

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

South Anchorage High School  
Public Forum-Service High School

January 20, 2004

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Chuck Fannin, Principal, South Anchorage High School

At the outset of the meeting general information was relayed and an overview of the scheduled presentations was given.

Mr. Fannin indicated there would be time allotted for questions and answers at the end of the meeting.

**Superintendent's Remarks:**

Carol Comeau, Superintendent: She was very excited about the opening of the new school. She extended her appreciation to everyone. She indicated that South Anchorage will have an outstanding staff at the school. It is the first new high school in 30 years. There will be challenges but it is a great opportunity for the South Anchorage Community.

**Darrell Kincaide**, SAHS Music Program. Mr. Kincaide who is the new SAHS Department Chair relayed the following about the music program in his presentation: Expectations and goals will be comprehensive. It will support the athletic program at the school starting with football. The band will perform at the first home game. In terms of Community functions, the Music Department will represent SAHS in the best way possible. The Music Department is planning to have four performances a year using the great performance space we have in the new school. The following classes: Guitar, Music Appreciation and Music Theory are examples of classes that may be offered if enough students request them. His goal is to have the best high school music program in the district. A Jazz Band will be offered if we have enough student requests to fill the class. If offered the Jazz Band will be held during the school day instead of the zero hour.

**Mike Henry**, Executive Director, High School Education. The following information was provided by Mr. Henry during his presentation: Students currently attending East, Service, and Dimond who are current 11<sup>th</sup> graders may remain at their current school during their senior year, but they must complete a zone exception application by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ROTC:** No new Air Force programs were approved for the 04-05 school year. Students who are involved in current ROTC programs and are zoned in the SAHS boundaries and desire to remain at their current high school in the program must fill out a zone exception form.

Current High School students who are in the SWS at East and the Seminar School at Service, the Japanese Immersion at Dimond, and the CITC partner program at East and Dimond have the opportunity to submit zone exception applications by March 15<sup>th</sup> if they would like to remain at the schools in those programs.

Due to SAHS student projections, and that zone exceptions will be granted to students for selected existing programs, South Anchorage High School will have space available for

additional students. Therefore, SAHS has been declared an Open Enrollment School. Any high school student may apply for a zone exception and attend. Parents and families will be required to provide their own transportation.

In the event we reach projected capacity through the zone exception process for the 04-05 school year, we will stop granting any additional zone exceptions.

Seminar School Zone Exceptions includes only those currently in the program, not siblings.

Zone Exceptions must be applied for every year, but once initially approved, students will be allowed to remain at that school for the duration of their high school years. (This applies only to the high schools stated above in these minutes).

There will be no Japanese Immersion program at South Anchorage High School. Regular Japanese will be offered if requests support it. If schedules at South Anchorage High Schools permit, students may go back and forth to take selected singleton classes.

There will be no zone exceptions for athletics (i.e. students who are in current high schools cannot be zone exempted into those high schools if they are not enrolled in one of the specific academic programs listed above).

We have a large parking lot at SAHS. There should be ample parking for students, parents and staff.

**Scott Kniefel**, SAHS Student Government Advisor. Mr. Kniefel presented the following information. In some cases, activities have to be booked up to a year in advance. We have already started a discussion to determine how SAHS Student Government should be structured. Students from Dimond, Goldenview, Mears, and Service have participated in these discussions. These students have already had a tour of the school and immediately fell in love with it. At this point, this working group of student representatives have decided the following: SAHS will be structured through the traditional classes (Freshman Sophomores Juniors and Seniors). Six officers will be elected from each class. Student forums will be held monthly. The Student Government would like to have meetings with the faculty once a month. Next year's Junior Prom will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at the Anchorage Museum. The Senior Prom will be held at O'Malleys on the Green, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The initial election process will be tricky. If we were to have elections this school year the officers would be dominated by Service and Goldenview students. Therefore, a formula has been devised to give proportional representation to the feeder schools for the first year at SAHS. If students from any other feeder schools in ASD are interested in running for Student Government offices, they may contact Mr. Kniefel at Service High School. This committee also wants to insure that strong school spirit will be developed. It has been looking at Student Government constitutions from around the nation to assist it in the development of the SAHS Student Government Constitution.

