



Monthly Update



Anchorage School District

This month at the Anchorage School District

- **Thursday, November 11 and Friday, November 19 are district in-service days.** Students do not attend school.
- **November 14-20, 2004 is American Education Week** honoring all school employees.
- **Parent conferences will be held during the week of November 15.** Check with your school for the week's schedule and visit www.asdk12.org for conference tips.
- **The district is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26.**
- **Get connected...** contact Parent Networks, 279-3966



Announcements

November is National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

This month students and staff will enjoy many opportunities to learn about Alaska Native and American Indian culture and history. For a summary of activities and events available to schools and to the community, log on to www.asdk12.org.

Controversial Issues Review Committee accepting testimony

The district's Controversial Issues Review Committee is currently accepting written testimony regarding the use of the "Arab World Studies Notebook" in high school social studies classes. Written comments must be submitted by November 19 to Enid Hunter, Executive Director, Curriculum, 1016 W. Sixth Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501 or via fax, 742-4477, or hunter_enid@asdk12.org. Materials can be reviewed at the Curriculum Office or the Administration Building, 4600 DeBarr Road.

Town Hall Meetings

Learn more about the district's budget projections for next school year and comment on them at one of three Community Forums hosted by ASD. This is an opportunity to share your thoughts on efficient and effective use of the district's resources. In addition, there will be information presented, and an opportunity to voice your opinion on student achievement issues, and on options for school year starting and ending dates. The Community Forums will be held:

- Tuesday, November 9 7 p.m.**
Chugiak High School
- Wednesday, November 10 7 p.m.**
Wendler Middle School
- Thursday, December 2 7 p.m.**
Girdwood School

STeP Center's Community Agency Fair and Parent Teacher Institute

The district's STeP Center invites parents and families to learn what's available in the community for children with special needs.

Community Agency Fair

Saturday, November 6 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Boniface Mall, 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

Over 30 participating agencies and organizations; FREE finger printing for kids.

Parent/Teacher Institute:

Self Determination for Students with Special Needs
Saturday, November 13 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wendler Middle School, 2905 Lake Otis Parkway

Call Janet, 742-3874, to register or e-mail step@asdk12.org.

Emergency School Closure Procedures

Decisions about school delays or closures are made in the early morning hours and notification goes out to the public as quickly as possible. All delays, closures or changes in normal operation are reported to local radio and TV stations, are posted on our Web site, www.asdk12.org, are listed on cable channel 14 and are recorded on our main phone number, 742-4000.

Point of Pride



Jeanne Fischer, principal of Mirror Lake Middle School, has been named Alaska's Middle School Principal of the Year by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals. The award was presented to Fischer by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals in mid-October in Washington, D.C.

Fischer has been with the Anchorage School District since 1982, and has been principal of Mirror Lake Middle School since 1997.

A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent



A few days ago, voters headed to the polls and made some important decisions on two school bond propositions. You approved propositions 1 and 2 which will allow us to move forward on renovations and design at various high schools, and preliminary design for replacing Clark Middle School, and fund construction of a new middle school in the Muldoon area. I truly believe the state's 60 percent bond debt reimbursement program factored into the results. I thank SCHOOL BONDS YES!, our School Board members and district staff, elected officials and the entire community for supporting our bonds — our students will definitely benefit.

On Monday, I will meet with the School Board to discuss our 2005-2006 budget. This month we are having a series of town hall meetings (see announcement at left) where the general public can learn more about and provide input on the district's budget, student achievement and future school year calendars. We are considering starting school before Labor Day in 2006 and beyond, and believe it will have a positive effect on student achievement (more instruction before testing, semester end and exams before winter break). However, we also realize that any change will impact families, businesses, non-profit organizations, etc. and are considering myriad input. Before making any recommendation to the School Board, I want your feedback — attend a forum or log onto our Web site and take a survey. The community provides a great deal of support and input in the budget development process. We welcome your comments and input at any time.

Parent-Teacher Conference Week, scheduled for November 15-18, is quickly approaching. I know your schedules are busy and at times it's difficult to juggle everything on your plate. However, I assure you that this time will be well-spent and an invaluable tool for you, as well as your student. These meetings provide opportunities to gain a better understanding of your child's educational progress, to get to know your child's teacher(s) and to show support for your school and student. **Parents, your active participation is essential!** You play a key role in the educational success of your child, and we welcome your partnership. For more information on how to prepare for parent conferences please visit our Web site, www.asdk12.org.

This month we will also observe Veterans Day. This holiday holds so much meaning for Americans. Today, there are thousands of men and women serving in many capacities around the globe, and it's important for us to recognize the sacrifices of them and their families. A heartfelt thank you to all of our veterans who are employed in the district, and also to those local troops who protect all that we hold dear: our families, our freedom, our future. You deserve the nation's honor, respect and thanks. You most certainly have mine.

This month I also encourage you to join us in celebrating American Education Week by recognizing our educators and professional staff who keep our students safe and healthy as well as help them to achieve. And finally, I'd like to extend a very Happy Thanksgiving to students, staff and their families. May each of you take time to enjoy family and friends.

Most sincerely,

Carol Comeau

Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 11/5/04

WORK SESSION—AGENDA November 8, 2004 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road			
Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute, Tim Steele, Presiding Announcements	Discussion 1. Memo 75 - Student Membership Projections for September 30, 2005 2. Financial Plan 2005-2006	School Board Comments Adjournment	
SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA November 15, 2004 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320			
Call To Order, Roll Call Tim Steele, Presiding School Board Comments	Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) 1. Student Hearings (4:45 p.m.)	2. APA Negotiations Update (5:30 p.m.) Adjournment	
REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA* November 15, 2004 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road			
Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute, Tim Steele, Presiding Announcements Approval Of Agenda Awards/Recognitions/Presentations 1. Memo 64 - Alaska Middle School Principal Of The Year 2. Memo 62 - National Young Leader 3. Presentation - State Height and Weight Study Special Advisory Reports 1. Student Advisory Board 2. Military Delegate 3. M.E.C.C. Persons to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit) Consent Agenda 1. Approval of Minutes: a. Special Meeting - September 13, 2004 4:30 p.m. b. Regular Meeting - September 13, 2004 6:30 p.m.	c. Special Meeting - September 16, 2004 4:15 p.m. d. Special Meeting - September 27, 2004 4:30 p.m. e. Regular Meeting - September 27, 2004 6:30 p.m. 2. Memo 95 - FY 2005-2006 Financial Planning 3. Memo 88 - Appropriation Of State Of Alaska Legislative Grant Funds Senate Bill 283 4. Memo 100 - A Resolution In Support Of Principal Appreciation Day, November 19, 2004 5. Memo 97 - Resolution For American Education Week And All School Employees 6. Memo 111 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Alaska Railroad Summer Youth Employment Program 2005 7. Memo 112 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Fund for the Improvement of Education Earmark Grant 8. Memo 113 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology 9. Memo 114 - Acceptance of Continuation Contract Agreement: The Association of Alaska School Boards for the Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement	10. Memo 96 - Personnel Report Superintendent's Report 1. Memo 94 - Project Status Report 2. Memo 72 - 21st Century Community Learning Center 2003-2004 Year End Report 3. Memo 76 - Class Size Report 2004-2005 4. Memo 99 - Smaller Learning Communities Update 5. Memo 98 - Status Report: Submission Of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2004-2005 School Year Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items Communications & School Board Comments Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) Adjournment	

*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Nov. 17 at 5 p.m., Nov. 18 at 12:30 p.m., Nov. 20 at 12:30 p.m. and Nov. 21 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. The agenda is available in Braille by calling 742-4153. The ASD telephone number is 742-4000. A message may be left after hours.

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA November 22, 2004 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320			
Call To Order, Roll Call Tim Steele, Presiding School Board Comments	Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) 1. Student Hearings	Adjournment	
REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA* November 22, 2004 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road			
Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute, Tim Steele, Presiding Musical Performance 1. The Sand Lake Off Ensemble Announcements Approval Of Agenda Awards/Recognitions/Presentations 1. Memo 107 - Crayola Dream-Makers Recipients 2. Middle School Presentation - Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders Special Advisory Reports 1. Student Advisory Board 2. Military Delegate 3. M.E.C.C.	Persons to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit) Consent Agenda 1. Memo 108 - Award Of Contract: Chugiak High School Library Roof Repairs 2. Memo 109 - Award Of Contract: Steller School Roof Upgrades 3. Memo 116 - Award of Contract: Frozen Potato Products 4. Memo 105 - Personnel Report Superintendent's Report 1. Memo 101 - Facility Change Order Report And Completed Projects For The Month Of October 2. Memo 106 - Project Status Report	3. Memo 103 - End-Of-Month Membership Summary For October 31, 2004 4. Memo 102 - Operating Budget Transfers - October Monthly Report FY 2004-2005 5. Memo 104 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: October 31, 2004 Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items Communications & School Board Comments Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) Adjournment	

*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Nov. 24 at 5 p.m., Nov. 25 at 12:30 p.m., Nov. 27 at 12:30 p.m. and Nov. 28 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. The agenda is available in Braille by calling 742-4153. The ASD telephone number is 742-4000. A message may be left after hours.

For more information

Anchorage School Board

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Crystal Kennedy, 696-2624, kennedy_crystal@asdk12.org
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Jake Metcalfe, 274-3446, metcalfe_jake@asdk12.org
Macon Roberts, 742-5350, roberts_macon@asdk12.org
John Steiner, 696-2629, steiner_john@asdk12.org
Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, comeau_carol@asdk12.org

MECC: The mission of the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) is to serve as the voice for families in the Anchorage School District and to promote educational success for minority students. The MECC meets the third Thursday of every month at 12 noon at 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320.

4600 DeBarr Road, Anchorage, AK 99519-6614 • 742-4000 • www.asdk12.org • Tune in to cable channel 14