

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2004**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, June 14, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Tim Steele presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present: Crystal Kennedy, Mary Marks, Tim Steele, Jeff Friedman, and Macon Roberts

Board Members Absent: Jake Metcalfe, John Steiner

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Jan Christensen, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Enid Hunter, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Jeff Wood, Pam Chenier, Debbie Bogart, Steve Kalmes, Ray Amsden, Janet Stokesbary, Eric Tollefsen, George Vakalis, Stan Syta, Mark Mew, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people.

B. ANNOUNCEMENT

Mary Marks reminded the School Board about their retreat on Saturday, June 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Carol Comeau called everyone's attention to the bulletin boards in the back of the Board room and noted that parts of the Alaska Studies curriculum are included in the display. The focus is on the materials that teachers will be teaching to third and fourth grade students. Lisa Zooley's students from Baxter also had Aleut hats on display.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Lorett Nabong was absent.

2. Military Delegate

LTC David Jones noted that today the army is 229 years old. There is an air show on Elmendorf Air Force Base on June 26-27, 2004. LTC Jones stated that he met with Natalie Burnett, new principal at the new Eagle River area high school to discuss the large number of military students who will be attending. He is also going to serve on the naming committee for the new high school.

3. MECC

William Johnson informed the audience that the year-end MECC meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17 in Room 320 in the Administration Building. MECC member Diane Heard briefed the MECC at the last meeting on a film called the "College Track." There was good information in this film on why students in general have a hard time pursuing a post secondary education.

Mary Marks thanked Mr. Johnson for his dedication and hard work on the MECC.

Jeff Friedman noted that he has attended many MECC meetings and the entire committee has taken on many large tasks and is working very hard; this is a very energetic group of people.

E. PUBLIC TESTIMONY

1. Public Testimony Regarding Reopening of Anchorage Education Association Negotiations.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (30 minutes time limit)

Harriet Drummond stated that she is a concerned parent and a parent advocate on student safety for school children. She stated that she began her tour of Anchorage's pedestrian-controlled crossings at Lake Otis and Rives. She walked from the intersection of Rives and Lake Otis, taking the route that the District now instructs school children to take to Hanshew Middle School. Ms. Drummond finds it hard to believe, with Hanshew's driveway and sidewalk so close across Lake Otis, that every student will go such a long way out of their way to go through the tunnel and then double almost all the way back to get to their school. She noted that a walker can't even see the tunnel entrance from the signs that instruct them

to go there; it is very far away from the seemingly logical crossing points and she doesn't blame students for crossing Lake Otis at Rives.

Ms. Drummond noted that the intersection of Minnesota Drive at 26th Avenue, Romig's only driveway, handles over 40,000 cars a day and they all slow down in the 20 mile per hour school zone and stop at the light when it is red. She asked why the drivers on Lake Otis near Hanshew are any more important than the drivers on Minnesota, one of the most heavily traveled roads in Anchorage. Ms. Drummond would like to have a similar light installed at Lake Otis and Rives. Ms. Drummond noted that the pedestrian controlled crossing at Northern Lights at the bus stop west of Bragaw is very interesting as well. When a pedestrian pushes the button to cross, the light turns red almost instantly and four lanes of traffic come to a halt. Turnagain Elementary also has a pedestrian controlled light, but Northern Lights is only two lanes wide. The final pedestrian controlled crossing that Ms. Drummond explained to the Board is on Fireweed Lane, between North Star Elementary and Steller Secondary Schools. She noted that it is very slow to respond to a pedestrian and the walkers often run across the street before the light turns red leaving the drivers wondering who made them stop.

Ms. Drummond stated that she did not think any students died before any of these crossings were installed, but she thinks it is critical that the Board demand a solution that will protect the students that are the District's responsibility while they go to and from school. Ms. Drummond also thinks it is hypocritical to bus students to school when they can walk considering the ASD healthy life skills program focus.

Harriet Drummond presented each School Board member with a brochure from the California Safe Routes to Schools Initiative. She noted that it has clear guidelines for initiating a Safe Routes to School program and hopes that some of the parents here tonight will spearhead such an effort.

Judd Campbell noted that two students were hit by a car near Romig at the intersection of Minnesota and 26th Avenue prior to the installation of the crossing lights. He would like to see a crosswalk installed on Lake Otis near Hanshew. Mr. Campbell stated that the tunnel on Lake Otis often has moose in it and is unsanitary. He asked the School Board to help the parents out.

Connie Garcia is a parent in the neighborhood and a teacher assistant at Hanshew. She noted that the tunnel is unsafe and unsanitary. Ms. Garcia

is concerned with student safety and is in favor of a four-way light on Lake Otis.

Jeff Friedman agrees that a stop light needs to be installed on Lake Otis, but is not sure what the School Board can do other than speak out. Mr. Campbell stated that the School District has told them that they will increase bussing—this will only increase the traffic. Mr. Campbell would prefer an overpass on Lake Otis, but hasn't looked into the cost of this.

Mary Marks asked if the Osborne family or the PTA has approached the Community Council to discuss this issue. Ms. Campbell and Ms. Garcia responded that they have not.

Superintendent Comeau recognized how concerned everyone is about the safety issue on Lake Otis and noted what a terrible tragedy it was last fall when Kimberly Osborne died after being hit by a car on Lake Otis. Ms. Comeau reminded everyone how the District advocated passionately that something needed to be done in this area. She stated that the tunnel was a great solution when the schools were built years ago, but this has proven not to be the case now. When the District spoke with the Municipality about a push button light, they were informed of concerns from the Traffic Department regarding the grade of the street. Ms. Comeau is not sure what the solution is and is not sure if land is available for an overpass. She informed the audience that the District can certainly write a letter to the Municipality to explain their concerns.

Ms. Comeau explained that the District administration met with the Student Council, PTA, and even hired an extra person to watch the students crossing the road. She commented that students have to take responsibility for not darting out into the traffic. Ms. Comeau has concerns with a push button stop as well; students will think it is alright to cross when the light changes and cars cannot stop that quickly. Ms. Comeau stated that this traffic issue is the responsibility of the Municipality. Mr. Campbell stated that he understands the hilly area, but drivers must take responsibility for stopping. Carol Comeau responded that the School Resource Officers also increased their patrol in this area when time permitted. Mr. Campbell asked what they could do as parents to secure a resolution to their concerns. Carol Comeau responded that they as a group should write a letter to their Community Council, Legislators, Assemblypersons, and the Mayor.

Mary Marks commented that student safety is one of our problems and suggested that this be a future agenda item for quarterly meetings

between the School Board and the Assembly. Carol Comeau responded that Lake Otis is a hazardous road and that is why additional buses are provided to transport students to and from school. George Vakalis also stated that the District will continue to work with the Municipality, but there is some resistance to the idea of a traffic light. He also stated that buses will be provided for students until a final decision is made to address this safety issue.

Jeff Friedman suggested reducing the speed limit to 35 mph on Lake Otis.

Corrine Osborne stated that her daughter, Kimberly, was hit by a car and killed last fall at the intersection of Lake Otis and Rives. Ms. Osborne and her family live in the area directly across the street from Hanshew Middle School. She faults the Municipality and Chuck Spinelli for not setting the precautions for student safety in the subdivision and not providing a place for the children to safely play. Ms. Osborne relayed her concerns regarding safety to the Traffic Department and they responded that Lake Otis was only there to move cars in and out of town. She was told to use the tunnel, which she feels is not safe. A traffic specialist was brought to Anchorage last February and his presentation was openly chastised and his comments were not welcome. Ms. Osborne wants a light or crosswalk installed on Lake Otis between O'Malley and Abbott Road. She wants the speed limit reduced and designated a school zone and requested the School Board encourage our city leaders to do something about the safety issue. Ms. Osborne emphasized that Kimberly's death was not necessary. She commented that the Assemblymember's hands are tied and the Mayor does not want to do anything to address the issue. Ms. Osborne stated that she allowed Kimberly to cross the street the morning she was killed. She told Kimberly to be careful crossing the street because she was afraid to cross Lake Otis in the dirty, unsafe tunnel. The buses also were not running that early in the morning. Ms. Osborn again encouraged the School Board to talk with the Mayor.

Cheryl Richardson asked for 20 mph flashers and a full pedestrian stop called a crossing signal. She noted that Seattle has 60 of these crossings and has offered their technical assistance. Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation System (AMATS) has plenty of money available to accomplish this task. She wants support for a solution to bring the cars to a full stop when pedestrians are present.

Jeff Friedman asked how much a traffic study at this location would cost. Both George Vakalis and Superintendent Comeau responded that they did not know. Carol Comeau commented that she would like to write

another letter to the Mayor and the Assembly to request they give full consideration for a traffic study at this location. Mr. Friedman stated that he does not want money to stop this issue—he wants to convince the Municipality to slow the traffic down.

Macon Roberts asked for a clarification of the existing flashing light. Cheryl Richardson responded that there is currently a yellow light on a pole, but it is not doing enough. Ms. Osborne stated that Ms. Rubinski did not agree with the parents' concerns and had excuses why it would not work. Ms. Osborne asked what the Municipality is going to do if another child gets hit and killed on this street; Ms. Rubinski did not have an answer.

Chris Sadler stated there is a policy that exists that allows siblings of special needs kids to ride the school bus. She would like the District to include transportation for the Buddy Bear students in this policy. Ms. Sadler commented that Mr. Kalmes said the bus service is too expensive and wants the School Board to reconsider his decision.

Mr. Kalmes stated that the District is not required to provide school bus service for buddy bears as the service requires a significant amount of staff time to administer. He also noted that transportation for the pre-school program is required by federal law—transportation for buddy bears is not. There is also the fact that federal guidelines require preschool children to be transported in an approved child safety restraint system while on school buses. ASD has chosen to use safety vests to protect our students. The vests are quite expensive and due to budgetary constraints, ASD cannot provide them for non-ASD students.

Jerry Sjolander stated that the inclusion of the buddy bears in the pre-school program was begun to interact non-disabled and disabled students together. Because the pre-school programs are so spread out, transportation has been somewhat of a challenge. The impact of transporting buddy bears would increase the challenges as well as the expense. Mr. Kalmes mentioned that the federally approved child restraint system is for students who weigh less than 40 pounds and dealing with the vests is also a logistical problem.

Crystal Kennedy asked if the vests are a requirement or a recommendation. Steve Kalmes responded that even though it is a recommendation that we follow from the National Safety Council, we feel it is a requirement. Ms. Sadler commented that there are several of these students who are over 40 pounds and may not even need a vest. Jerry

Sjolander stated that there are 80 to 90 students attending the Buddy Bear Program at different sites. Superintendent Comeau stated that this creates a problem with this many sites and our budget constraints. She feels that this is a cost that we cannot absorb. Ms. Comeau understands Ms. Sadler's issues, but cannot recommend this added expense.

Bob Roses stated that this is the last time he will speak before the School Board and Superintendent as President of the Anchorage Education Association; he is retiring after four years in that position. He feels much has been accomplished between the District and AEA: evaluation system jointly developed; joint cadre of administrators and teachers working with NCLB; joint committee to address our issues of teacher mentors; collaborative efforts with administrators on the clarification of contract issues and grievance procedures. Mr. Roses stated the leadership of Carol Comeau has allowed the success of these programs. He offered kudos to the School Board as well. Mr. Roses challenged the School Board to continue with these program and thanked the Board for their continuing hard work with children.

Tim Steele appreciated the good relationship that the District has with AEA and thanked Mr. Roses for the work he has accomplished.

Carol Comeau stated good leadership and collaboration has allowed us to be where we are today. She noted that the interest based approach has been very good and very successful.

Mary Marks thanked him for his lobbying for education; his leadership has been outstanding. She will miss him.

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

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|----|-----------------|----------------|-----------|
| a. | Special Meeting | April 12, 2004 | 4:30 p.m. |
| b. | Regular Meeting | April 12, 2004 | 6:30 p.m. |
| c. | Special Meeting | April 19, 2004 | 4:00 p.m. |
| d. | Special Meeting | May 3, 2004 | 4:30 p.m. |
| e. | Special Meeting | May 3, 2004 | 6:30 p.m. |

2. ASD Memorandum #339 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Totem Association of Educational Support Personnel, APEA/AFT (AFL-CIO), 2004-2007

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and TOTEM Association of Education Support Personnel, APEA/AFT (AFL-CIO), which will establish terms and conditions of employment for individuals in this unit during the period between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2007.

3. ASD Memorandum #338 - School Board Policy Revision - Section 440.1(a) Minimum Age (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the proposed attached change to School Board Policy 440.1(a) Minimum Age.

4. ASD Memorandum #323 - No Child Left Behind Federal Programs Consolidated Project Application for FY 2004-2005

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the FY 2004-2005 No Child Left Behind Federal Programs Consolidated Project Application to the State Department of Education and Early Development. This application includes Title I, II, III, IV, and V in the amount of \$17,985,832.

5. ASD Memorandum #308 - Alaska Studies Curriculum Guide and Materials Approval

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to approve the curriculum guide and materials for the new Alaska Studies course for high school juniors and seniors.

6. ASD Memorandum #301 - Award of Contract: Central Middle School of Science Fire Alarm and Security Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Central Middle School of Science Fire Alarm and Security

System Replacement to the lowest responsive bidder, Goertz Construction Inc., for the Base Bid amount of \$189,917.

7. ASD Memorandum #302 - Award of Contract: Food Service Expendable Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America and Transilwrap Company, Inc. to furnish Food Service Expendable Supplies in the estimated amounts of \$328,565 and \$102,777 respectively.

8. ASD Memorandum #303 - Award of Contract: Food Staples

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Country Foods, Food Services of America and Northwest Food Service to furnish Food Staples in the estimated amounts of \$214,848, \$306,526 and \$150,903 respectively.

9. ASD Memorandum #304 - Award of Contract: Frozen Food Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America, Mike's Quality Meats, Inc., Rogge and Teddy's Tasty Meats to furnish Frozen Food Products in the estimated amounts of \$636,670, \$363,794, \$152,352 and \$229,182 respectively.

10. ASD Memorandum #306 - Award of Contract: Campbell Elementary School Window Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Campbell Elementary School Window Replacement project to Reynolds General Contracting Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$88,595, Additive Alternate #1 amount of \$33,930, and Additive Alternate #2 amount of \$20,735 for total award of \$143,260.

11. ASD Memorandum #325 - Award of Contract: Airport Heights Elementary School Window and Siding Renewal

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Airport Heights Elementary School Window and Siding Renewal to Christensen Builders for the base bid amount of \$345,700.

12. ASD Memorandum #351 - Renewal of Gifted State Plan of Service 2004-2007

It is the Administration's recommendation that School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to adopt the Gifted State Plan of Service for school years 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007.

13. ASD Memorandum #330 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Governor's Grant for Drug and Violence Prevention

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$39,335 for the first year of a three-year grant period. This project continues and expands a partnership between the Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Police Department for alcohol/drug and violence prevention and early intervention.

14. ASD Memorandum #282 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Community Learning Centers

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$460,000 for the first year of a five-year grant period. The Alaska Community Learning Centers competition carries forward the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program through the No Child Left Behind federal authorization. Funding will continue after-school programs in four high-needs elementary schools. The sites are Muldoon, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack and Wonder Park.

15. ASD Memorandum #313 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Parks and recreation/ Anchorage Community Education Advisory Board

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Anchorage Community Education Association (ACEA) in the amount of \$23,190. Funding will provide a "Healthy Kids, Healthy Minds" physical activity curriculum during the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) after-school programs at all sites.

16. ASD Memorandum #314 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Boy Scouts 2004-2005

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Western Alaska Council (WAC) Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in the amount of \$5,214.40. This will establish the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) as a charter partner with BSA and will enable the 21st CCLC to have access to BSA properties and programs. Funding will provide boy-scouting activities at seven of the 21st CCLC sites. The sites are Government Hill, Muldoon, North Star, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, Taku, and Wonder Park.

17. ASD Memorandum #337 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: IDEA Research and Innovation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The preliminary budget estimate is \$500,000 per year for this five-year project. Funds will be used to research and develop a series of bicultural/bilingual presentations that will be used to convey developmental milestones and special education information to linguistically and culturally diverse families.

18. ASD Memorandum #264 – Human Anatomy and Physiology Curriculum Guide and Book Adoption

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached "Human Anatomy and Physiology

Curriculum Guide” and authorize the Superintendent to purchase the following text for the course Human Anatomy and Physiology:

- Essentials of Anatomy & Physiology, Seeley, Stephens, and Tate, McGraw-Hill, 2005.

19. ASD Memorandum #342 - Professional Services Selection for Elmendorf School Boiler Installations

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of CMH Consultants as the Architects/Engineers for the Elmendorf Schools Boiler Installations project and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with CMH Consultants for design services.

20. ASD Memorandum #352 - Extension of Approval for Eagle Academy Charter School to July 1, 2005

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve a delay in opening Eagle Academy Charter School from school year 2004-2005 to school year 2005-2006.

21. ASD Memorandum #322 - Personnel Report

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandums #308; #337; and #352.

ACTION:

<p>Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks</p>	<p>to approve minutes from Special Meeting of April 12, 2004; Regular Meeting of April 12, 2004; Special Meeting of April 19, 2004; Special Meeting of May 3, 2004; Special Meeting of May 3, 2004; Memorandum #339; Memorandum #338; Memorandum #323; Memorandum #301; Memorandum #302; Memorandum #303;</p>
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	Memorandum #304; Memorandum #306; Memorandum #325; Memorandum #351; Memorandum #330; Memorandum #282; Memorandum #313; Memorandum #314; Memorandum #264; Memorandum #342; and Memorandum #322.
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VOTE:

Ayes: Kennedy, Marks, Steele,
 Friedman, Roberts

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe, Steiner

MOTION PASSED

Carol Comeau introduced Leslie Preston as the new Rentals Manager for the District. She will be starting her new assignment on July 1, 2004.

ASD Memorandum #308 - Alaska Studies Curriculum Guide and Materials Approval

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to approve the curriculum guide and materials for the new Alaska Studies course for high school juniors and seniors.

ACTION:

Moved by Macon Roberts Seconded by Jeff Friedman	to approve Memorandum #308.
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Macon Roberts commented that each state he attended school in had a state study program. He feels that this program will enrich our juniors and seniors in the workings of the state and our history. Mr. Roberts feels that this curriculum will also raise the level of appreciation for the State of Alaska. He urged the School Board members to approve this excellent studies program and thanked Enid Hunter, Steve Ex, and Edna Lamabull for their excellent work on this curriculum. Mr. Roberts also acknowledged Edna Lamabull, who is retiring after 30 years of quality service to the Anchorage School District.

Carol Comeau stated that the adoption of the Alaska Studies curriculum is truly one of the accomplishments that she is most proud of as the Superintendent. Superintendent Comeau gave a brief outline of how the idea came forward for this course and why the course was developed. She believes strongly in this and is happy to have brought it forward for approval prior to Edna Lamebull retiring from the ASD. Ms. Comeau stated that this was an effort from a large group of educators and community members. She also noted that an online course will be developed in cooperation with the Alaska Humanities Forum through an acquired grant from Senator Ted Stevens. The course will also be offered through summer school next year.

Jeff Friedman commented that he was very impressed with the course and the topics addressed; he also likes the types of thinking that we are requiring from our students. Mr. Friedman stated that the course is so good, he would like to take it.

Crystal Kennedy agreed with Mr. Friedman and was also impressed with the range of what there is to learn about the State of Alaska. She was also impressed with the number of resources available to students. Ms. Kennedy asked Superintendent Comeau how the District will handle waivers for students with IEPs and those new students coming into the District from another state in the latter part of their senior year. Superintendent Comeau responded that students with IEPs will have to take the course and that no existing students will be allowed to waive the requirement for Alaska Studies. Ms. Comeau stated that the Administration will look at any extraordinary cases brought forward.

Mary Marks also agrees that the Alaska Studies course is exceptional. She also appreciates the many members of the community who have been involved in the development of the course. Ms. Marks commented that Mary Kasper will be thrilled with the adoption of this curriculum by the Anchorage School District. Mary Marks stated that she is proud to be a part of the School Board approving this curriculum and would like to see it eventually become a requirement for the whole state.

Superintendent Comeau commented that she would like to put together a presentation for the November Alaska School Boards' Association meeting. She would also like to put together a group to advocate for this requirement statewide.

William Johnson stated that a MECC subcommittee had an opportunity to review the curriculum and was very happy with the content. He feels that it is long overdue and is glad to see it move forward. Mr. Johnson thanked Edna Lamebull for their opportunity to review this course.

Tim Steele is proud of many things in the District, but the adoption of the Alaska Studies curriculum is at the top of his list. He commented that we need to share the Alaska Studies curriculum with the legislature.

Steve Ex stated that Patricia Partnow and Terry Jorgenson did an outstanding job developing the research and curriculum. Mr. Ex explained the student booklets and the infusion of the curriculum.

Enid Hunter thanked the Public Affairs Department for their support, publishing and securing the resources. She thanked Larry Wiget and Michelle Egan for their support. Edna Lamebull noted how important it was to listen to the student on the steering committee on how to keep the course meaningful for students.

VOTE:

Ayes: Kennedy, Marks, Steele,
Friedman, Roberts

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe, Steiner

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #337 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: IDEA Research and Innovation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The preliminary budget estimate is \$500,000 per year for this five-year project. Funds will be used to research and develop a series of bicultural/bilingual presentations that will be used to convey developmental milestones and special education information to linguistically and culturally diverse families.

ACTION:

Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Macon Roberts	to approve Memorandum #337.
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Jerry Sjolander explained that this memorandum was prepared before the final request for proposal was received. The preliminary budget estimate

was \$500,000. Once they received the final document, the budget figure was reduced to \$180,000 for a three-year project versus a five-year project. Mr. Sjolander stated that the special education department will work with community partners to create six DVD/videos in English and five alternate languages representative of the diverse Anchorage population. The videos will present parents and preschool providers with simple steps to monitor a child's developmental progress, present information on our child check program, and introduce the special education process. Commentators for each video will be native speakers of the language in which the video is being produced thus not relying on subtitles or a reader's literacy level.

Crystal Kennedy asked when the videos will be available. Jerry Sjolander responded that the first year will be spent on development and the DVD/videos will be available to the public during the second year.

VOTE:

Ayes: Kennedy, Marks, Steele,
Friedman, Steiner

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe, Steiner

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #352 - Extension of Approval for Eagle Academy Charter School to July 1, 2005

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a delay in opening Eagle Academy Charter School from school year 2004-2005 to school year 2005-2006.

ACTION:

Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve Memorandum #352.
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Carol Comeau informed the Board that the Eagle Academy Charter School did not meet their deadline to find a facility to house their program for the 2004-2005 school year. Even though they did meet their projected enrollment, the APC has requested a one-year delay, which will allow them more time to find an adequate facility and open for the 2005-2006 school year.

Jeff Friedman voiced a concern that the request for an extension meant that the application would not come back before the Board for approval.

He understands now that the request will come back to the Board so they can review the facility they have chosen to house their program. Carol Comeau will check with the Municipality to see if they need to go through the site selection process even though the Eagle Academy does know they need to have an E-1 occupancy code in order to be housed in a facility. Len Neisen stated that they hope to have a facility by the end of this calendar year.

Mary Marks commented that she has been apprehensive in granting approval for this charter school and asked if they reached their projected enrollment, if the parents are aware of the delay in opening, and if they are confident that they will have this same enrollment for next year. Len Neisen responded that the community has been very supportive of their school and she is confident that they will have the required enrollment to open next year. Currently, they have 178 students signed up to attend.

VOTE:

Ayes: Kennedy, Marks, Steele,
Friedman, Roberts

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe, Steiner

MOTION PASSED

The School Board took a brief recess at 8:25 p.m. and returned at 8:40 p.m.

Jake Metcalfe arrived at the School Board meeting at 8:40 p.m.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #320 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of May 14, 2004 through May 28, 2004.

2. ASD Memorandum #321 - Facility Change Order and Completed Projects Reports for the Month of April 2004

The monthly Facility Change Order Report for the month of April 2004 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

3. ASD Memorandum #315 - Annual Review/End-of-the-Year Report for FY 2003-2004 Aquarian Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

“Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, recommendations for remediation of poor student performance, school goal attainment, trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility, a list of working capital assets, an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures, minutes of the meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, copies of any leases signed by the charter school, current bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee, notification of establishment of non-profit 501 (c) (3) status, list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization, any changes in facility location, any major changes planned for the following school year, and other information of interest to the local School Board. A list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school years, including officers and staff members by position, will be included.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Aquarian Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Overall, the Administration feels this charter school is successful. They have a strong and viable academic program which is well-supported by the parents and staff. They have faced major obstacles related to housing and rapidly increasing enrollment in the past with positive energy and a problem-solving attitude over the past 6 years. Connie Bensler, the District’s Liaison to Aquarian Charter School, has attended the monthly meetings of their

Academic Policy Committee, made up of parents and staff. There is a good working relationship between Ms. Bensler and the APC.

This charter school has a full-time type B certificated principal, Susan Forbes, who is completing her first year as principal of the school. She has had a tremendously successful first year with wide parent and staff support. There is a strong commitment to a high academic focus and integrated, thematic curricula, which is enhanced by outdoor education, community service learning, and technology infused throughout the day. The professional staff remains stable with one teacher requesting a transfer to be closer to home and one moving out of state. The energy and enthusiasm of Mrs. Forbes has created a domino effect among the Aquarian community. There is a renewed effort to identify gifted students with testing. The teaching staff has been given several chances to learn more about the gifted students with classes provided by the gifted department for the District. Mrs. Forbes has written a grant to be used to include all students in the gifted education, whether they qualify or not. Special education issues have been another focus of the school's administration. Identification of special needs students and the accompanying effort to accommodate their needs has improved greatly through Mrs. Forbes' leadership.

Aquarian Charter School has become a school of choice for many of our Anchorage families. Many more would like to attend; there is currently a list of over 120 students waiting for space to open up at Aquarian. There will be an additional class added in fifth grade for 2004-2005 that will be made up of students who have been with Aquarian since kindergarten.

The Village Charter School continues to be partially co-located with Aquarian Charter School in the Charter School Center. As Aquarian grows and develops new programs, the need to obtain additional classroom space continues to be discussed by the APC. At the Charter School Center, Aquarian occupies the larger part of the space, with Village Charter School occupying four classrooms, some support facilities and partial use of the multi-purpose room. Both schools continue to work together to share space and costs of maintenance and utilities. Both schools will be allowed to continue in this space as long as it is cost-effective to maintain the structure. school can continue to thrive as a popular K-6 alternative school.

Carol Comeau noted that the test results for Aquarian were not included in their annual report and were distributed to the School Board tonight.

Ava Goodman, immediate past president of the APC, stated she will be filling in for Principal Susan Forbes, who had to leave early to catch a plane to the Charter School National Conference. Ms. Goodman gave an overview of the past year and noted that the enrollment at Aquarian is solid with a large waiting list. She thanked the School Board and Ms. Comeau for providing them with a facility for their school.

Susan Lemasko, current chair of the APC, commented that the school is thriving, students are learning, and test scores are high. Ms. Lemasko gave a brief overview of the program and plans for the 2004-2005 school year. They currently have a building committee and are looking at other facilities and asked the Board and Superintendent for first choice in buying the land that house their school. They would also like to be considered to become an alternative/optional program within the Anchorage School District. Ms. Lemasko discussed the amendments to their charter agreement: raise the maximum student count to 336 which would increase the number of classes by two; and allow Aquarian the flexibility with the staffing level of their aides. They would like to assign their teacher aides as needed.

Jeff Friedman complimented the Aquarian APC for putting together a nice report. He is intrigued by the idea of teaching everyone to work with gifted students. He did voice a concern that they had 250 students at the beginning of the count period, dropped to 240 students, and did not replace them with ten students off of their wait list.

Tim Steele asked if they had space to house 336 students. Susan Lemasko responded that they do not. They do not anticipate filling 14 classrooms until they have the space.

Carol Comeau stated that we will take the charter changes to the School Board on June 28 for approval. She noted that the challenge will be the space issue. Ms. Comeau also cautioned them that the school is on a year-to-year basis and the issue is the condition of the building. She complimented the parent volunteer base at the school for keeping the school in such good condition.

Tim Steele asked the Superintendent about Ms. Lemasko's comment on their desire to become an alternative school within ASD. Carol Comeau responded that this would be the first charter school requesting this idea and she would certainly be open to a discussion. She noted that the school has been very successful due to the parent involvement.

Macon Roberts asked Ms. Lemasko to explain the pupil student ratio. Ms. Lemasko responded that there is one teacher and one aide in every classroom with 24 students. Carol Comeau noted that the charter change will give them more flexibility in assigning aides to the most needed areas.

Jan Christensen and Connie Bensler both stated that Aquarian has done an amazing job; the building is clean and bright and Susan Forbes has done an outstanding job for a first year principal.

Jeff Friedman asked if preference for attendance is given to children of staff members. Ms. Lemasko responded that they must go through the lottery process. Carol Comeau also responded that preference was only given at the beginning to those individuals who were implementing the program.

4. ASD Memorandum #316 - Annual Review/End-of-the-Year Report for FY 2003-2004 Family Partnership Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

"Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, recommendations for remediation of poor student performance, school goal attainment, trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility, a list of working capital assets, an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures, minutes of the meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, copies of any leases signed by the charter school,

current bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee, notification of establishment of non-profit 501 (c) (3) status, list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization, any changes in facility location, any major changes planned for the following school year, and other information of interest to the local School Board. A list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school year, including officers and staff members by position, will be included.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Family Partnership Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Family Partnership Charter School has had a productive year in several areas, including Individual Learning Plan development and accountability. By putting the ILP process on line, the school's ability to efficiently manage students' ILP increased many times. During the fall and winter, the APC and principal, Alex Tatum, conducted a search for a new business manager. Mr. John Shuler was eventually hired and has proven to be a valuable employee for FPCS. The academic advisor's position was also filled by a temporary hire. The APC is currently considering whether to hire someone permanently for that position and in what capacity. The principal, Alex Tatum is not going to be at FPCS for 2004-2005. The Human Resources Department is currently advertising to fill his position. The APC has brought forward to the ASD School Board a change in the current charter. They are requesting the elimination of the requirement that the chief administrator have a type B certificate. The status of this request is pending. Connie Bensler, the Anchorage School District Charter School Liaison, has worked closely with the administration and Academic Policy Committee of this school. Ms. Bensler attended APC monthly meetings and provided assistance to these groups in working within the confines of the Anchorage School District and Charter School rules and regulations.

The intent of this particular charter is to provide an opportunity for a partnership between home-schooling parents and the Anchorage School District to give students an opportunity to have some of their education provided in a home school situation, by certificated teachers in the ASD in classrooms, or in small group instruction after regular school hours.

This unique school combines the structure of the Anchorage School District in the larger arenas of standardized testing and high school graduation requirements with the home school philosophy of individualized learning. The school's goals continue to include more participation by their students in the Districtwide testing. There has been an extra effort to provide remediation opportunities for those students who have not reached a proficient level in high-stakes testing.

We are very proud to have this successful charter school as part of the Anchorage School District and look forward to another successful school year next year.

Carol Comeau stated that charter changes for FPCS will come forward on June 28. Many e-mails have been received regarding the fact that they are not requiring a Type B Certificate for the principal. Ms. Comeau reminded the audience and parents that the FPCS APC is well within state law to not require the principal to hold a Type B Certificate.

Ms. Comeau also passed out the official test results for FPCS that were just received from the state.

Ms. Comeau commented that the big issue with this school is when are they going to require all students to take the mandated state tests. Pat Shelton responded that they did raise the number of participation and it does help to have more than one testing site. Ms. Comeau reminded Ms. Shelton that the state sets the testing schedule and they must inform their parents of the times and dates of the tests—there is no flexibility. Ms. Comeau expects the participation to raise to at least 95 percent. Otherwise she will need to discuss this further and perhaps prevent those parents from entering the school that are not willing to participate in the testing. Ms. Shelton responded that they are working on this and they did raise the participating rate this year. They hope to continue to offer the Eagle River and Anchorage sites for testing. Ms. Shelton stated

that they do have a policy in place that will not allow students to enroll in the school who do not participate in the testing requirements. Carol Comeau asked to review this policy and make sure that it is enforced. She also noted that parents must be given fair notice up front about this new policy. They must be informed that these are the rules and they will not be able to access public funds if they do not follow the testing requirements.

Teresa Kress asked for something from the District that outlines the requirement of what will happen if the students do not participate in the testing. Carol Comeau stated that she will look into this and get something to the school in writing.

Pat Shelton gave a brief report on their school for the 2003-2004 school year.

Connie Bensler complimented FPCS for a well run APC committee. She did note that is not always clear as to who is in charge at various times and there has been a huge turnover in staff the past year. Ms. Bensler stated that the clerical staff has done a great job along with Mr. Tatum. She stated that she is sorry to see him leave the school at the end of the year.

Jan Christensen commented that she has enjoyed working with this charter school and with the School Board on the charter school changes. She is also meeting monthly with the charter school principals to try to build better communication.

Jeff Friedman noted that the charter schools have been very instrumental in the changes to School Board policy. He stated that they have all attended the policy subcommittee meetings and appreciates the input they have provided.

Carol Comeau noted that parents often need help in writing lesson plans to meet state standards and is concerned if the school decides to not have an academic facilitator next year. She asked how they are planning to track and monitor the lesson plans so that the partner teachers and students know their responsibilities. This remains a concern if the APC chooses not to have a principal with a Type B Certificate. Pat Shelton responded that a meeting is held to review the progress and set a plan with the parents and partner teacher for every non-proficient student. Ms. Shelton also stated that the APC has required all funds be directed to core subjects.

She also stated that in terms of the academic facilitator, a decision has not been made. The current position needs to be restructured, but no decision has been made. Teresa Kress commented that the APC has been very concerned with those non proficient students, but is not sure the meetings have occurred that were previously mentioned. She sees this as a priority and the meetings need to be scheduled. Carol Comeau stated that the APC must focus on the non proficient students immediately.

Mary Marks asked if the FPCS families are aware of the testing requirements and dates of testing. Pat Shelton responded yes, the information was communicated very consistently this past year. Alex Tatum responded that only seven out of 22 students did not provide a reason for not taking the test.

Connie Bensler noted a concern with FPCS and Frontier because they don't take the special education funds. They still must make sure that those qualified students have their IEPs met. Jerry Sjolander has developed guidelines for charter schools to accept students on the lottery and recommends that they review those students selected to see if they qualify for 504 or special education services. Ms. Bensler emphasized that someone must be responsible for the research and work with the special education office to make sure the students receive their services

5. ASD Memorandum #317 - Annual Review/End-of-the-Year Report for FY 2003-2004 Frontier Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

"Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, recommendations for remediation of poor student performance, school goal attainment, trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility, a list of working capital assets, an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures, minutes of the meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, copies of any leases signed by the charter school, current bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee, notification of

establishment of non-profit 501(c)(3) status, list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization, any changes in facility location, any major changes planned for the following school year, and other information of interest to the local School Board. A list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school years, including officers and staff members by position, will be included.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Frontier Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board. Their report is presented to the School Board as Attachment A. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

Frontier Charter School has enjoyed an extremely successful first year as a charter school in the Anchorage School District. Tim Scott, principal, the Academic Policy Committee, and the Frontier office staff have worked to create a school of excellence for home-schooled students and their families. Through their efforts, the school has grown to over 200 students, with the expectation of an increase in enrollment for the 2004-2005 school year. The cornerstone to the school’s philosophy lies in a free individualized learning profile that includes diagnostic achievement testing, cognitive evaluations and ongoing parent training opportunities. The school community greatly relies on technology to communicate, evaluate, and participate in all aspects of the school. Connie Bensler, the District’s Liaison to Aquarian Charter School, has attended the monthly meetings of their Academic Policy Committee, made up of parents and staff. There is a good working relationship between Ms. Bensler and the APC.

Frontier attained a 96 percent participation rate in the Terra Nova, Benchmark and HSGQE testing. There is a concerted effort on the part of the administration to provide remediation activities for those students who did not perform at the proficient or above level. The academic facilitator, Cal Dunham was greatly influential in such a successful turnout for this testing. The principal, Tim Scott, is also on the State Board of Education. He has provided a

leadership role in education for the state in a variety of areas. As principal of both Family Partnership Charter School in the past and now Frontier Charter School, he has first-hand knowledge of how to operate a charter school that has been officially designated as a correspondence school by the Department of Education and Early Development. Many of the regulations developed under Mr. Scott's leadership and the ASD administration are being considered for adoption state-wide for correspondence schools.

It is a pleasure for the ASD administration to work with Mr. Scott, the APC, and Frontier staff. The school has done well and is certainly on its way to a successful first ten years as a charter school.

The report for Frontier Charter School was postponed until June 28, 2004.

6. ASD Memorandum #319 – Annual Review/End-of-the-Year Report for FY 2003-2004 Village Charter School

School Board Policy 333.7 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

“Once approved by both the local and State Boards of Education, the charter school will be subject to an annual review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the charter school will submit a written report and make a presentation to the School Board and the public no later than June 30 of each school year. This report will include information on the attainment of student performance expectations, recommendations for remediation of poor student performance, school goal attainment, trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility, a list of working capital assets, an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures, minutes of the meetings of the governing bodies of the charter school, descriptions of charter school activities, copies of any leases signed by the charter school, current bylaws of the Academic Policy Committee, notification of establishment of non-profit 501 (c) (3) status, list of officers in any PTA/PTO or other parent organization, any changes in facility location, any major changes planned for the following school year, and other information of interest to the local School Board. A list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school

years, including officers and staff members by position, will be included.

If there is evidence of a breach of contract, then the School Board, through the Superintendent or designee, shall have a right to investigate this breach of contract and meet with the charter school to discuss possible remedies and/or possible termination of the contract.”

Representatives from Village Charter School will be available to present their Annual Report to the School Board (Attachment A). The Administration requested that Ms. Sharp be present at the meeting, but she will be out of town. The Administration will also present remarks at the appropriate time.

This is the sixth year of operation for Village Charter School. It provides an educational program that is enriched with several world languages offered to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Those languages include Norwegian, Spanish, German and English. Students are taught basic skills in English and the target language as well as songs, traditions and history. The principal, Linda Sharp and several staff members accompanies some of Village’s students on trips to Mexico, Norway and Germany during the school year to experience first hand the language and customs of those countries. Connie Bensler, the Anchorage School District Charter School Liaison, attends the monthly meetings of the Academic Policy Committee and the Village Administration. She works closely with Village Community to facilitate communication between parents, staff and the APC and Village Administration.

Village Charter School has been operating under a calendar that allows students to attend classes Monday through Thursday in an extended day format. The Department of Education and Early Development ruled that such a calendar is not legal under 2003 state law. That law has been changed in 2004 to make some flexibility in a school’s calendar possible. However, the calendar needs to be approved by the Commissioner of Education as well. His decision is still under review. In the meantime, Village is holding classes six days a week during the month of June.

The Administration of the Anchorage School District and Village Charter School met in June 2003, to implement policies and

procedures to ensure Village's compliance with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. There were a number of changes that needed to be implemented during the 2003-2004 school year. Village's special education teacher and TA have worked to comply with these changes. However, additional effort in this area is recommended for the 2004-2005 school year.

Test scores as Village have caused some concern for the administration. There is a large proportion of students who do not perform at the proficient or above level on the Benchmarks and who do not perform at or above the national average on the Terra Nova, CATs. While in-house criterion reference tests show higher results, the State and District required test results are not as high. Village has several remedial programs that are on going and that have produced positive results for kids.

The school shares a facility with Aquarian Charter School at the Charter School Center. While Aquarian occupies most of the structure, Village currently uses four classrooms and the multi-purpose room on a limited basis. The two schools have worked out a joint use agreement for the facility, shared custodial and utility costs, and use of the multi-purpose room. This facility will be available to these two schools only as long as the Anchorage School District considers the facility is cost-effective to maintain.

Carol Comeau informed the School Board that she was very upset that Linda Sharp chose to not attend the meeting tonight; she is out-of-state visiting family.

Caprice Larimer-Musty gave the presentation on Village Charter School for the 2003-2004 school year. She did indicate a concern over the drop in enrollment this year, and said they would be willing to accept students all year long even after the foundation count is complete.

Meta Baxter, Business Manger for Village since November 2003, commented that one of her responsibilities has been the enrollment. She said she made a statement earlier this year that they would have 180 students by this time; this has not happened, but they have had a wonderful and fun year. Ms. Baxter also stated that they have enjoyed working with Jan Christensen and Connie Bensler.

Mary Marks asked for the current enrollment. Ms. Larimer-Musty stated that they are currently at 63 for next year. Carol Comeau noted that they started in September 2003 with 164 students and have decreased steadily to the end of May when they finished with 120 students. Ms. Comeau has serious concerns with the huge loss of students.

Mary Marks inquired what the mission of the school is and what direction the administration has given to increase student enrollment and keep it at the goal of 180 students. Ms. Baxter responded that commitment is hard for families for this program; intentions are well founded, but there is no follow through.

Jake Metcalfe asked where Linda Sharp was tonight. Carol Comeau responded that she made a decision to go out-of-state. Caprice Larimer-Musty stated that she made a commitment earlier this year and had to cancel those reservations. Ms. Sharp was not able to switch these reservations in order to attend the Board meeting. Ms. Comeau commented that she knew her annual report was going before the Board tonight and she should have been in attendance.

Jake Metcalfe noted that the loss of students equated to 30 percent and asked where they have gone. Ms. Larimer-Musty responded that quite a few were military families that moved overseas, some moved to the valley or out-of-state.

Jeff Freidman has two issues he is concerned with: transiency and the total school population. He commented that Village took in students during the count period and accepted the funds and now someone else is educating them. Mr. Friedman stated if they replaced the students who left, then it is a wash. In budget times, the School District does not have extra money to go around. He reviewed the budget documents and found that charter schools are getting more money than a regular school with the same number of students. Mr. Friedman stated that ASD cannot afford to fund 150 students and then only teach 130.

Tim Steele would like to be supportive, but is concerned with them holding onto their population; this is the reason for the two year extension of their contract. He is also not happy with the tone of the report and the excuses and blame on the District. Mr. Steele noted that it was a difficult report to get through. The testing

results are not good; the students did not do well on the TerraNova tests. Mr. Steele commented that he wants to be supportive, but is finding it more and more difficult to do so. The calendar issue was a concern, but that was more of a Department of Education and Early Development issue. The loss of students and accepting the funds and the poor test results really do concern him.

Mary Marks stated that she has not seen any changes made to the issues that have been brought forward. There has been no improvement at this school regarding their enrollment, which continues to steadily decline. Their goal was to increase enrollment and it has dropped again by 30 percent. Ms. Marks commented that she doesn't want to hear anymore excuses or blame. She also stated that their test scores do not show any encouragement and is very disappointed with the lack of improvement in the academics, population, turnover, etc. Ms. Marks suggested they need to refocus on the children's successes. She cannot support the continuation of this school.

Jan Christensen stated that she found both Ms. Baxter and Ms. Larimer-Musty a pleasure to work with and were very receptive to questions and concerns. She noted that she and Connie Bensler met with Ms. Sharp and Ms. Larimer-Musty last week and told them they had serious concerns with the tone of the report. Ms. Christensen stated that the test scores were a concern and she requested information on mobility and staffing—this information was not received. She noted that she appreciates Ms. Baxter, Ms. Larimer-Musty, and Kathy Sue Justus, but the principal needs to be accountable and take a leadership role in this school.

Connie Bensler agreed with Ms. Christensen. She noted that Ms. Baxter and Ms. Larimer-Musty have been the backbone of this school. Without them, Village would not be open today. Ms. Baxter asked the School Board and Superintendent how they can gain the confidence of the District. Connie Bensler suggested a waitlist, which would show the District that the community has interest in this school. Ms. Bensler also asked how the Village administration met the special education issues that were brought forward in June 2003.

Jerry Sjolander responded that there were ten points of concern on the agreement that the District brought forward. This agreement was signed by both the District and Village Charter School. Mr.

Sjolander noted that of the ten points in the agreement, there was only one point that was completely met. Ms. Justus was to meet with the special education department on a monthly basis, but because her time was limited at the school when she could focus on special education issues, many appointments were missed. Ms. Justus tried to meet the goals, but some are in the partial range. Mr. Sjolander will recommend that we implement the same plan of improvement for next year. He also commented that the District runs the risk of due process for the violations that are occurring at this school. The time and expense of due process impacts the District and the students.

Carol Comeau understands that the Commissioner of Education gave approval on Saturday, June 12 for last year's calendar. Commissioner Sampson was very clear that he will not approve the 2004-2005 calendar for Village based on the change of legislation. He also wants to know how standards are being implemented and what they are doing with professional development. Ms. Comeau stated that it is essential that the teachers work the minimum number of days to meet retirement requirements. Superintendent Comeau asked both Ms. Baxter and Ms. Larimer-Musty to inform Linda Sharp and the APC that it will not be possible to approve the 2004-2005 calendar until further direction is received from Commissioner Sampson.

Tim Steele supports a change in the calendar, but the low test scores concern him. He suggested more contact time with students instead of less time. Mr. Steele stated that he has been a long-time supporter of this program, but is very concerned with the quality of the program and the poor test results.

Carol Comeau stated that the calendar is not approved. We must work with the Commissioner to find out what is required before bringing it back to the Board for approval.

Carol Comeau stated that test results is one of the major concerns of the Commissioner. The test results from Village show they are not doing well. Ms. Comeau commented that this should not happen in a school this size and it would also help if the person in charge has a strong instructional background. Ms. Comeau stated that she is very disappointed that Linda Sharp is not present to explain the low student achievement.

Superintendent Comeau is concerned with the attitude of this school toward the Administration of the District. She suggested the Village APC needs to look very seriously at this issue and not attack the Administration to get what is needed.

Carol Comeau asked for a clarification on the sabbatical for Linda Sharp that was included in their report. Ms. Larimer-Musty responded that the APC has said after six years, a teacher is eligible to take a sabbatical. Ms. Larimer-Musty indicated that Linda Sharp would like to take a three month paid sabbatical. Carol Comeau responded that we don't have paid sabbaticals in the Anchorage School District. Eric Tollefsen stated that the Anchorage Education Association contract prevents this without going through AEA to get a waiver. Superintendent Comeau commented that she is very concerned about a principal taking time off when the school is in academic jeopardy. Ms. Comeau stated if the school does not improve next year, she will not recommend renewal of their contract.

Superintendent Comeau stated that she does not feel it is fair that Caprice Larimer-Musty and Meta Baxter do the discipline at the school—it is not their job. She also stated that Kathy Sue Justus is a very conscience employee and very torn over her job requirements, but she cannot do everything. Because Village is accepting the funds for special education services, they must hold their staff accountable for meeting IEP needs. Ms. Comeau apologized to Ms. Baxter and Ms. Larimer-Musty for having to hear the negative aspects of their school. She cautioned that they could be academic jeopardy and most likely will not make adequate yearly progress this year. Their goal should be making sure that their school makes adequate yearly progress.

Meta Baxter explained to the Board and the Superintendent that by saying they had a fun year in 2003-2004 in no way diminishes their focus on student academics.

Santiago Macedo noted that he supports Village Charter School.

- I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
- J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Jeff Friedman stated that he will be attending the National School Boards Association CUBE conference in Baltimore in late June.

Macon Roberts will be out of town from July 25 through August 9.

Carol Comeau reminded the Board that the scheduled Special School Board meetings on Saturday, June 23 and Monday, July 1 have been cancelled.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of June 14, 2004 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:35 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Jeff Friedman, Clerk

Mary Kay Sambo
Recording Secretary

Date