**Pete Tryon**, SAHS Technology Coordinator Technology Committee. Mr. Tyron relayed the following information about the committee's efforts and discussions to date. We are very excited about being in a position to implement SAHS technology effectively and efficiently. The school is very well wired and will support both PC and MAC computers.

There will be dedicated loaner labs. Each of the classrooms will have a prescribed basic technology package. Teachers will be surveyed relative to platform choices and any specialized classroom equipment they would like beyond the basic package. The World Languages Department has already presented a proposal for a dedicated World Language Lab. A computerized keyboarding lab has been presented by the Music Department. The school is set up to be wireless and is fully wired with CAT 6 data lines

**Suellen Appelloff and Sara Gantt, PTA/PTO Presentation**

The following information was provided by Suellen Appelloff and Sara Gantt. The question of whether SAHS should have a PTA or PTO was addressed. A PTA is a nation-wide, three-tiered organization--national, state, and local. They have all the tools needed, model by-laws, and staff training etc. A PTA has some control over what the school organization can and cannot do. A PTO is a parent/student teacher organization that operates under its own bylaws. It can become a non-profit organization. All of the dues collected by the PTO remain at that PTO School. Conversely, a large percentage of the PTA dues go to the national and state organizations. If SAHS parents students and teachers would like to vote on this issue ballots are available at the five primary feeder middle and high schools or they may visit the SAHS Parent Teacher advisory organization website [www.southanchoragehighschool.org](http://www.southanchoragehighschool.org). From that website they may obtain more detailed information regarding the two organizations and vote on line. Ballots will be accepted until 3:00pm February 13<sup>th</sup>. In addition SAHS students, parents and teachers may vote by emailing Kelly Hall at Hall\_Kelly@asdk12.org or by phone by directly contacting the SAHS office at 742-6200. Votes also will be accepted for those applying for a zone exception.

**Dave Rein, Anchorage School District Project Manager Construction Update.**

Mr. Rein provided the following information for the group: The school has incredible potential. It is 88% complete. Today we had an inspection of the 2<sup>nd</sup> academic house. The school is designed to accommodate 1600 students. The theatre, also known as the auditoria, has a stage, a 55ft loft, a full orchestra pit, a flat floor that accommodates cafeteria style eating, and telescopic theater seating that opens at the push of a button. It is a wonderful multifunctional space.

At this point we don't know if the football field will be ready for fall practice. Mr. Rein extended an invitation to the public to tour the school. You may contact him at 742-6671 to set up a tour.

**Chuck Fannin, Principal, SAHAS provided the following information:**

Quite a few SAHS teachers are trained in the Socratic seminar method and many have expressed the intent of using that methodology as one of their instructional techniques. There will not be a major seminar program at SAHS. At one or more grade levels, teachers may work with each other using the Socratic seminar methodology.

We would like our Parent Teacher Advisory organization to help run the school store in conjunction with Student Government and our marketing class. We also want to insure a strong parent teacher advisory organization that is supportive of our students and teachers. RFP's for vending machines will incorporate language that calls for healthy snacks and drinks as well as the traditional fare. Through the request for proposals process we will be able to stipulate the type of foods, snacks, and drinks that we would like have in our vending machines. We will get input from the Academic Programs Committee, the Positive School Climate Committee, and the Student Government Formation Committee.

There was a question as to whether we have hired a Drama teacher. At this point, one has not been identified; however, we will make sure that we hire a teacher that is capable of establishing a strong Drama Program.

There was a question as to whether we have hired a football coach. John Lewis, our Head Football Coach, was in the audience and was introduced to the group. Coach Lewis indicated that they were looking for a practice area in the event that our field is not ready by late summer. He asserted that the emphasis will be that players know the game and will have fun. He wants to see our numbers grow every year. He already indicated that he has an excellent volunteer staff. Students coming from other programs should expect the best. He wants to make sure that when this school opens it is represented at the top level. Coaches will be role models for students. And finally, a major goal is to make the playoffs the first year.

There was a question relative to coaches for softball and baseball. These positions are outsourced through the Anchorage School District. Coaches will be selected by the organizations that sponsor and fund these sports.

We will make every effort to work effectively with our feeder schools to get information to students and parents in a timely manner as we move towards our school opening next fall.

Mr. Fannin closed the meeting by inviting parents, students, and the community to the next and final public forum, which is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> 2004 at Goldenview Middle School from 7:00-9:00pm.