

South Anchorage High School
October 14, 2003
Public Forum Questions and Answers

When will we know who is Teaching at South?

Department Chairs have been selected and are to be posted on web site:

www.asdk12.org/renewal/HS/saahs.asp

Teaching staff: 75% will be selected by Thanksgiving with the remainder selected in the spring.

Head Coaches: Will be interviewed and selected by the winter break.

Academic Offerings: South Anchorage will be committed to academic excellence. AP Courses will be offered. The number of students requesting a course determines availability. Twenty students are required to schedule an AP course. Service and Dimond will be losing students which may lead to smaller number of choices at those schools. All schools will work together to provide as many options as possible for our students.

International Baccalaureate Program: This program is being developed at West High School. If there is sufficient interest by parents and students it could also be implemented at South. It would take 18 to 24 months to develop the program and have it approved.

Seminar Program: Something similar to Service's school could be implemented at South if there is sufficient interest by parents and students. This initiative would have to come from, and be supported by, the Academic Progress/Smaller Learning Communities committee.

ROTC Program: An application was made to the US Air Force to open an ROTC program at South Anchorage. However, late word was that Air Force funding for new programs was suspended for 2004 but will be available for 2005.

Small Learning Communities: Mr. Fannin is talking with students and parents on their evaluation of the "Houses". If there is sufficient interest by parents and students it could also be implemented at South Anchorage High School. Once again, decisions relative to the smaller learning communities that are implemented at South Anchorage High School in the 2004-05 school year will be made in the Academic Progress/Smaller Learning Communities committee.

Zone Exceptions: Current juniors at Service and Dimond will be eligible for a zone exemption to remain at their home school for their senior year. March 15th is the cutoff date for those exception applications. District policy has been to grant zone exemptions in cases where there is a compelling academic hardship. All exemptions are decided on an individual basis. Carol Comeau will set criteria for other grade levels.

Traffic and Neighborhood

Closed Campus: There will be continued discussion through the standing South Anchorage High School committees and subsequent public forums.

Elmore Road Improvements: Will be completed by start of the school year. DeArmoun improvements will improve access to South Anchorage High School. SAHS will be pro-active with the adjacent neighborhoods to address any problems.

Police Substation: Funding for one or two police officers at South Anchorage High School has been included in the Mayor's proposed budget for 2004. There will be 5 security officers hired to patrol school and grounds.

Athletics

Where will the Swim Team Practice? Bonds did not pass for a pool at South Anchorage High School or the New Eagle River School. Students will be bused to either Dimond or Service Pool for practice. There is a site identified on the school property for a pool if the Municipality is able to fund it.

Where will the Gymnastics Team Practice? Both Service and Dimond Gyms currently host practices for two schools.

Practice space for gymnastics is available in the South Anchorage Auxiliary gym. Funding for equipment will come from the Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Budget (FF&E Budget).

If my son plays Varsity Football but there are not enough players to field a team during the first year at South will he be able to attend South but play on another high school team?

We do not anticipate a problem fielding a varsity football team next season. If that situation presents itself, the SAHS Administration will work with High School Education administrators, the Cook Inlet Football Conference and ASAA to provide varsity football opportunities for those students.

Track: New track will be ready for opening this fall.

Cross-Country Skiing: Trails and access to be organized after the cross country ski coach is hired.

Trial Access plowing: Home owners/community clear trails off school grounds not M.O.A or ASD.

Next Forum: Service High School Little Theater–Tuesday January 20, 2004 from 7:00-9:00pm