

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

South Anchorage High School  
Public Forum-Goldenview Middle School

March 4, 2004

**Welcome & Introductions:**

Chuck Fannin, Principal, South Anchorage High School

**Chuck Fannin**, Principal, South Anchorage High School, welcomed those in attendance.

**Mike Henry**, Executive Director, High School Education, was introduced by Fannin to discuss **zone exceptions**. Mr. Henry commented that it appeared that one out of every ten students attending SAHS next year would be on a zone exception. He reminded the group that March 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for applying and those who apply will be notified by April 15<sup>th</sup> in writing. Questions were asked about what happens if a student changes their mind. If approved and accepted for a zone exception but the student decides later that they would like to go back to the school where they live within the boundary lines, Mr. Henry explained that they can go back. Mr. Henry also addressed inquiries about zone exceptions to stay at their current school—he defined the following situations: 1) next year's seniors can stay at their home school, 2) students in ROTC and Seminar School at Service, SWS at East and Japanese Immersion and ROTC at Dimond. Students who would like to stay at their current school because they fall under one of these categories must still apply for the zone exception. Mr. Henry reiterated that zone exceptions beyond those identified would be considered on a case-by-case basis and there would have to be a compelling educational reason for situations beyond those he outlined. Areas not covered include going to a specific school because of friends or a specific teacher.

Mr. Fannin introduced the **department chairs** of Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and World Languages and they discussed their programs. Additionally, several questions were asked about the **registration** process. Mr. Fannin explained the entire process of collecting course requests, developing a final tally, using the final tally to develop a master schedule, running of the schedules in August, and counselor work in completing schedules with holes. Mr. Fannin shared with the group that he expects the student enrollment at SAHS to be right around 1600 next year. Final staffing will depend upon our student enrollment. He assured the group that SAHS will do everything it can to honor requests but the offerings do depend upon the courses students want and need to take. Mr. Fannin also shared information on AP online courses that will be available if the numbers do not warrant a full class.

**Glenn Wright**, Language Arts

Classes will be teamed at the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade level. They hope to share the same group of students in a two hour block. Glenn discussed the positive aspects of teaming which included more monitoring of individual students and more project-based learning. He also emphasized that if you are in Honors English you must also be in Honors Social

Studies. Glenn shared with the group that the process of getting into an honor's class is self-selection by the student and parent. He shared some of the differences between the two courses and encouraged students to discuss the placement with their current teachers. He also shared that if a student does not take honors their freshman year, they still have the option to take it their sophomore year. The same goes for AP English courses—a student would not have to be in honors classes to take AP classes.

**Chuck Strauss, Mathematics**

Chuck stressed that the entire range of mathematics courses would be offered and the needs of all students will be addressed from those who need remedial assistance to those who are taking the advanced level mathematics courses. Mr. Strauss mentioned that four of the teachers coming to SAHS are currently teaching AP Calculus. He also shared that there will be assistance available to students who need it. Tutorial services will be offered at lunch by math teachers and teachers will provide individual assistance before school, at lunch and after school. If parents have specific questions on which course their son/daughter should be taking, he encouraged them to email or call him with specifics. Mr. Strauss and SAHS staff will be working with the math teachers at the feeder schools for recommendations.

**Leesa Wingo, Science**

Leesa shared with the group the science staff that has been hired and that they have met four times to do program planning. They have worked on course sequencing for students based upon future goals and have written up course descriptions that provide more information than in the program of studies. Leesa asked the group for volunteers to help with unpacking, sorting, etc. She anticipated that the need for the help would be around July 15-August 15. A sign-up sheet was available for the volunteers to sign up. Leesa also responded to questions addressing the range of offerings in Science.

**Kristine Scott, Social Studies**

Kristine shared with the group the social studies staff that has been hired to date. She discussed the options of regular and honors Social Studies at the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade level. She shared that the elective offerings in social studies will be based upon student requests and what the students want to take. If we have the numbers to warrant a class, Kristine assured the group that they have the qualified staff to teach the courses. She shared that they have pulled staff from all over the district and the result is a great staff with lots of talent and experiences.

**Carol Kross, World Language**

Carol shared with the group the hires that have been made in World Language and stressed that the hires all come with several years of experience in teaching world languages. French, German, Spanish, and Latin will be taught. Student requests and the ability to hire a teacher in a given language will be the factors that will determine offerings in other languages. Carol also stressed that travel is a very important part of the World Language Program and the group can plan on students at SAHS having opportunities to take part in these opportunities.

Chuck Fannin provided an update on the **committee work** that has been ongoing over the past several months.

**Pedestrian Access:** Concern was expressed by the community council on the problems that could be created if parents/students used Layden to drop students off. Mr. Fannin assured the group that this would be pedestrian access only for students and that security and administrators would be monitoring it very closely.

**Academic Programs:** The type of schedule that will be used at SAHS is still undecided. Mr. Fannin shared that there was a lot of support for the “West” block schedule which provides a straight six class schedule on Monday and Friday with rotating 80 minute blocks on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. He is currently involved in discussion with the principal and acting principal at Dimond and Service. As soon as the decision is made, it will be put on the SAHS website. KCC is not affected by the “west” block schedule because it allows students to take courses in the morning or afternoon. Counselors will probably be assigned by alpha the first year as the school decides its approach to the house concept. Ten “belief statements” have been outlined by the committee which has directed a lot of their work.

**Positive School Discipline:** Since it is a new school, a student orientation scheduled for the week prior to the beginning of school will be open to all students the first year and will be focused on the freshman in the following years. There will be a tardy policy that clearly outlines the expectations for students. There will not be a hat policy unless we have problems that would require a hat policy be put into place. We will also have a strong, ongoing student recognition program that includes staff and students.

**Technology:** SAHS will be a dual platform school with MAC and PC. There will be four loaner labs—two MAC and two PC. Mr. Fannin shared with the group what was covered in the standard computer packages.

**Activities:** Open Campus-- SAHS will have an open campus during lunch so all students have access to each other, all students have access to all teachers, and teachers have access to all teachers.

**ROTC Program:** At this time SAHS is not on line to receive an ROTC program for next year although there is a slight chance that if one is dropped somewhere in the country that we would get one since we are listed in the top ten in the nation. As long as the U.S. Air Force commissions programs for the 2005-06 year, we will implement an AFJROTC program that year.

**Coaches:** No applications were received for riflery so another Position Vacancy Announcement will be put out. Wrestling interviews took place on 3/10/04. Coaches hired are listed on the website.

**JV Teams:** SAHS will provide the full slate of teams just like the other comprehensive high schools. Mr. Fannin discussed the transportation issue for swimming. Gymnastics will be at SAHS—East High School is donating their equipment to SAHS.

**Mentoring Program:** The mentoring program that is available for students in the gifted program will be offered at SAHS. It is a district-wide program.

**Business Partnerships:** Currently the CEO of Alaska Regional Hospital has indicated that the hospital would like to partner with SAHS.

**Mascot:** John Hume from Porcaro Advertising donated his time and designed the mascot based upon the ideas received through the student work submitted. The design was available for the group to view.

**Construction Update:** Dave Rein, SAHS Project Manager provided a construction update. He shared that he has three booked tours over the next two Saturdays but will have to end the tours because the work is being completed and once final inspections are done—he can no longer provide tours in those areas. The keys should be handed over to the district in late June or early July. Most of the site work was done ahead of schedule and was completed last summer and fall so this summer they will be doing the landscaping. Mr. Rein responded to several questions about the state’s work on Huffman and DeArmoun. Other questions asked included the use of the football field this fall. Dave said it would be Mr. Fannin’s decision on whether to play on the football field the first year—it depends upon how well the planting goes. Questions were also asked about a swimming pool--there is room for a pool in the plan but that is not a school district decision—the pools are built and maintained by the municipality. Mr. Rein was asked about cross country ski trails. He indicated that there are lots of possibilities on the site for that.

Mr. Fannin thanked everyone for coming and reminded people about the upcoming meetings:

Parent/Student Registration Orientation Meetings

Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at Goldenview Middle School 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at Girdwood School 7 p.m.

Fall Sports Open House: Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.—Dimond Auditoria