

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING OF MAY 19, 2003**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, May 19, 2003, at 6:35 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. Jake Metcalfe, President, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present: Jake Metcalfe, Mary Marks, Tim Steele, John Steiner, Macon Roberts, Crystal Kennedy, and Jeff Friedman.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Jan Christensen, Janet Stokesbary, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Jerry Sjolander, Pam Chenier, Dr. Robb Boyer, Debbie Bogart, Connie Bensler, Jeff Wood, Ray Amsden, Stan Syta, Todd Arndt, Steve Kalmes, Loretta Nabong, LTC. Mulcahy, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Marks thanked Community Schools Director, Debbie Bogart, for nominating Ms. Marks as the Afterschool Alliance Award recipient. This award is in regards to the 21st Century Learning programs. Ms. Marks was very honored to represent Alaska and the District. Six people received the award nationally. Ms. Marks was very excited about the opportunity to lobby Washington D.C. and at a time when the community schools are being cut, this was an opportunity to stress to the legislators the importance of the community schools.

Tim Steele stated that the community schools are not actually being cut from the budget. The State has a proposal to do so with reductions in funding. Mr. Steele participated in the Salmon Run fundraiser for community schools and urged the public to support the program.

John Steiner commented that this is a busy time of year. Board members get inundated with invitations and they are sorry they cannot attend all of the events. Mr. Steiner encourages the community to attend as many as possible. Mr. Steiner also mentioned the scholarship spaghetti dinner fundraiser that will be held at Clark Middle School on Wednesday, May 21, 2003, in honor of Sheri Stears.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda of May 19, 2003, was unanimously approved.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #271 - Service Learning and Community Leadership

The Community Leadership Program was created to recognize Alaska teens for their dedication to positive community service projects. Each year senior high students are recognized for finding creative ways to impact the lives of others in their community and school.

Mike Henry read the memorandum while Jake Metcalfe presented the award certificates to Jamie Wheeler, Tyler Marlett, and Cody Barrick.

2. ASD Memorandum #293 - 2003 Battle of the Books Winners

The 2002-2003 Battle of the Books voluntary reading program was organized by district school librarians for students in elementary, middle and high school. The purpose is simply to encourage students to read books and have fun while reading them. Congratulations to the following Anchorage School District Battle of the Books winners:

Maia Claman, Thomas Howe, Nathaniel Rubin, and Sydney Treuer, 4th grade students at Chugach Optional School; **Jasper Jackson and Rebekah Butler**, 4th grade students at Family Partnership Charter School; **Moyo Ajayi, Aaron Brown, Andrew Dougherty, and Brendon Moran**, 5th and 6th grade students at Susitna Elementary School; **Thomissa Comellas, Michaela Orzechowski, Danika Paskvan and Kirsti Riehle**, 5th grade students at Bowman Elementary School; **Katelyn Hoden, Cameron Jefts, and Natasha Veenhof**, 7th grade students at Gruening Middle School; and **Jennifer Blankenship, Olivia Putman, Mallory Rice, and Michelle Rowland**, 9th grade students at Dimond High School.

Patricia McRae read the memorandum while Jake Metcalfe and Tim Steele presented the award certificates.

3. Creative Ticket - School of Excellence Award Presentation

Nathalie Chomyk-Daniels presented the award to Jim Bailey, Principal and the members of the staff at the West Fine Arts Program at West High School.

4. Rose Urban Rural Exchange Presentation

This is the third year that students from Anchorage have participated in this program. One requirement of the program is that the participants are expected to public presentations on their rural Alaska experience. Andrew Henessy, sophomore at Stellar, took a small plane to Huslia, Alaska, a small village of 300 people between Nome and Fairbanks. Mr. Henessy's host parents, Don and Brenda Ernst, are a white missionary family who has lived in Huslia for 13 years, with three children. The value of human life and death are different in rural Alaska than in urban Alaska. Mr. Henessy was amazed at how much it affects the village. They take great preparation after death. It is a very tight social community. They are very supportive but their loss is greater because it is such an intimate place. Death is a much more open issue at the time but after death it is more closed. Values have changed over the years. You would see a dog sled and then five snow machines. Some aspects of western culture are accepted and others are not. They held on to their native customs but used western means to make activities easier. The Athabascan language is spoken only by the elders. Everyone is related and also related to those in the surrounding villages. They have a really good family unit and excellent family cohesiveness.

The issue the speaker focused on was education. Money does not go as far there as it does in Anchorage. The state of the schools vary. The speaker also focused on village versus regional schools. Regional schools are cheaper, with better instruction and classes. They are able to assimilate into a college environment. Village schools are often a center of activity. It is a place to gather and it is the nicest building in the village. They did not have a wide variety of classes. The speaker had two teachers and they teach five subjects to students five ages apart.

The speaker stated that education in the village is a multi-faceted issue. It depends on the student's willingness to learn, parents, and administration. The students' attitudes vary. Some just wanted to sleep in and others couldn't wait to graduate and get their

University of Alaska Scholars Program. If you have the right attitude you can take advantage of what is offered to you. The speaker enjoyed his time in Huslia and appreciated this opportunity to speak to the Board about it.

Jake Metcalfe asked the speaker how the proposed budget cuts would affect the village. The speaker stated that the impact will depend where the cuts are targeted. Mr. Metcalfe asked if the speaker has a different view of the importance of subsistence. The speaker answered, yes. Seeing it first hand and the fact that they need the meat and use every bit, does more justice to it.

Ian Jacobs attends West High School as a sophomore. Mr. Jacobs went to Russian Mission, Alaska, a village of 300 people. The speaker traveled by flying to Bethel and sporting a small plan there. Mr. Jacobs stayed with Jim Duffy who has three children. The speaker told a story regarding a river otter kill. They still utilize the environment even though they have Playstation II's. The school was interesting. There were three different teachers with students at different levels. Many of the classes were very interesting and spontaneous. They did not always follow a set curriculum. There was a lot of freedom for the students. There was no curfew on school nights. Students sometimes came to school and fell asleep in their classes.

The speaker also focused on education. Regarding classes - in urban Alaska every class has its own room. That is not the case in Russian Mission. There is a selection of 8 classes. This limits the career choices of the students in rural Alaska. There were no technology classes. In urban Alaska, the student will usually see a teacher once a day. In rural Alaska, the student sees every teacher two times a day for teaching of the classes. This limits their abilities because the students are only being exposed to a limited amount of teaching styles. Availability of learning materials is a very large issue. Materials cost more to be shipped there. They have a small library with very few books. Extra curricular activities are limited. Urban Alaska has them to help students graduate and turn them on to sports and other activities. In rural Alaska, there were three different activities, Basketball, volleyball, and Native Youth Olympics. There was no way for them to earn extra elective credits. The speaker stated that it would be very hard to earn all of his credits just in school and likes to use extra curricular activities to help him along. The speaker feels it can make it much more

difficult for students to graduate in rural Alaska.

John Steiner asked how many high school students were there. The speaker replied that there were 37 high school students. Macon Roberts commented that his son Dillon was in the program. His family benefited by experiencing this. His host student came and stayed with their family. Mr. Roberts applauded the program.

Panu Lucier stated that the purpose of the exchange is to build understanding between urban and rural Alaskans and we are doing this through our young people. They are currently recruiting for the fall and are also encouraging teachers to participate. Jake Metcalfe stated that he thinks this is one of the best programs Senator Stevens has funded. It gives students opportunities to see what life is like in rural and urban Alaska.

5. Project Citizen Presentations: Romig Middle School

Superintendent Carol Comeau stated that students from Romig Middle School asked if they could make a presentation to the Board on their Project Citizen Presentations. Ms. Comeau was a judge for all of the projects a few weeks ago. Ms. Comeau added that the projects were very profound.

Eighth grade students from Romig Middle School recited their presentations to the Board. In this project the students chose a public policy issue, looked at alternative solutions, chose one solution and developed an action plan. This group decided to study sexual assault in Alaska. Alaska's rate of rape is 2.1 times higher than the United States average. Alaska has been the highest in the nation for sexual assault since 1976. One in four women have been raped, according to statistics from STAR (Standing Together Against Rape.) Across our country every two minutes a woman is raped. Eight out of ten do not come forward to report that they have been sexually assaulted. This group of students proposed a sexual assault program be taught in grades 5,6 7 and 8. This program would teach students how to recognize what sexual assault is, methods of preventing sexual assault and avenues of assistance for victims of sexual assault. STAR, APD and the Safe and Drug Free Schools program could be excellent resources for this program. The students added that they think education is the foremost key to prevention of sexual assault.

The next group of students from Romig Middle School researched gang violence problems in Anchorage. Gangs are becoming a serious problem in Anchorage. A report from Channel 2 News from March 6, 2002 claims that at least 30 gangs are committing crimes across Anchorage. Alaskan gang problems are not equal to that of Los Angeles, Chicago or New York, but if more people continue to join these gangs and commit crimes we will soon be in that predicament. The students propose a gang-free month at school and during that time an ASD gang violence prevention program would be taught. The program is modeled after the GREAT program in Philadelphia. It stands for gang resistant education and training. It began in 1993 through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). The classes are taught by fully uniformed police officers. It covers what a gang is; families and why they are special; the children's future; crimes and victims and our rights; cultural sensitivity and prejudice; conflict resolution; meeting basic needs and warning signs in the neighborhood; responsibility and goal setting. It will encourage kids not to be involved in gangs and anyone in gangs could have the chance to get out. It would also keep gangs from being so violent during this month. Many young people could maybe avoid getting hurt or killed because they have learned about how unhealthy gang involvement can be to them. The disadvantage is that it could anger some gangs and they could want to retaliate against people in the gang-free month. It could be costly to implement but the students feel it would be better to save lives and better our city in the long run.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

No report

2. Military Delegate

No report

3. MECC

Richard Johnson stated that the M.E.C.C. conducted the May meeting last Thursday afternoon at 12:00. The committee discussed NCLB's impact on schools and families, a summer school program

presentation, and changes to the K-3 earth science kits. The committee also discussed a plan for an end-of-the-year report that will be available prior to the last Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19 at 12:00 in the Administration Building. The M.E.C.C. committee members want to let the public know that their efforts to address issues in the community will be given their undivided attention. The members request the community to help them address and bring forward their issues and they will bring those issues forward to the Board and Superintendent. They need community involvement to accomplish these things.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (30 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

Theresa Obermeyer spoke to the Board regarding fair elections.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Minutes:

a.	Special Meeting	-	March 3, 2003	4:30 p.m.
b.	Special Meeting	-	March 3, 2003	6:30 p.m.
c.	Special Meeting	-	March 10, 2003	4:00 p.m.
d.	Regular Meeting	-	March 10, 2003	6:30 p.m.
e.	Special Meeting	-	March 17, 2003	4:15 p.m.
f.	Special Meeting	-	March 17, 2003	7:00 p.m.
g.	Special Meeting	-	March 31, 2003	4:30 p.m.
h.	Special Meeting	-	March 31, 2003	6:30 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #238 - 2003-2004 Hazardous Transportation Committee Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through G for the 2003-2004 school year.

3. ASD Memorandum #300 - Reconsideration of Village Charter School Calendar and Charter Renewal

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board

approve the revised school year calendar (Attachment A) for Village Charter School for the 2003-2004 school year in compliance with AS 14.03.030. It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to forward this revised calendar to the Commissioner of Education and Early Development for inclusion in the ten year charter school contract renewal packet for the Village Charter School.

4. ASD Memorandum #292 - Revision to School Board Policy Section 333.3 J: Charter School Leases (Second Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on Second Reading, the proposed attached changes to School Board Policy 333.3 J Charter School Leases.

5. ASD Memorandum #295 - Revisions to School Board Policy Section 433-444.25: Students and Student Personnel Services (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the proposed attached changes to School Board Policy 433-444.25 Student Services.

6. ASD Memorandum #298 - Renaming of the Fire Lake Elementary School Library in Honor of Linda Connelly

It is the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board approve the request of the Staff and PTA Board at Fire Lake Elementary School to rename the library at the school as "The Linda Connelly Children's Library" to honor the memory of their former principal Linda Connelly and her long-time leadership at the school.

7. ASD Memorandum #304 - Highland Tech High Charter School Contract

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the contract for the Highland Tech Charter School as shown on Attachment A with a program budget for the 2003-2004 school year of \$1,742,245, and the attached calendar for school year 2003-2004. This ten year contract is effective July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2013, or until terminated, and is subject to an annual review and negotiation as per School Board Policy 333.

8. ASD Memorandum #270 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Foreign Language Assistance Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program. The project will initiate a K-6 Russian Partial Immersion program at an Anchorage elementary school.

9. ASD Memorandum #299 - Science Kit Changes for Grades K-3

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve changes to the kit titles in the science framework at grades K-3 and the Grade Level Focus at third grade. These changes will align the unit's connection to state and national standards and increase the strong articulation of K-12 curriculum in the life, physical, and earth sciences. These changes include:

Kindergarten

Consider replacing Balls and Ramps (Insights) with one of two units currently being field-tested. These are Wood and Paper (FOSS) and Fabric (FOSS).

First Grade

Revise existing ASD units: Alaskan Animals and Power of Water.

Second Grade

Replace Time and Measure (ASD) with Sound (Insights).

Third Grade

Change grade level focus from "Changes of Form" to "Change". Revise existing ASD units: Alaskan Plants and Weather. Replace Changes of State (Insights) with Changes (NSRC).

10. ASD Memorandum #302 - No Child Left Behind Federal Programs Integrated Project Application

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the consolidated FY 2003-2004 "No Child Left Behind" Federal Programs Integrated Project Application to the State Department of Education and Early Development. This application includes Titles I, II, III, IV, and V, in the amount of \$15,945,960.

11. ASD Memorandum #273 - Personnel Report

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

The following Memorandums were unanimously removed from the Agenda: ASD memoranda #269, #295, #298, #300.

ACTION:

Moved by Tim Steele
seconded by John Steiner

to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 3, 2003, 4:30 p.m.; minutes of the Special Meeting of March 3, 2003, 6:30 p.m.; minutes of the Special Meeting of March 10, 2003; minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2003; minutes of the Special Meeting of March 17, 2003; 4:15 p.m.; minutes of the Special Meeting of March 17, 2003, 7:00 p.m.; minutes of the Special Meeting of March 31, 2003, 4:30 p.m.; minutes of the Special Meeting of March 31, 2003, 6:30 p.m.;
Memorandum #238;
Memorandum #292;
Memorandum #299; Memorandum #302; and Memorandum #273 with addendum.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,
Metcalf, Friedman, Steiner,
Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #300 - Reconsideration of Village Charter School Calendar and Charter Renewal

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the revised school year calendar (Attachment A) for Village Charter

School for the 2003-2004 school year in compliance with AS 14.03.030. It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to forward this revised calendar to the Commissioner of Education and Early Development for inclusion in the ten year charter school contract renewal packet for the Village Charter School.

ACTION:

Motion by Mary Marks

to approve ASD Memorandum #300

Seconded by Tim Steele

Carol Comeau stated that there have been a number of issues that have been brought forward regarding Village Charter School and Ms. Comeau would be glad to respond to questions. The calendar brings the school into compliance with State.

Speaker, Caprice Laramer-Musty stated to the Board that the charter school made changes to the calendar in order to bring it into compliance. The speaker asks the Board to approve this recommendation so the school can move forward with enrollment for next year. Village Charter School is not the right school for everyone but it would be a shame if it were not available for those who need it.

Speaker, Michelle Iverslie stated to the Board that she would help the school meet the needs of the Superintendent and the children. The speaker added that there are plans to address the problems that have been brought forward and asked the Board to approve the recommendation. Mary asked Ms. Iverslie what plans she has to address the problems. The speaker answered that they are working on an idea committee and problem solving process, and are trying to get the families more involved so they can be more open and responsive to all parents. Mary Marks asked if the principal position been filled. Caprice Laramer-Musty replied that they lost their vice principal and will look for someone in the future.

Kenneth Brewster has been a parent at Village since the beginning of the school's existence. The school has been very good for his child. Mr. Brewster urged the Board to pass reauthorization for the school for only a couple of years and then revisit it.

Toni Brewster stated that she appreciated Carol Comeau and what she has done for the staff and community.

Joaquita Martin, parent at village handed out packet of information. Not all issues have been resolved. Parents are frequently treated poorly and

the policy is not followed by the administration. The speaker requested a one or two year renewal be granted tonight. Dr. Poe's departure was a symptom of the problems and lack of integrity in the school. The speaker added that she wondered what is in place to make sure that these issues don't reoccur.

Jocelyn Williams, a parent of a kindergarten student at Village stated that she would encourage a one or two year renewal instead of the ten years. The speaker added that the meeting with Carol Comeau was helpful.

Julie Olivas could not make the meeting, but Joaquina Martin said she agrees with her remarks and requests the strong oversight of the school take place to ensure that their issues are resolved and do not reoccur and that they are treated with respect.

Kathy Sue Justus, teacher and parent at Village, stated that she has been extremely happy the entire time she has worked there. The speaker added that she feels this has been a bumpy year and parents and staff have met and worked together and have begun generating things that would help with communication in the schools. The speaker added that she has been taking classes for her type B Certificate, as has Ms. Sharp.

John Steiner suggested a shorter approval time because when you are having a problem with a contract you need to make sure the problems are resolved. Ms. Comeau stated that she has mixed feelings about recommending a 10-year renewal but will support whatever the Board suggests. Ms. Comeau added that she has great interest in choices for families and wants all schools to be successful in the Anchorage School District. This is a public school and needs to meet NCLB and the Quality Initiative and the Superintendent has the responsibility to advise the Board on issues and concerns at all of the schools.

Mary Marks stated that she also concerns and is in favor of two-year renewal because of the ongoing issues and concerns.

Carol Comeau stated that she believes every school needs to welcome parents in the school. Unless this issue is resolved to where the school can focus on educating kids with full-staffed teachers and not subs, this is a problem. The administration at the school needs to accept that the fact that they are part of ASD and must follow the negotiating agreements, and NCLB.

Tim Steele commented that he is a strong supporter of alternative

programs. The strength in ASD is that we give our parents options. Mr. Steele added that he is very concerned about Village's high staff turnover and high mobility rate. The progress being made by the students is questionable. Mr. Steele stated that he would support approving the charter school renewal for a shorter period of time.

Jeff Friedman stated that this memorandum before us is to approve the new calendar. Whatever the Board approves tonight, the charter school is required to comply with its charter and if they are not in compliance the Board can terminate it. It does not eliminate the Board's oversight to determine if the children are getting a proper education. Mr. Friedman stated he would go forward with what has been recommended without amendment.

Macon Roberts commented that the one success of optional schools lie with participation of the parents. Mr. Roberts feels a shorter period with a probation period is more appropriate.

Jake Metcalfe commented that he heard a lot of support for the program but the communication is a serious concern. Until he hears that there has been something done and the problem has been resolved it is hard to approve a ten-year contract.

John Steiner moved to amend the memorandum in the fourth line after the word "recommended" to read "that the School Board rescind its approval of a ten year renewal, approve a two year renewal, and" authorize the Superintendent to forward this revised calendar to the Commissioner of Education and Early Development for inclusion in "a two year ~~ten year~~ charter school contract renewal packet for the Village Charter School.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded by Tim Steele

to amend the memorandum in the fourth line after the word "recommended" to read "that the School Board rescind its approval of a ten year renewal, approve a two year renewal, and" authorize the Superintendent to forward this revised calendar to the Commissioner of Education and Early Development for inclusion in "a two year ~~ten year~~ charter school contract renewal packet for the Village Charter School.

Mr. Steiner stated that there is so much passion about this school, it is clear that we need to do the optimum to help this school survive. When one enters into a contract the terms and understanding of the contracting parties need to be clear. The school has gone through a lot of turmoil and a couple of the matters that remain to be determined after the session with the Superintendent and the academic policy committee. One issue still to be determined was what the relationship is between the Superintendent and the academic policy committee. Mr. Steiner reviewed the State Law and it reads that the superintendent does not supervise the employees of the charter school, the academic policy committee does. The school district is, however, responsible to ensure that the administrative practices, as are depicted in the charter and contract, are being carried out properly. Mr. Steiner understands the desire to get a long-term lease, but he is not sure that is wise to do until the Administration, School Board and the Academic Policy Committee have a good working relationship established, knowing exactly who is responsible for what, and that the Village Charter School community has proven that it can work well together and survive long term. At that point, a longer-term contract is what the school needs.

Mary Marks thanked Mr. Steiner for his amendment. Ms. Marks stated that the Board had already requested to the Administration that they wanted a type B certificate principal in the position at the Village Charter School. Ms. Marks added that she would like to see that happen as well as the enrollment and mobility issues solved.

Jeff Friedman stated that he shared the concerns of the other members of the Board. Parents that need to feel welcome in the schools, which is one reason why he ran for this position. Mr. Friedman added that he would not support the amendment but feels the concerns are serious and need to be addressed.

Macon Roberts concurs with Mr. Friedman about involvement in all schools and feels strongly that we should strive for that. Mr. Roberts thinks two years is the right amount of time to take care of the problems discussed and appreciated John Steiner's amendment. Mr. Roberts thanked the parents who came forth with issues that need to be corrected.

Jake Metcalfe stated that he supports the amendment. Mr. Metcalfe added that he supports the school and hopes they are successful. Mr. Metcalfe stated that parents ought to feel they can be greeted and able to talk to the teacher.

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,
Metcalf, Friedman, Steiner,
Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #295 - Revisions to School Board Policy Section
433-444.25: Students and Student Personnel Services (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the proposed attached changes to School Board Policy 433-444.25 Student Services.

ACTION:

Motion by Macon Roberts to approve ASD Memorandum #295
seconded by Mary Marks

Linda Coy spoke to the Board regarding early entry and her main concern, which is for the children. Ms. Coy's goal has been to look at this honestly to see how to save the children who will be set up for failure and is concerned that there must be a better way to see if a child can enter school early.

Mary Marks thanked the speaker for sharing her concerns and stated that she too had her child take the early entry test and he was borderline. Ms. Marks had the option of seeing if he would fulfill the requirements, but opted not to because she did not want to set him up for failure. Because of requirements the students are faced with, Ms. Marks didn't want him to struggle to keep up. Now he is in kindergarten and she has empowered him by being older in the class. Ms. Marks added that one more year is one more year of bonding with your child.

Carol Comeau stated the State law sets the date for early entry of August 15 to midnight of September 14. Regulations were passed by the State Board and were revised to require the School Board to approve each student in early entry. The Administration is questioned and has to provide, to the State, all information used to determine early entry. The State legislation has passed legislation to eliminate 4 year-olds from early entry at all. Other states are finding those children are not making adequate progress by third grade. We cannot open the gate very wide or the state will say we are allowing too many students. It is supposed to be an exception - not the norm.

Jeff Metcalfe stated to the speaker that he appreciated the speaker bringing this issue forward and asked that if we have to be selective would she have suggestions as to how to deal with that issue.

Linda Coy suggested letting the parents know that the cutoff is August 15 and that is it. If they know this, Ms. Coy feels they would accept it.

John Steiner stated to the speaker that he understands that her suggestion is that the Board eliminates early entry all together because it is frustrating to those who cannot make it. The speaker stated that there is a lot of staff spending a lot of time testing these students and she thinks if there is a cutoff the parents would accept it.

Patricia McRae agreed that every child is unique and commented that she has spent hundreds and thousands of hours talking to parents and many believe that their child is ready for kindergarten. The Administration has spent a lot of time working with parents and going through the process. After the test they are assessed weekly in the school.

Jeff Friedman stated that a lot of time and effort goes into this process and wondered if it is worth it. Carol Comeau stated that she believes it is. If we have children going in the early entry process we have to help them reach success.

John Steiner stated that he wished to make several amendments to this memorandum. Jake Metcalfe asked if the policy committee has considered Mr. Steiner's amendments. Mr. Steiner stated that the committee has not yet considered his amendments. There was a determination to move forward with indication that the amendments could come to the Board. Mr. Steiner stated it seems that the first reading is the time to have it so there can be public consideration at the second reading. Mr. Metcalfe stated that he feels the policy committee is the place to discuss the amendments so that the Board knows that the amendments are supported by the committee. Mr. Steiner stated that he wished to make his motion.

John Steiner presented an amendment to 440.1 A child under school age who is a resident of this district may not be admitted to the public schools of this district ~~at the discretion of the School Board if unless~~ the child (1) has the mental, physical and emotional capacity to perform satisfactorily for the educational program being offered, and (2) satisfies any additional criteria recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board.

AMENDMENT:

440.1 A child under school age who is

Moved by John Steiner
seconded by Crystal for purpose
of discussion

a resident of this district may not be admitted to the public schools of this district ~~at the discretion of the School Board if~~ unless the child (1) has the mental, physical and emotional capacity to perform satisfactorily for the educational program being offered, and (2) satisfies any additional criteria recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board.

John Steiner stated that the State Law says that a child under school age may be admitted to the public school in the district at which the child is a resident at the discretion of the governing body of the school district if the child meets minimum standards prescribed by the board evidencing that the child has the mental, physical and emotional capacity to perform satisfactorily for the educational program being offered. Mr. Steiner added that the state law already says that the child has to have this "mental, physical and emotional capacity to perform satisfactorily." Merely stating that the child has to have that capacity is not sufficient in our policy. We are required to only enroll them if they meet standards provided by the Board evidencing that capacity. Therefore, Mr. Steiner thinks it is required under state law to satisfy state law that the criteria recommended by the superintendent come before the Board. It seems to Mr. Steiner that we are required to adopt the standards and prescribe them rather than simply restate the State law.

Mr. Metcalfe asked why this was not raised at the committee level for input from the attorney and the committee on the amendment. John Steiner stated that the attorney did not indicate there was a problem and Mr. Steiner also did not see it as a problem until he read the State Law. Mr. Steiner added that he had indicated to the committee that he was concerned about this policy and the lack of specificity in the policy. The committee did not want to take time to deal with it as they were moving on and suggested that he bring it to the attention of the full Board, which is why he is doing it at this time. It was not brought to the attorney's attention today.

Carol Comeau asked Jan Christensen is she has had a discussion with the attorney. Ms. Christensen replied that she had not, since today was the first indication she had of the amendment. Jake Metcalfe stated that he

feels the appropriate time for discussion would be at second reading in order to have time to talk to Ms. Stone, the District's attorney. Mr. Metcalfe feels there is not enough information going before the Board at this time.

Tim Steele also stated that he would like to run this issue by the attorney.

Macon Roberts stated that since this is first reading he would move to table the issue until second reading. Mary Marks seconded the motion to table.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,
Metcalf, Roberts

Nays: Friedman, Steiner

MOTION TO TABLE PASSED

John Steiner moved to amend 440.2 Maximum Age. By changing it to read: "Generally, the maximum age for attendance in a district school is 19 years of age ~~will be up to the 20th birthday~~, provided ..." The motion failed for lack of a second.

John Steiner moved to amend 444.2 and proposed that the new second paragraph in 444.2 be deleted because it is redundant with 444.24A on page 400-17.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by John Steiner

Seconded by Jeff Friedman

to amend 444.2 and propose that the new second paragraph in 444.2 be deleted because it is redundant with 444.24A on page 400-17.

Tim Steele suggested that Mr. Steiner's amendments be brought back to the Policy Committee for review and would recommend that the Board refer it back to the Committee.

MOTION TO REFER:

Moved by Tim Steele

Seconded by Mary Marks

to refer the first reading of the ASD Memorandum #295 back to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Steele commented that for whatever reasons, these issues have not been adequately discussed at the committee level and he feels it is appropriate to refer them back, especially with the comments with regards

to the first amendment made, in terms of legality. We need to have the attorney review them.

Mr. Steiner stated that he does not have a problem referring the amendments back to the committee.

Mr. Metcalfe stated that he would rather have the amendments dealt with at the Policy Committee where there is the benefit of the attorney to discuss them.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,
Metcalfe, Friedman, Steiner,
Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION TO REFER PASSED

The Board recessed at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

ASD Memorandum #304 - Highland Tech High Charter School Contract

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the contract for the Highland Tech Charter School as shown on Attachment A with a program budget for the 2003-2004 school year of \$1,742,245, and the attached calendar for school year 2003-2004. This ten year contract is effective July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2013, or until terminated, and is subject to an annual review and negotiation as per School Board Policy 333.

ACTION:

Moved by Jeff Friedman to approve ASD Memorandum #304
Seconded by Mary Marks

Carol Comeau stated that the Administration has spent a lot of time negotiating the lease and discussing the contract with the attorney. Ms. Comeau commented that on item #15. Contract Term, the phrase June 30, 2014 should be changed to June 30, 2013, to be in conformance with the ten-year period. It was a typographical error. If the Board approves this, the 2013 change should also be initialed by Mr. Metcalfe and Ms. Steigele. This is the final stage of getting the charter school approved. The Administration has reviewed the lease and contract to our satisfaction.

Tim Steele asked why the contract is for ten years instead of five years.

Carol Comeau stated that the School Board approved ten years in January for this school and the State Board approved ten years. Ms. Comeau added that we have high confidence in this proposal.

Jeff Friedman stated that on the first page of the contract, "Whereas, by resolution adopted (date) the date should be inserted. Ms. Comeau stated that the date should be January 27, 2003. Jeff Friedman also mentioned that Paragraph 17 under Risk Management - we are requiring insurance coverages as directed by the Anchorage School District Risk Management department in the following amounts, amount required. Mr. Friedman stated this seems rather circular. Carol Comeau stated that the amount goes up with enrollment and we have a formula that we use to determine the amount. Mr. Friedman stated that he is comfortable with that.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,
Metcalf, Friedman, Steiner,
Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #270 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant:
Foreign Language Assistance Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program. The project will initiate a K-6 Russian Partial Immersion program at an Anchorage elementary school.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner to approve ASD Memorandum #270
Seconded by Mary Marks

Ms. Comeau stated that this is a grant application that has been supported for a number of years. We have had a long time interest from the community and the business community for this type of program.

John Steiner noticed that the grant is renewable for three consecutive years and wondered what would happen at the end of the grant program. Janice Gullickson replied that there are other programs out there. The National Security Education Program has a flagship program and we have asked to be considered in the future to be one of those sites.

Mr. Steiner asked what the initial cost be if we were not successful in receiving more grant money. Carol Comeau stated that the cost could be no more than other school allocations. The grant would bring in help for the development of the program.

Jeff Friedman stated that he thinks this is a great idea. This is an opportunity to put the program in an area where there are not a lot of optional programs. Tim Steele stated that he is supportive of this program and asked that since there is a program at West, are we looking in that attendance area. Janice Gullickson replied that we are looking in the West attendance area because we have a program at Romig Middle School and West High School. We also feel it will be more centrally located.

Alan Kristopherson, a businessman who travels frequently to Russia, spoke of his interest in the program and has seen a need for better Russian skills on the US side. Mr. Kristopherson asked for support and consideration from the Board for this program.

Superintendent Comeau commented that ten years ago we had a huge support from the business community and they were frustrated that we could not come up with a school for the program. Ms. Comeau thinks this one will draw students from all over the District and will be a real asset to West Anchorage. This will be another alternative program that we can offer that will help enhance the language skills that people desire.

VOTE:

Ayes: Marks, Kennedy, Steele,
Metcalf, Friedman, Steiner,
Roberts

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #303 - West High International Baccalaureate

West High School is requesting support from the ASD School Board to implement an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. International Baccalaureate (IB) is a rigorous course of study designed for highly motivated students in the eleventh and twelfth grades. The IB program promotes academic excellence, personal growth, community involvement, and international understanding.

Ms. Comeau stated that she thinks this is one of the most exciting things that has come along in the high schools for a while, and thinks it is a testament to what is happening in our high schools through the Smaller Learning Community effort.

Mike Henry introduced Jim Bailey, Principal from West High School, and his staff members who gave a brief presentation.

Jim Bailey stated that if the application is approved they would start it in the fall of 2004.

Ted Stuff stated that he feels this is the best college prep program in the world. Mr. Stuff went to the training in February with several teachers and they are excited about implementing the program. It gives gifted students another option but is not limited to gifted students. It will be able to pull in students who do not qualify for the gifted program at this point and time because of various eligibility criteria. It will also pull in students that would not get an optional program otherwise.

Crystal Kennedy asked how many students would be interested. Jim Bailey replied that he is anticipating 60 to 80 students. Tim Steele stated that he thinks this is a wonderful opportunity. West High School is a good fit and Mr. Steele applauds all the efforts.

Jim Bailey stated that most staffing needs would be handled with the current staff at West High School.

ASD Memorandum #267 - Alaska Studies Project Update

On December 10, 2001, the School Board approved a recommendation that a new one semester course in Alaska Studies be developed and become a high school graduation requirement beginning with the class of 2006 (Board Memo #95, 2001-2002). This was the culmination of a lengthy period of community discussion and a groundswell of support for such an offering. In February 2002, a public meeting was held to bring interested school district staff and other community members together to explore issues of concern relative to the process of designing and implementing this new course. Although discussions continued among the various stakeholders, the formal process was put on hold due to the retirement last spring of ASD's social studies coordinator.

Carol Comeau stated that she continually hears from people in the

community who have been engaged in this effort with Edna Lamabull and Steve Ecks and they routinely say that this has been a positive process. They feel their opinions are valued and respected. There have been a lot of people involved in developing this course, unique to this course. Ms. Comeau feels this is a model for developing curriculum in the future in these kinds of courses.

Edna Lamabull stated that they have been working on the project for about a year and a half, with a steering committee of about 11 people. The committee has been looking at materials that have been written and that are appropriate

Jake Metcalfe asked Mr. Ecks to elaborate on the number of excellent resources that have been identified, as stated in the memo. Steve Ecks replied that the research that has gone into development has turned up all types of documents, maps, etc. far more extensive than we are accustomed to seeing in other adoptions.

Jake Metcalfe asked if they are using elders and past leaders in the community in developing the course. Edna Lamabull stated that interviews on tapes are being reviewed.

John Steiner asked what efforts are being taken in order to stay objective. Steve Ecks replied that the group is made up of as many community members as staff. A 3-credit course will be offered to the teachers. Representatives from AK Humanities Forum, Bridge builders, AK Native Heritage Center, as well as district employees, make up the group. Carol Comeau added that we had a large group here who said they preferred we had a small group to work on this and bring it back to the large group.

ASD Memorandum #247 - Conflict of Interest - Third Quarter Report FY 2002-2003

The attached listing of employee Conflict of Interest Waiver and Disclosure actions is forwarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.44. This information is provided as the third quarter report for the FY 2002-2003 school year.

ASD Memorandum #240 -Third Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report 2002-2003

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet at regular

intervals to discuss student progress. Increasingly, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

Tim Steele commented that Polaris is requiring the report cards to be picked up and it seems to be successful. Mr. Steele suggested that other schools might want to implement that idea.

Jeff Friedman stated that Polaris does student lead conferences and Hanshew does it also and feels it is very successful. Gail Opalinski stated that they are excited about it. It does, however, require a lot of work by the teacher as far as putting together a portfolio with the students and training them to present it.

John Steiner noted the drops in high school percentages. Carol Comeau stated that some parents do not see the need to go to the conferences if they feel their students are doing well. The Smaller Learning Communities may help. Jake Metcalfe added that many parents may be working two jobs or have other issues where they cannot get to the conferences. John Steiner suggested calling parents that do not attend to find out why. Ms. Comeau stated that the emergency notification system also has the capability of surveying and they may be able to survey why they did not come. There is also the need to figure out other ways to reach out to the parents that have a language barrier.

ASD Memorandum #241 - Third Quarter Suspension/ Weapons/
Expulsion Report 2002-2003

Each quarter information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools. This information is shown in the narrative below and also as Attachments A-F.

Carol Comeau stated that the drug/alcohol suspensions are down and there were no incidents involving firearms.

Crystal Kennedy noted that for middle school, there were fewer instances but more gang activity and fighting. Ms. Kennedy mentioned that the Romig student's presentations earlier this evening on gang activity was very timely.

Gail Opalinski stated that many of the suspensions are short term suspensions in order to make sure that if violence erupts we stop it immediately. When we noticed the upswing we began looking for

programs to help stop it. One program is the Aggressors, Victims, Bystanders Program, which is a prevention program. Staff at the schools and police officers were trained. The program gives students skills in how to avoid confrontation and how to watch out for rumors and figure out what everyone's talking about. The second program is called Aggression Replacement Training. This program is an intervention program for students who have already shown violence-related tendencies. All students that have gone through it have not repeated violent acts yet.

John Steiner asked if the incidents increase or decrease in the summer. Carol Comeau stated that the incidents increase as the year goes on. Mike Henry commented that it depends on the weather also.

Tim Steele mentioned the category of refusal of the option to suspend and that the numbers have gone up. Mike Henry stated that we feel it is important to offer other options instead of suspending the student. We do not understand why they are not taking the option. There is more work when providing the option due to follow-through, etc. Mr. Steele mentioned that he would hope there would be other options to truancy and tardiness rather than expulsions. It seems you are just rewarding one type of behavior with more of it.

ASD Memorandum #294 - Proposed Changes for Ninth Grade Eligibility

It is the Administration's recommendation that all ninth grade high school students be classified as academically eligible for interscholastic activities during the first quarter of their ninth grade year and that the Anchorage School District academic eligibility rules apply during the beginning of the second quarter.

Carol Comeau explained that we have been concerned with the eighth graders who have been struggling and may or may not make up all their credits by the time they get to ninth grade. Their second semester eighth grades and/or summer school grades have often times ruled them ineligible for sports. Ms. Comeau is very pleased we are moving in this direction. Todd Arndt explained the difference in the program. The Middle School Summer School program is geared more for remediation than it is for making up classes that have been failed, so students will spend an entire summer going to summer school but still could not obtain eligibility. The high school coaches are always saying if they just had an opportunity to work with those students they could turn them around, but they were not able to do it because of the eligibility requirements. The students will be given the opportunity to be involved in sports for 45 days

and then they will have to meet the high school eligibility requirements. We are confident that we can bring about a significant change in at risk students with this change.

ASD Memorandum #245 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Second and Third Quarters 2002-2003 School Year

The purpose of this report is to inform the School Board on a quarterly basis of new grants that have been submitted for funding.

ASD Memorandum #274 - End-of-Month Membership Summary for April 2003

The total active enrollment at the end of April was 48,974. This enrollment represents a decrease of 6 students when compared to end of month April 2002. Table 1 compares the membership totals.

Carol Comeau stated that the enrollment is still down 1,055 since September. We are watching these numbers closely.

ASD Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: April 30, 2003

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis with year-to-date information as of April 30, 2003.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

H. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mary Marks suggested the School Board photo be placed in the paper also along with the Superintendent's when the adds are put in the newspaper. Ms. Marks also suggested a small statement from Jake Metcalfe be added, as far as what the School Board is doing.

John Steiner mentioned to the public that one of the memorandums approved on the consent agenda had to do with a grant in support of NCLB and a one of the factors would be a NCLB Coordinator to help us with the requirements that need to be met at every school. Ms. Comeau commented that Ms. Christensen and Executive Directors have learned how critical that is to coordinate this information and almost every district in the country is moving this way.

Tim Steele commented that he was impressed with discussions in the executive session between new and former Board members. Jeff Friedman agreed. It is impressive to see people working to educate children in the hearings instead of just punishing. Macon Roberts added that he was glad we passed Memorandum #238 on the hazardous transportation committee. As a formal bus driver Mr. Roberts remember going through the areas and feels it is important for transportation in those areas.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION-
(PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:45 p.m.

Jake Metcalfe, President

Mary Marks, Clerk

Robin Siegfried, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved