

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF October 19, 2009

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, October 19, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, John Steiner, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, John Steiner Presiding

Board Members Present: John Steiner, Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy, Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett and Tim Steele

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Ed Graff, Linda Carlson, Jerry Koetje, Mike Henry, MerriKae Vanderploeg, Jerry Sjolander, Jane Berglund, Eric Tollefsen, Heather Sawyer, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Abbott, Brandon Boyer, Col. Tim Prior, James Ellsworth, Brian Griggs, Laurel Vorachek, Chad Stiteler, Jim Lepley, Robin Olson, the press and other interested parties.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

C. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Bartlett High School Choir, Liesl Davenport-Wheeler, Director
2. ASD Memorandum # 130 - Recognition of Life-Saving Actions in September by ASD Good Samaritans

Kathleen Plunkett read the memo and John Steiner handed out certificates to Panna Jarussi, Lisa Sutherlin, Roy Welch and Carole Johansen. Ray Patterson, ASD First Aid Trainer was also recognized for the work that he does training staff. Tim Steele noted that although recognition was given to a few of the staff the ASD health professionals were doing many fine things across the district.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Comeau went to Mirror Lake with the commissioner of education and head of the State Board of Education to present Bobby Jo Erb, a math teacher, the Milken award. She was completely surprised and students and staff were thrilled for her. She is the recipient of \$25,000 award and will go to a national conference in Los Angeles later in the year. She also mentioned this is Red Ribbon Week and had gone to Abbott Loop for the official kickoff. Police

officers and a dog were there and talked about good health practices and being drug and alcohol free. The National Guard was also there and six school resource officers were there with their police cars. Most schools in the district are doing something in recognition of Red Ribbon Week.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Brandon Boyer reported that SAB hasn't met since the last board meeting but will meet early November. The fall ASAG conference was a great success. West did a wonderful job hosting the event. They represented the diversity in the school during the opening ceremonies and many groups performed. One hundred fifty to two hundred Anchorage students attended the conference. Most of resolutions discussed were school specific issues along with some environmental issues. Bethel was chosen to hold the next year's conference. Mr. Steiner let Brandon know that if any of the resolutions were school board policy specific the board would like to see them. Ms. Comeau added that if Brandon gave her a set she would see that the board received copies. She complemented West High on the conference. She believed that the opening entertainment was a unifying factor. Brandon also announced that he and other members would be attending the library forum on the 10<sup>th</sup> at Loussac Library. There is a municipal wide committee looking at the libraries. Brandon has been key in encouraging young people to participate.

2. Military Delegate

Col. Prior thanked the Alaska Parent Teacher's Association for hosting the military family dialogues summit last week at the Marriott hotel. It was well attended and a great event.

3. MECAC

The MECAC representative was not present.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

G. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tim Steele reported that a number of the board members had participated in the KCC event where the Health Science Academy was discussed. A resolution was passed out to continue the funding for the Academy type programs. That will be a priority for the legislative committee to discuss.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Early Meeting - October 12, 2009
2. ASD Memorandum # 86 -Resolution in Support of Alaska Native /American Indian Heritage Month

The Administration recommends the Anchorage School Board, recognizing Alaska Native culture provides significant contribution to our community; adopt the attached resolution in support of November 2009 being Alaska Native/ American Indian Heritage Month.

3. ASD Memorandum # 131 - Approval of Health Center at Clark Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a school-based health center as a pilot project at Clark Middle School beginning in January 2010 and extending through June 2011.

4. ASD Memorandum # 133 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Bus Drivers and Attendants Unit, General Teamsters Local #959, 2009-2012

Tim Steele mentioned that this was approved and thanked the negotiating teams.

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and General Teamsters Local #959, which will establish terms and conditions of employment for Bus Drivers and Attendants during the period between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2012.

5. ASD Memorandum # 134 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 114, Nondiscrimination and Harassment, Second Reading

It is the Policy Committee's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading the recommended policy revision to School Board Policy 114, Nondiscrimination and Harassment as shown on Attachment A.

6. ASD Memorandum # 79 - Personnel Report

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

Jeannie Mackie requested that ASD Memorandum # 131 - Approval of Health Center at Clark Middle School be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau asked that ASD Memorandum # 85 - Profile of Performance be pulled from the Superintendent's Report for a presentation.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeannie Mackie	To approve Minutes of the Early Meeting October 19, 2009 and Memoranda #86, #133, #134 and #79.
Seconded by: Jeff Friedman	

VOTE

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy  
Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele,  
John Steiner

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 131 - Approval of Health Center at Clark Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a school-based health center as a pilot project at Clark Middle School beginning in January 2010 and extending through June 2011.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeannie Mackie	To approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a school-based health center as a pilot project at Clark Middle School beginning in January 2010 and extending through June 2011.
Seconded by: Tim Steele	

Carol Comeau asked for Cessilye Williams, Nancy Edtl, and Terry O'Connor to come up to the microphones. Ms. Comeau explained when the bonds passed to replace Clark Middle School an extensive community outreach was performed in the area and one thing identified in the community planning process was the desire for students at Clark to have some medical services delivered at school because of transportation concerns. There have been a

huge number of meetings. Within the Ed specs of the school there was a 250 sq ft room designated for a potential health center if one was approved that is adjacent to the nurses' office. One of the things talked about extensively has been a pilot program. There are see several letters in support of such a program. The program would be for Clark students who have prior parent approval. Medical services would be donated by pediatricians and nurse practitioners. The major expense to the district would be the room use and the oversight by Nancy Edtl and Health Services Department. Ms. Comeau received an email from Dr. Dick Monsager, the chief executive at Providence Medical Center, making an ongoing commitment to support the development of the school based clinics. Ms. Comeau asked Ms. Williams, principal at Clark, to talk about the vision of the project and what she believed this could do to assist students and increase attendance thereby creating strong academic achievement.

Ms. Williams commented prior to the Clark rebuild, they brainstormed on programs and spaces that they felt essential to helping students be successful. Free physicals had been a part of Clark in the past. Research says students engaged in afterschool sports do better in school and in order to participate, students must have a physical. Participation in after school sports has gone up every year. Their goal is to remove obstacles from the family's lives so that the students can make learning and school a priority. The Mt. View Lions club gave vouchers to get glasses for students who cannot afford them. They had a health fair at registration and 700 students were seen - vision, height, weight, over 300 students had immunizations. The health fair was at no cost to ASD. The staff, students and families' would greatly appreciate a health clinic at Clark Middle School.

Nancy Edtl, Director of Nursing for ASD, relayed that they were excited at the prospect of the clinic because school nurses can only go so far and this would expand the services that are offered. School nurses cannot do sports physicals. Nurses can administer immunizations. All immunizations are provided free by the state as part of the Vaccines for Children Program. She sees this as an opportunity to help kids be healthy, stay in school and to be able to catch things sooner where they will miss less school. Other communities have found that having a school based health center increases seat time for students.

Jeannie Mackie said it was very exciting and the news of Providence kicking in \$25,000 a year is good news. She asked for an explanation regarding the lack of interest in doing behavioral services if limited acute services were not available. Terry O'Connor with DHHSS commented that the limited acute care services that they were looking at are things like minor illness or injury. The thought was in some of those instances the health care provider might identify that the child also had a behavioral health need and there was

concern about what would happen if someone did need behavioral health services and it wasn't available. That service wasn't going to be one of the first available.

John Steiner asked Ms. Comeau to identify for the record the supporting entities that have written letters to the board regarding the school based health center: Diane Ingle, Director, DHSS, Amy Schumacher, Medical Director, Pediatric Primary Care Southcentral Foundation, Mary Grisco, Executive Director, All Alaska Pediatric Partnership, Dr. W. Jon Lyon, pediatrician, John Fisher, Executive Director, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Dr. Andrew Mayo, North Star Behavioral Health, Gabriel Garcia, Assistant Professor of Public Health at UAA, Dr. Monsager and Al Parish from Providence Hospital.

Tim Steele asked about students interacting with the nurse. If a child thinks they have a cold do they go to the nurse first or get sent to the health center? Is there preauthorization from the family or event oriented? Also what would the hours be? Ms. Edtl answered the school nurse would act as a gate keeper. The hours are school hours depending on the providers. Most families would have preauthorization on a year by year basis - elect to have them seen or not. The parents can't opt to have children seen for some things but not others. Prescriptions will not be dispensed. However, they may look at other services later if the community wants them. Ms. Comeau emphasized the pilot program would start out small with the services that we know the community wants. Issues would be identified and worked through and then see if there is an interest in expanding but the initial focus would be on physicals and screenings. If board approved an evaluation process would be developed to track data to see if attendance did improve. Mr. Steele asked if siblings would be able to have access to the clinic. Ms. Edtl responded no, not at first. Mr. Steele wondered about 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the end of the year. Ms. Edtl explained they would be eligible for services offered at the end of summer if they would be attending Clark. Mr. Steele voiced his support for the pilot program and believed it would be a huge benefit to the community.

Jeff Friedman asked for an explanation of behavioral health issues. Ms. Edtl explained mental health visits. Some of the areas of need might be domestic violence issues, depression, eating disorders, and adjustment disorders. The student might have a 30 minute appointment once a week with a counselor. It depends on what community needs. Successful school based health clinic must provide the community what they want not what they are told to have. Mr. Friedman supported this action as vital and believed in facilitating other programs to provide these types of services. He thought that this would be an excellent partnership opportunity.

Kathleen Plunkett appreciated being able to tour Clark and to see it firsthand. She attested to the community's need after the Health Center left Mountain View and the void that it left. She wondered what other needs have been mentioned. Ms. Williams said that at this time they are excited. They are very supportive.

Mr. Steele Tim asked how ASD specialists would interact with the health center. Ms. Edtl responded if a screener found they needed more they would be referred for further services. The school nurse would be the gate keeper and can make referrals in our own system. Ms. Williams added would not take away our counselors need.

Crystal Kennedy asked if anyone had determined an actual an annual cost. Ms. O'Connor from the municipality answered that the cost for the first year of operation, looking at mostly volunteer providers would be around \$25,000. Ms. Edtl added that in the future the district would not ever pay for the providers. The goal would be for the providers to bill the third party payers like Denali Kid Care, etc. Ms. O'Connor mentioned that the Juneau model has been self-sustaining for 15 yrs.

Pat Higgins had questions about insurance and billing issues. Would the providers agree not bill the parents. Ms. O'Connor stated that the students themselves would never be charged or turned away for inability to pay. The providers would try to bill 3<sup>rd</sup> party payers when possible and there was also some grant funds available. Ms. Edtl let the board know that most providers that come in to a school based health center see their contribution as a community service. Their goal would not be to make a profit.

John Steiner pointed out that this would be facilitation and the district would be space. By and large service would be provided by community volunteers and community donors. It may keep kids out of the emergency room and higher medical costs. It makes sense to pilot it to see how it works out.

Ms. Kennedy voiced some concerns not with the idea or the project but with the school district going in to the healthcare business. She read everything and talked to several people and was assured that the school district would not be providing the service but it would be a collaborative effort amongst several organizations in the community. After looking at promises from organizations it looked like the groups would be funding it. She would want it relayed as a community project not an Anchorage School District health center. She would like to see the Memorandum of Agreement in place however, first the board would need to need to approve pilot program.

Ms. Kennedy proposed an amendment to remove the phrase: accept a school based health center and insert: enter into collaborative agreements with various community groups to pilot a school based health center project.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy  
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To amend by deleting “accept a school based health center as a pilot project”.  
And inserting: “enter into collaborative agreements with various community groups to pilot a school based health center project.”

Ms. Kennedy said there was much relying on the participation of various organizations to make it work. She does not want the district to be seen as entering in to the health care business. Ms. Comeau commented she’s fine with the amendment but assured the board she would never want to keep going with this without community funds support. Mr. Higgins and Mr. Friedman agreed. Mr. Steele appreciated all the work already put in to the center and he was looking forward to a successful clinic.

Mr. Steiner asked Ms. Kennedy if it was the intent to authorize the superintendent to negotiate and enter into the Memorandums of Agreement or did she want those to come back to the board. Ms. Kennedy answered no; her amendment was not contingent upon that.

VOTE

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy  
Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele,  
John Steiner

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Higgins voiced his support for the health center.

Diane Ingle spoke about the community collaborative effort that started a year and a half ago. She introduced: Terry O’Connor, Joan Fischer, Dr. John Lyon, Dr. Bruce Chandler, Mary Grisco, and Angela Taplin. Ms. Williams introduced: Ann Olson , Ron Brown, Brian Hillness and nurse Saoa Hussein.

Ms. Kennedy said it was refreshing to see the community support. She commented on the vocational component of being able to expose some middle school students to the health care professions.

Mr. Steiner stated that he believed it was great that the district was moving in a direction that would allow removing logistical barriers that prevent kids from getting some of the health services that they now have.

VOTE

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy  
Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele,  
John Steiner

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 67 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of September 11, 2009 through September 28, 2009.

2. ASD Memorandum # 78 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of September 2009

3. ASD Memorandum # 82 - Operating Budget Transfers - July - September Monthly Report FY 2009-2010

4. ASD Memorandum # 83 - Out-of-District Travel - First Quarter Report FY 2009-2010

5. ASD Memorandum # 85 - Profile of Performance

The Profile of Performance is the Anchorage School District (ASD) report to the school board and the community on the academic achievement of Anchorage students and schools. The report is divided into two parts. Each part is described briefly below:

Part I provides an overview of the district and the success of the district in meeting the school board goals for the 2008-2009 school year. It also provides a summary of performance across the entire district on a variety of indicators used in the identification and analysis of achievement gaps among the student groups designated by the federal No Child Left Behind Act and related Alaska state regulations.

Part II of the report provides summary profiles for each of the ASD schools. Part II includes information on the attainment of school goals,

staff and student demographics, and student academic achievement at the school level.

Carol Comeau thanked the staff for a herculean effort. She introduced Laurel Vorachek and introduced her staff. A presentation on the Profile of Performance was made. The profile will be posted online with a notice to the principals and a link for their school.

Ms. Kennedy asked about projecting trends and how realistic they are. Ms. Vorachek answered that it was a statistical calculation. The trend is projected out by a program based upon performance years that are available. Ms. Mackie also voiced her concern about trends showing an increase and the achievement gap widening. Ms. Vorachek explained that the trends were based on all students, not certain sub groups.

Mr. Higgins appreciated the fantastic job that was done. He asked about the dropout rate and why students dropped out. Ms. Vorachek explained the dropout rate and that you can't really determine why the students dropped out without interviewing them. Mike Henry further explained.

Mr. Higgins wondered about the math program. Sandy Schoff explained the math program and at the end of this year all 55 of the regular math programs will be Everyday Math. Everyone would need to be is doing what they're supposed to be doing to determine that the program works. Ms. Comeau added we've provided content courses for elementary teachers who perceive themselves not strong in math. The math background of the teacher is important.

Mr. Steele commented on the dropout rate reduction and the graduation rate increase shows 50% growth due to summer school. He asked if students being missed or double counted due to the reporting time July through June. Laurel responded the majority of summer school students' graduate after July 1<sup>st</sup>, so they are reported in the following year. Mr. Steele added that he was proud of what the district was doing and was happy with the presentation.

Ms. Comeau she said she hoped the schools and the curriculum department could look at how they are doing and sees where they have strengths and weaknesses. The writing was a success story with the improvement over last year. Having more frequent data points would make a difference. Ms. Vorachek mentioned the schools that performed at more than what was expected could be looked at to see where emphasis was needed. Individual grade level as well as combined grades could be looked at, as well.

Mr. Friedman mentioned the key would be bringing things back and are teachers able to teach the curriculum to fidelity. He pointed out at East High School their dropout rates made a 47% improvement to bring them below the district average.

Brandon Boyer noted the difficulty of getting replies for climate survey and wondered if that was all levels? Ms. Vorachek responded that there are two levels, primary with grade 3-4 and secondary with grades 5-12. There have been strong return rates with students and staff but the struggle has been the parent/guardian. He asked if they considered electronic contact for parents. Ms. Vorachek answered that with Zangle that they could certainly look at that. He wondered if the district had tried to interview the dropout students. Mr. Henry noted it was difficult to find students once they dropped out. He added that he would like to do something with successful students also, to find out why they choose to stay in school. Brandon said he would bring it up at SAB and work with Mr. Henry.

Mr. Higgins asked if the data would be presented differently next year due to the change in the board goals. Ms. Vorachek said that next year the historical data of the subgroups would be reported.

Mr. Steele believed that students could be used to help get surveys from parents/guardians. He added that Zangle would be helpful in the future.

Ms. Mackie voiced concern that the achievement gap had widened. She wondered if there was an indication on why grade 10 math did so well. Ms. Vorachek said this group of students had historically performed well. There had been jumps every year that they had been tested.

Mr. Steiner commented on the frustration that at some grade levels one sub group did significantly better and another not. The real work would be trying to figure out what is going on at the school level. He mentioned the possibility of having a click through survey for Climate Connectedness on the Zangle.

Mr. Friedman reminded the board that the district was not isolated from what was happening in the rest of the world that economic factors play a part. Many people had recently moved to Anchorage and moving often leads to lower test scores, military families are under a lot of stress.

Ms. Comeau asked Gail Raymond what happened 4th grade Science test scores. Ms. Raymond speculated it was a result of teachers not realizing that science has to be taught k-4 and goes back to the fidelity of implementation. She added that they had created easy reference guides

for all of the kids and training videos on ASD Tube. Linda Carlson added the time allotment for instruction of science had waned a little due to focus on math, reading and writing. She hoped with the reference guide there would be a change. She said they were also using science notebooks again.

Mr. Steiner asked why the multiethnic group did not do as well as any of the other sub groups. Ms. Vorachek said they could look at a further analysis to break down to see what is making up the multi-ethnic group into sub groups but she did not have an indication as to why.

Mr. Steiner and Ms. Comeau thanked everyone for the presentation.

- J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
- K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS
- L. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS  
LITIGATION
- M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of October 19, 2009 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:25 p.m.

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John Steiner, President

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Jeannie Mackie, Clerk

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Vanessa Blake, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved