kincaid Chalet, which has been used for senior fun days and other activities. With the decline of the Municipality budget, the future use of the chalet may be in jeopardy. The SAB plans to meet with the mayor to come up with a compromise. The SAB also hopes to complete a resolution on the hat policy along with discussion on the revisions to the SAB policy. An update from the schools on how the first semester went will also occur.

2. Military Delegate

LTC Michelle Holtery noted that many new young, unmarried soldiers have recently arrived at Fort Richardson.

3. MECC

William Johnson noted that MECC will meet on Thursday, January 15 at 12 noon in Room 320. Mr. Johnson stated that the MECC's role is to advise the Board and Superintendent on a regular basis regarding: (1) the educational program as it relates to the education of minority students K-12 Districtwide; (2) citizen involvement in school activities on minority educational issues; (3) specific minority community concerns; and (4) such other matters with respect to the District at-large as may be identified by the Board or the Superintendent.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Michelle Estell stated that she was not happy with the way and the timelines used regarding an incident with her daughter at one of the elementary schools. Once she became aware of the incident, she talked with the teacher and principal and was told they would discuss the incident with the appropriate staff member. She spoke again with the teacher and was informed that the problem had been resolved. Ms. Estell is not happy with the timelines involved and wants the policy of notification to parents changed for the protection of all children. She further commented that she was very upset with the outcome of this problem.

Donna Estelle noted that she met with the school principal and her daughter regarding this incident. She stated that it takes a team effort to make children feel successful and if something is wrong, parents need to be notified right away. Ms. Estelle requested a full review of this incident and feels that there is a large gap between the parent notification and the outcome of this incident. She also requested that the staff member in question not be placed in her granddaughter's classroom.

Carol Comeau stated that the Board received the statement from Michelle Estelle that was provided to her office. She assured both Michelle and Donna Estelle that this incident has been fully investigated by the EEO office and has reviewed their findings. The recommendation from the EEO investigation was to remove the staff member from the school; Carol Comeau did not concur with this recommendation.

Jeff Friedman suggested that Ms. Estelle look into filing a complaint with the Ombudsman or the Equal Rights Commission. Ms. Estelle stated that she believes this to be a child protection issue and not an EEO issue. She will be filing a complaint with the Office of Children's Services.

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 | October 13, 2004 | 4:30 p.m. |
| b. | Regular Meeting | October 13, 2004 | 6:30 p.m. |
| c. | Special Meeting | October 27, 2004 | 4:30 p.m. |

d. Regular Meeting October 27, 2004 6:30 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #161 - Superintendent Evaluation And Contract Changes: January 1, 2004 - December 31, 2006

The School Board and Superintendent have agreed to extend her contract for one year to December 31, 2006.

3. ASD Memorandum #132 - Revisions To School Board Policy 445-445.4 And 453-460.5 Students And Student Services (Second Reading)

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

4. ASD Memorandum #154 - Revisions To School Board Policy Section 343.25 High School Graduation And Section 343.41 Graduation Requirements (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the proposed attached changes to School Board Policy 343.25 and 343.41.

5. ASD Memorandum #163 - Recommendation for Eagle Academy

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board not approve the application for the Eagle Academy Charter School due to a number of administrative concerns with the proposal.

6. ASD Memorandum #174 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Alaska Railroad Summer Youth Employment Program 2004

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Railroad Corporation for an ongoing program, which is specified in a current Memorandum of Agreement. This award for \$26,537 supports supervised summer employment for youth through a partnership between the Alaska Railroad Corporation and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Career Center.

7. ASD Memorandum #150 - Request For Budget Adjustment for Four New Cargo Vans

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Budget Transfer for \$92,304 for the Maintenance Department to purchase four new cargo vans.

8. ASD Memorandum #175 - Approval Of Schematic Design For Muldoon Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve the Schematic Design for Muldoon Middle School and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with design pending Municipal Assembly approval of the schematic design.

9. ASD Memorandum #126 - Award Of Contract: Service High School Renovation Phase 2A

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Service High School Renewal Project Phase 2A to Unit Company for the Base Bid, Allowance and all Alternates 1 through 7, in the amount of \$10,249,735, and to accept Unit Prices 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.

10. ASD Memorandum #173 - Award Of Contract: Ten School Security Fencing Projects

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to the low responsive bidder, Mt. McKinley Fence Company of Alaska, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$252,234.

11. ASD Memorandum #159 - 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 #13; #154; #163; #175; and #173.

ACTION:

Moved by Jeff Friedman
seconded Mary Marks

to approve minutes from the
Special Meeting of October 13, 2003;
Regular Meeting of October 13, 2003;
Special Meeting of October 27, 2003;
Regular Meeting of October 27, 2003;
Memorandum #161;
Memorandum #174;
Memorandum #150;
Memorandum #126; and
Memorandum #159.

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

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

ACTION:

Moved by Crystal Kennedy
seconded Mary Marks

to approve Memorandum #132.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Crystal Kennedy
seconded Mary Marks

to amend Section 459 to read as follows: The District may provide opportunities for student travel. Students travel is defined as leaving school campus ~~while still under school supervision~~ under control of a school supervisor.

Ms. Kennedy explained her reasoning for the amendment. Jeff Friedman noted that there is a better way to correct this misunderstanding by defining open campus. Open campus is when students leave the school campus unsupervised. Mr. Friedman noted that this amendment from Ms. Kennedy does make this section read smoother.

John Steiner offered a friendly amendment, and Jeff Friedman seconded, to drop "while still" from the initial amendment. Ms. Kennedy agreed and the Board passed it unanimously.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded Jeff Freidman

to amend Section 445.2 Records and Students Withdrawing:

a. When a student withdraws at any time during the regular school year and prior to the final three weeks ~~when a student withdraws.~~

b. When an elementary or middle school student withdraws during the two weeks of school preceding the final week ~~When an elementary or middle school student withdraws, ...~~

d. (1) ...The classifications for ~~senior~~ high school students whose parents/guardians are relocating are as follows:

Sections (d)(1)(a) and (b) be re-designated as (d)(1)(A) and (B).

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded Jeff Friedman

to add the following sentence to the end of 460(b) to restore considerations inadvertently dropped in the deletion of former 460.5(d), (e) and (h) shown on page 400-14: The procedures shall include consideration of the cost to the District relative to the educational or other program benefits, the priority of the activity and benefits relative to competing requests for travel and other budget considerations and amount of school support required and its impact on other ongoing programs.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTIONS PASSES

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES AS AMENDED

ASD Memorandum #154 – Revisions To School Board Policy Section 343.25 High School Graduation And Section 343.41 Graduation Requirements (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the proposed attached changes to School Board Policy 343.25 and 343.41.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded Tim Steele

to approve ASD Memorandum #154.

John Steiner stated that he wants to propose an amendment at this time; it is not the intent of the policy to identify who receives a diploma. This amendment will make the language clear.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded Tim Steele

to amend 343.41(e) so the final sentence reads as follows: ~~Distinction between receiving~~ Identification of which students receive a diploma and which students receive a certificate of achievement will not be noted during the ceremony.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES

Macon Roberts commented that this is a good policy and that a student should not be pointed out that he/she is not receiving a diploma. This change in policy makes it equal for the student.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES AS AMENDED

ASD Memorandum #163 – Recommendation for Eagle Academy

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board not approve the application for the Eagle Academy Charter School due to a number of administrative concerns with the proposal.

Crystal Kennedy stated that she is making the motion in the positive to approve the recommendation for Eagle Academy Charter School.

ACTION:

Moved by Crystal Kennedy
seconded John Steiner

to approve the application for the Eagle Academy Charter School.

Superintendent Comeau stated that this was a hard recommendation for the Administration to make for Eagle Academy, but is not recommending approval at this time. She believes the school has merit, but believes the timing is not good for another charter school to open at this time in the Chugiak/Eagle River area based on current student enrollment in that area. Ms. Comeau stated that from the District's perspective, their primary concern is that the program duplicates an ABC program, which already resides in the same community. She did note that the proposers believe that their program is substantially different. Ms. Comeau agreed that the standards based language arts and math programs are different as well as other items, but the overall comparison is very close. She is concerned there is not sufficient demand from the community and is concerned that a meeting was not scheduled this past fall to see if there was interest in the community. There was no survey done. Ms. Comeau also stated that she was unaware that the Administration did not approve a request for labels. Ms. Comeau noted concerns about the lack of a secure site, but now understands that there has been a site developed. The average teacher salary in the budget is too low based on the current salary schedule. The social studies curriculum is also a concern.

Jan Christensen and Patricia McRae stated that they met with the proposers last week and are concerned that the program is quite similar to the Birchwood ABC. They remain concerned that the new school will not attract enough students to make the program viable. Both noted that there are many similarities and do not believe that another program like this is warranted in the area.

Len Niesen stated that the organizers have spent two years developing this program and that it does offer a unique program. They believe they will draw students from both the post and base as well as the Muldoon area. The program is standards based, which is different from teaching to the standards. Ms. Niesen stated that the school is based on the Chugach model, but is used in a different way at the Academy Charter in the Valley. She noted that Academy Charter consistently reaches high standards and does well on the benchmark exams, but does not include the Spaulding method. Ms. Niesen stated that the Eagle Academy will seek accreditation from the Spaulding Foundation. The organizers have met with the community, curriculum coordinators, and visited with other charter schools and administrators. She believes that the ideas are unique to the community and should have the opportunity to succeed. Ms. Niesen believes that this program will attract home school and private school students. The organizers are requesting that they be allowed to

answer the concerns addressed by the Administration and requests that the Administration change their mind and recommend approval to the School Board.

Jean Gillette stated that they have addressed the social studies curriculum and believe they can tap into the Chugiak/Eagle River historical community. They will use the book Alaska Land In Motion and feels this book would cover all cultures in the state as well as local history. Standards can also be revised as necessary. Ms. Gillette noted that the program is different than anything offered in the Chugiak/Eagle River area.

Crystal Kennedy asked the proposers if they are using the leveling approach to recognize proficiency, and if so, how will they designate the students for testing purposes. Len Niesen responded that the teachers will make that assessment using prior grades and personal assessment with students as well as standardized tests. Carol Comeau stated that she believes that this is an issue of concern that will be addressed by the state because there may be a regulation that a child must be assessed in their normal grade level; teachers can't make that decision. Len Niesen stated that students would start the school year in their normal grade level and would continue to remain at that level in subjects other than language arts/math. Carol Comeau stated that children must be assessed at their grade level for math, language and writing.

Crystal Kennedy asked for an explanation of the Spaulding accreditation and the advantages and cost. Len Niesen stated that accreditation takes nine days each year and the cost would be covered under the implementation grant. This will allow the school to build a team of teachers to teach the program and will give the school a basis that is unified.

Macon Roberts expressed concerns about the budget and is concerned that we are approving a new charter school when we are facing a budget deficit and will experience teacher layoffs. Ms. Niesen stated that a charter school is self-supporting; they receive a certain dollar amount per student from the District, and must pay all operating expenses from that amount. The organizers believe they can provide a quality program without causing a detriment to other schools. The first year, charter schools are awarded a planning and an implementation grant from the state.

Tim Steele expressed a concern about taking 175 kids from other schools in the area when they are currently under enrolled. This makes schools under utilized in that area. He is concerned with the current lack of interested students and is not inclined to approve a contract for ten years.

The Eagle Academy real-estate person stated that he found a structure for the school. The school has an investor who will be purchasing the building, making renovations, and leasing it back to the school. The investor has already determined that it is an appropriate site.

John Steiner asked if the school was approved, would it be a net cost to the District or would it merely shift District funds. Carol Comeau responded that there would be no increased cost districtwide. Indirect costs are charged for services associated with the operation of the charter school. To keep costs down, charter schools often hire new teachers and they struggle due to lack of experience. The reality of delivering the program over time is often not understood. Also, the cost of benefits continue to increase each year. Ms. Comeau stated that part of the Administration's resistance in adding another charter school at this time is based on past experience.

Jake Metcalfe asked if the average teacher salary in the budget includes benefits. Janet Stokesbary responded that the salary does not include benefits, but they are listed as another line item in the budget.

Len Niesen stated that they plan to add a non-profit supplement to the school. She further stated that the teacher salary listed is in the medium range because they understand that a tenured teacher probably won't leave a secure position in another school. They realize they will end up with a fairly new group of teachers, but do not see this as a problem.

Jake Metcalfe noted a concern if the school is not able to reach their goal of 175 students. Carol Comeau responded that in order to get funding, they must reach 151 students. Janet Stokesbary explained the process used to determine funding if the school does not reach 151 students.

Jake Metcalfe asked how much it will cost for the District to go through the motion of approving Eagle Academy. Carol Comeau responded that we have to approve their budget for 175 students. If they come up short, we would recapture some funds. Ms. Comeau described the recent experience with the closure of Walden Pond and how the District had to absorb the students and staff and lease without the benefit of additional funds.

Tim Steele asked if the March lottery does not bring in the students, would they be willing to postpone for one year. Len Niesen responded that the provision was listed in the proposal to request an extension until the end of June to see if they could secure enrollment numbers. Tim Steele asked if teachers would be hired before the end of June. Len Niesen responded that this topic has not been discussed.

John Steiner asked if they would still go with the building if the contract was only approved for five years. The Eagle Academy real estate person responded yes; the investor is willing to shoulder the financial risk.

Gracie Parker stated that the proposers have answered all of the questions raised in the memorandum. They were not aware that they had to explain the need for the school. Ms. Parker also informed the Board that the District denied their request for labels. She stated that there is not another charter school in Eagle River and no school in that area offers the standards based instruction. She knows of families in the area that are interested. Home school and private school students, Muldoon area population, and the base and post have shown an interest in the school. Ms. Parker believes that parents should have the right to choose something they want that is different that what is offered through the public school system.

Sue Kenney noted that they are looking at hiring retired staff and believes that the interest is there in the community.

Mary Marks inquired what the proposers have done to inform the community of their new program. Len Niesen responded that there were several meetings held in May and June and also by word of mouth. She commented that the Administration did not allow a district mail out and it was not cost effective to do a mailing. Ms. Niesen stated that the policy states that we have to demonstrate a need, but it is not a requirement of the policy. Carol Comeau commented that she remembers information that was placed in school newsletters about the proposed school and is surprised that presentations and community meetings have not occurred. She further commented that it is very complex to get a school up and running in a short timeframe.

Jeff Friedman asked if the proposers could make a firm commitment to not open this year if they don't have the required enrollment by a certain date. Len Niesen stated that she must review this request with the committee.

Tim Steele inquired where the interested students they currently have are from. Len Niesen responded that 50 percent are from local schools and the rest are from home school and the community.

John Steiner asked if Eagle Academy would be contracting for teachers before they knew what their student numbers would be. He also asked if they would wait until they reach 150 students before they issue contracts. Len Niesen responded that she would need to confer with the committee.

The School Board recessed from 8:25 p.m. until 8:45 p.m.

Len Niesen stated that the proposers would be comfortable with a delayed start if they do not reach 150 students by March 31.

Carol Comeau stated that she is comfortable with the proposers; her issue is with past experience with various charter schools. Her concern is taking students out of very good schools, but does support parent choice. Ms. Comeau's main concern is with the budget; she feels that they need to make a firm commitment by a certain date to delay if they don't get the required number of students. If the proposers acquire the required number of students, then the Administration can bring the proposal back to the Board and request approval.

Crystal Kennedy asked if the proposers will be adding grades 7 and 8 to the program. Len Niesen responded yes, but at a later date.

Len Niesen stated that the proposers are fine with delaying the opening if they do not reach their projected enrollment by March 31. They also would not hire teachers until they have their full enrollment. Ms. Comeau reminded the proposers that they may have to interview teachers that are in a layoff status.

John Steiner asked if it was possible that more interest would be directed to the lower grades and if that happened, could they start the program with a K-4 or K-5 program. Carol Comeau mentioned that she has always supported this approach; too many charter schools have tried to do everything.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Jeff Friedman
seconded Crystal Kennedy

to add the following: This approval is contingent with the school having enrolled 151 students by March 31, 2004.

Tim Steele expressed his apprehension, but is inclined to allow the school to go forward and accept the challenge. He doesn't believe the amendment goes far enough on the start date issue.

Jeff Friedman stated that he has not reviewed policy and is not sure if it permits the District to approve unless it opens next year. The next issue that should be discussed is contract length.

Mary Marks will not support the amendment; she is concerned over the number of seats not filled.

Jake Metcalfe supports the amendment, but has serious questions because of the financial situation we are in. Mr. Metcalfe stated that he may have been supportive last year, but there is no guarantee that we will have adequate school funding next year.

John Steiner acknowledges that he knew one of the proposers and has great confidence in these people. Mr. Steiner may not favor an amendment that could put a burden on the group. He thinks that this proposal may work and wants to keep these people in the District. Mr. Steiner would like to have home school and private school students return to the District. He will support the amendment.

Macon Roberts acknowledged the hard work of the committee, but he is concerned with the finances. He would like to see them have the opportunity to go forward and will support this amendment.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Marks

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Tim Steele to limit the term of the contract to five
seconded Jeff Friedman years.

Carol Comeau asked the Board if the program is successful and thriving would it be possible to return to approve a longer contract. Tim Steele responded that they could come back one year before the contract expires.

Macon Roberts stated that if the program is successful and they needed a commitment of more time for monetary reasons, he would be willing to discuss reconsideration to extend the contract.

Mary Marks would like the proposers to return within three years for an extension of their contract. Both Jeff Friedman and Jake Metcalfe stated that it sounds reasonable, and if they are doing well, they can come back in two to three years.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner to read: This requirement is a
seconded Tim Steele condition for opening in Fall 2004. To
the extent legally permissible, if the 151
student commitment is not met by that
deadline, this approval shall remain
valid for a Fall 2005 opening.

Jeff Friedman asked if it was Mr. Steiner's intent that they have to meet the number for March 2005. Mr. Steiner responded that he doesn't expect it to be an issue and would be easily achievable.

Mr. Metcalfe stated that he has a serious problem with granting approval to open in 2005 and not requiring the committee to come back for approval. He further stated we should not be binding a future board with this decision.

Mr. Friedman stated he would feel more comfortable if they had to come back. He feels that it would not be a difficult process to return and ask for approval. Superintendent Comeau also stated that she would feel more comfortable having them come back before the Board. If the intent is the same, they could come before the Board early in the fall of 2004 for review.

VOTE:

Ayes: Steiner, Roberts

Nays: Marks, Kennedy, Steele, Metcalfe
Friedman

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

John Steiner noted that this project has to be commended. He is happy with the standard-based program and noted that this would allow the District to look at the program to see if it is successful. Mr. Steiner has a lot of confidence in this group; the presentation has been outstanding. He stated that this is the best charter school proposal that has ever come forward. Mr. Steiner will support the approval of Eagle Academy Charter School.

Crystal Kennedy stated that she is impressed with the number of people involved and the fact that community members are buying the facility. She noted that Eagle River community has a lot of home schoolers. Ms. Kennedy likes the structure and decorum involved with this charter; she sees it as a plus for the community. She encouraged the proposers to use the community councils and the chamber of commerce to get the information out to the community. Ms. Kennedy will support this charter school proposal.

Jeff Friedman noted that the Superintendent's concerns are valid. This is a difficult job because the budget is tight, but this charter may be right for the Chugiak/Eagle River community. Mr. Friedman noted that it is good to propose competition between schools. He hopes that Eagle Academy will work cooperatively with the District.

Macon Roberts hopes that they succeed and that the Board's apprehension about this program is proven wrong.

Mary Marks still has reservations on this proposal due to the financial crunch the District is experiencing and whether or not they can hold their numbers. She mentioned that starting a new school is exciting, but many times after the community buys into it, they become disillusioned. Ms.

Marks would like to see more cultural awareness in the school and wants more emphasis on Alaska studies. She will support this proposal, but wants it on the record that she has reservations. Ms. Marks stated that she does not see proof that this program works and whether the community has bought into this program and will support it.

Jake Metcalfe stated that he doesn't understand the difference between conservative and liberal; it does not have any place in education. Mr. Metcalfe would like every child to have a broad-based education. His fiduciary duty as a Board member is his main concern. Before he can approve something like this, he needs to see proof of enrollment. The budget deficit is a major concern to the District, and we do not know what our funding will be for next year. Mr. Metcalfe cannot in good faith approve this charter and then turn around and cut other programs that are successful.

John Steiner stated that one of the things his comments are premised on is that it will not be a higher net cost to the District. If this program was costing the District more in these tight fiscal times, he would be concerned. Mr. Steiner believes the merit of this program is so great, we cannot afford to miss out on it now. He further stated that since it is not going to be a drain on our budget, we will regret not approving the charter.

Jake Metcalfe commented that we don't know if it will or will not be a drain on our budget. There is a chance that we will have to absorb teacher contracts if the program is not successful.

Jeff Friedman stated that he understands the concern, but if they hire ten teachers and those students come to the District, then we will need those teachers. Mr. Friedman further stated that if they can get 151 students by March, it is a risk we can afford to take. Jake Metcalfe cautioned Mr. Friedman that we are not sure the students will return to the District.

Tim Steele noted if the Eagle Academy draws students from our existing schools – it will be a net cost to our schools. If we get kids from outside of the District, it will be fine. We may have to absorb the teacher contracts, but mitigate that by putting the March deadline on the proposers. Mr. Steele commented that Mr. Metcalfe's concern about possibly cutting successful programs is valid.

Crystal Kennedy commented that she sees this program as highly structured. She knows in terms of her own children that she likes

structure. She believes the program to be traditional instead of conservative. Ms. Kennedy stated that her understanding of funding in a charter school is that you are given a set amount of money to do a limited amount of business. A charter school has to be more careful. She suggested that Eagle Academy Charter School attend the alternative fair that is planned later in the month. Len Niesen responded that they plan to be there.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Metcalfe

MAIN MOTION PASSES AS AMENDED

ASD Memorandum #175 - Approval Of Schematic Design For Muldoon Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve the Schematic Design for Muldoon Middle School and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with design pending Municipal Assembly approval of the schematic design.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Tim Steele to approve Memorandum #175.
seconded Mary Marks

Carol Comeau stated that she is thrilled that all of the issues with the Muldoon Middle School have been resolved. She noted that the architects were in the audience and ready to respond to any questions the Board may have.

Tim Steele asked about the Fire Station on Debarr and Patterson and if the drawings accurately reflect the vegetation and the driveway. Ray Amsden responded that he did not commit anything to the Municipality on the driveway. The size and the needs of the driveway were not compatible with the site.

Tim Steele asked if Chester Creek is part of the Parks Department development. Ray Amsden responded yes.

Crystal Kennedy asked if the amphitheater is part of the District or the Municipality. Angie Barr of Kumin Associates responded that it is part of the District.

Ray Amsden noted that pending approval of the bond, a contract will be executed this spring for gravel and utility development for the contractor. The construction contract will be let in the fall 2004 and construction will begin in the spring of 2005.

John Steiner stated that after reviewing the square footage, he is impressed on how close the educational specifications were followed. Angie Barr commented that they are very committed to follow the educational specifications; major items won't be changed, but some areas may be massaged.

Ray Amsden informed the Board that this project will be going to the Assembly for action on January 27.

John Steiner asked what part of this project is proposed for the bond package. Carol Comeau responded that the construction phase is proposed. Ray Amsden noted that the \$3 million dollars in design money is what allowed the Administration to reach this point on the project. The amount going to the bond is for construction costs. Mr. Amsden further noted that he believes the architects have done a good job of estimating the cost of this project. Mr. Vakalis feels that because of the lead time the District has, we should receive favorable bids.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSES

ASD Memorandum #173 - Award Of Contract: Ten School Security Fencing Projects

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to the low responsive bidder, Mt. McKinley Fence Company of Alaska, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$252,234.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Crystal Kennedy to approve Memorandum #173.
seconded Tim Steele

Crystal Kennedy noted that there is some concern over the fencing at Birchwood ABC and where it will be placed. Ray Amsden responded that he is not sure about the location; the plan is to avoid the ski trails but still maintain adequate security. Conversations have taken place with the school on the location of the fencing.

Macon Roberts noted that he has received questions from the public on the replacement of fencing that appears to be in good condition. Ray Amsden responded that he has also received a number of calls where the District is replacing a fence that appears to be in good shape. The reason for the replacement is because the older fencing is woven differently and has sharp edges on the top and bottom; this is a safety factor.

Tim Steele commented that he has heard complaints from principals that the schools need new carpet instead of new fencing. Carol Comeau stated that we always will have more needs that we can support, but safety is the most important issue.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSES

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #158 - Facility Change Order Report And Completed Projects For The Month Of November 2003

The monthly Facility Change Order Report for the month of November 2003 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month. There are no completed projects to report this month.

2. ASD Memorandum #160 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of November 28, 2003 through December 22, 2003.

3. ASD Memorandum #155 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap - November 30, 2004

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. The Treasurer's report and Financial Recap are year-to-date information as of November 30, 2003.

John Steiner asked for a characterization on where we are financially and where we expected to be and noted that it is hard to know if revenues and expenses are where they should be. Janet Stokesbary responded that in terms of interest earnings, the interest rates have been very low. She stated that the District received an invoice last week for \$92,000 for servicing our investments, which increased about one and a half years ago. Our revenues are not as high as projected and our foundation is lower due to not meeting our projected enrollment.

Jeff Friedman asked if there are other fund managers out there that could give us a better deal since the Municipality raised the rates. Janet Stokesbary responded that we are looking into this. Carol Comeau noted that this is one of the conversations that we will be having with the Municipality over the next year.

4. ASD Memorandum #157 - End-Of-The-Month Membership Report For November 30, 2004

The total active enrollment at the end of November was 49,355. This enrollment represents a decrease of 171 students when compared to end of month November 2002. Table 1 compares the membership totals.

Superintendent Comeau commented that the decline in enrollment is significantly less than last year at this time. She noted that we will likely see an increase at the beginning of the second semester. Ms. Comeau also noted that our withdrawal rate has decreased.

Macon Roberts asked if the District saw a drop in the statistics during the Permanent Fund distribution. Ophelia Dargen-Steed responded that it was comparable with previous years. She also noted that the Ptarmigan kindergarteners returned to their home school after spending two years at Chester Valley during construction.

5. ASD Memorandum #162 - Operating Budget Transfers - November Monthly Report 2003-2004

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of November 2003 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000 – Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000, which includes summarized justifications.

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of November 2003 and the budget transfer forms and related information for all of the transfers are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

6. ASD Memorandum #183 - 2003-2004 Ethnicity Report

Attached are a series of tables and graphs, focusing on the ethnic composition of the Anchorage School District. Data in this report represent membership numbers as of October 22, 2003.

In 1976, 13 percent of Anchorage School District students classified themselves as belonging to an ethnic minority group. Today 43 percent of the students in the District are ethnically diverse school children. Of the ethnic minority population, the Alaska Native/American Indian (13%) category is the largest, followed by the Asian/Pacific Islander (11%), African American/Black (8%), and Hispanic (6%) groups. Since the 1994-95 school year, the fastest growing ethnic population, percentage-wise, has been Asian/Pacific Islander, followed by Hispanic. The Asian/Pacific Islander ethnic group grew by 70 percent and the Hispanic ethnic group grew by 61 percent.

Since last school year, the ethnic minority student population has increased by 2.2% and the White student population has decreased by 2.4%. These changes are shown in the Historical Student Membership Composition graph (chart 2). Looking at student numbers, the White student group decreased by 689 students this year, while the ethnic minority group increased by 474 students.

The largest numerical gain in an ethnic minority category this year, over last year, was "Other," which increased by 422 students. It should be noted that student ethnicity is self-identified. Students are given a list of ethnic categories, and they (or their parents/guardians) choose the category they feel is most appropriate. The "Other" category was established for those students identifying with more than one ethnic category, or for those students who are not comfortable choosing any of the given categories.

Chart 3 shows student ethnicity or race by Program Type. At 52%, Special Services has the largest population of ethnic minorities, followed by Elementary Education at 45%. Ethnic minorities make up 42% of students in the Middle School program. The High School program has the smallest ethnic minority population at 38%, followed by Other Secondary at 40%. The ethnic minority populations at the secondary levels are expected to increase as elementary students move into these levels.

The steady increase in ethnic minority membership appears to be a long-term trend. While White populations rise and fall with the economic climate, the ethnic minority populations continue to grow steadily. The ethnic minority population has increased by 6,863 students since 1994-95. Since the 1999-2000 school year, the gain in ethnic minority students has averaged nearly two percent per year. If this trend continues, the ethnic minority student population is expected to exceed fifty percent of the total student population by the start of the 2006-2007 school year.

Superintendent Comeau noted that she is officially providing this report to the Board for the first time. She noted that these are the types of statistics that people are always requesting. The public is often amazed that our minority population continue to grow. Superintendent Comeau encouraged the Board to read this document very carefully.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Crystal Kennedy commented that she found the opportunity to visit Hanshew Middle School, Abbott Loop Elementary School, and King Career Center and thanked each of them for hosting her visits. She noted

that it was wonderful to see so much excitement in the schools and how proud each school is about their programs.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of January 12, 2004 was unanimously adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Jake Metcalfe, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved