

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2004

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, June 28, 2004, at 6:35 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, Tim Steele, presided.

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

Board Members Absent: Jeff Friedman (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

Others Present: Jan Christensen, Enid Hunter, Mike Henry, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Debbie Bogart, Jeff Wood, Eric Tollefsen, Janet Stokesbary, Stacy Dunn, George Vakalis, Loretta Nabong, Ray Amsden, Mike Price, Pam Chenier, Stan Syta, Mark Mew, Marie Laule, Ophelia Dargan-Steed, Brian Griggs, LTC David Jones, William Johnson, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, Tim Steele Presiding

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Macon Roberts announced that he attended the VIP tour and grand opening of the Clubhouse Transitional Cottage at McLaughlin Youth Center, conducted by Boys and Girls Club. It is assisting young people in transition from the institution and back into the community. Mr. Roberts applauds the Department of Children's Services and the McLaughlin Youth Center and the Boys and Girls Club for their vital service that they have implemented. Carol Comeau also attended this function.

Crystal Kennedy announced that the HUGGs program is getting ready to collect coats and school supplies for next school year. Distribution will take place August 26 and 27 at the Mountain View Community Center and Boys and Girls Club. To send in a cash donation, drop off supplies, or help with distribution, the phone number to call is 644-8477. Drop-off sites include Alaska Cleaners (all locations), American Linen on Fireweed, Anchorage Daily News, Candy's Cleaners in Eagle River, Dimond Center, Fred Meyers, Mayfield's Quality Cleaners on DeBarr, Northway Mall, One-Hour Fireweed Cleaners, All of the Walmarts in Anchorage and Eagle River, and the Wells Fargo Bank in Anchorage. Ms. Comeau added

that there is also a drop-off at the Anchorage School District Administration Building.

Carol Comeau reminded the public that the District offices will be closed Monday through Friday next week. The next scheduled Board meeting will be August 2, 2004.

John Steiner announced that four board members, Crystal Kennedy, Mary Marks, Jeff Friedman and Mr. Steiner, will attend the Broad Institute Center for School Reform, paid by the Broad Institute, to explore ways districts across the country are facing some of the same challenges that this Board is facing. The Board members appreciate this opportunity and look forward to returning with some new ideas.

Tim Steele announced that he and Mary Marks will attend the Alaska Association of School Boards meeting in July. On June 19th, one of the items discussed during the work session was how to do business. It was decided that Board members will pull items from the Superintendent's Report for discussion or questions in an effort to reduce staff time and length of the agenda. The Board members have been very diligent to ask questions of the staff during the day before the meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was unanimously approved with addendum to the Personnel Report.

D. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board
No report
2. Military Delegate

LTC David Jones announced that he was asked by the principal of the New Eagle River Area High School to try to identify a student from Fort Richardson to be on the naming committee for the new high school. The committee will meet in August to suggest names for the New Eagle River Area High School. LTC Jones thanked the registrar at Bartlett High School for her assistance in finding a student to join that committee. LTC Jones also stated that he attended the JROTC camp on Fort Richardson, with several of the

high schools represented. LTC Jones was impressed with the instruction and the students who attended.

3. M.E.C.C.

William Johnson stated the M.E.C.C. met on June 17 without a quorum. The members heard discussion from Gail Opalinski, who informed them of the anti-bullying conference. Carrie Plant from the Alaska Youth for the Environment also spoke to the members. The organization's mission is to inspire, educate and take action on environmental issues in our community. The committee members appreciated her visit. The next meeting will be August 19, 2004. At that meeting, the committee members will name the new chair and co chair for the upcoming school year.

E. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Josh Green, a member of the Northeast Community Council stated to the Board that the council met and discussed the possibility of getting the Muldoon Area Middle School on the bond ballot again. Carol Comeau and Ray Amsden attended the meeting. The motion was made to support placing the bond for the Muldoon Area Middle School back on the ballot.

Speaker, Ron Slepecki said that Representative Tom Anderson is working on support for the Muldoon Area Middle School and has secured \$800,000 for the Creekside Town Center project to push for funding for transportation that is going to enable access to that area. That capital funding is anticipated to support the securement of over \$2 million of federal funds for transportation and access. Mr. Slepecki is hoping to get the Muldoon Area Middle School back on the ballot in the special election.

Carol Comeau commented that she and Ray Amsden attended the Northeast Community Council meeting and she was very gratified that it was well attended along with six elected officials at the meeting. Ms. Comeau stated it was clear that they want the District to come forward with a request for a special election. The only solution to overcrowding in that area is the Muldoon Area Middle School. Ms. Comeau was gratified with the knowledge of the issues in the community. Mr. Pfeffer and staff from DOWL Engineering also attended and talked about the town center. They wanted Ms. Comeau to commit that the District wants the school in the town center. They are very concerned with huge density issues if the

middle school, the recreation center and the library do not go in there. Ms. Comeau reassured those attending the meeting that the District wants to construct the middle school there.

John Steiner assured the speakers that the Board is very supportive. Mr. Steiner mentioned that if the Board requests to put it on the ballot for November it would be during a general election with a higher turnout. Mr. Steiner asked the speakers if they could generate a lot of support to help publicize the need for the school and advocate for it to help sell it to the voters of Anchorage. Ron Slepecki assured Mr. Steiner that they feel they can do it. Mr. Slepecki stated that the council members feel the bond package didn't pass because of the negative publicity for some of the other items in the package. They feel that if they could focus on the community's need to eliminate the overcrowding in the schools it would work.

Tim Steele stated that a special election is important since we do not have an opportunity for debt reimbursement for future bonds. Mr. Steele suggested to the speakers to interface with the legislators in their area if they get an opportunity to do so. Jake Metcalfe advised to the speakers to talk to Representative Anderson and Senator Guess and urge them to support debt reimbursement. It would help if they would be on the record in support of the debt reimbursement. Ms. Comeau agreed with Mr. Metcalfe and stated that it would have helped immeasurably if the legislators had been willing to speak publicly about their support of this issue as they did in private conversations with Ms. Comeau and the Board members. Mr. Steiner added that it would also help if the Assembly members would also tell their constituents that the bonds and the debt reimbursement are a good thing.

Tim Steele thanked the speakers and appreciated their support.

Theresa Obermeyer stated that she was a school board member from 1990 - 1994. Ms. Obermeyer stated that she would always practice American law in whatever she does and cares very deeply about every child. Ms. Obermeyer considers the Muldoon Community council a little bit of American Democracy. American Democracy is the great debate. The speaker expressed her concern of the money that she feels was wasted in the recent Special Session of the Legislature. Ms. Obermeyer passed out information regarding an individual investment transaction disclosure for the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation and information regarding the Alaska Bar Association.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum #338 – School Board Policy Revisions – Section 440.1(a) Minimum Age (Second Reading)

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

2. ASD Memorandum #305 - FY 2003-2004 Budget Adjustments

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize a budget increase of \$711,650 to the General Fund using the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance as the revenue source. In addition, it is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process budget transfers from unexpended accounts at year-end, in the amount of \$2,354,000 into various accounts where unanticipated expenditures occurred. It is also recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process budget transfers in the amount of \$112,750 from unexpended accounts into various accounts for one-time expenditure needs. These expenditure requests are outlined below. Since the overall revision will not exceed the approved upper limit of the budget, no approval from the Anchorage Assembly is required.

3. ASD Memorandum #341 – Award of Contract: Turnagain Elementary School Restroom

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Turnagain Elementary School Restroom Remodel to F & F Construction, LLC for the Base Bid in the amount of \$200,000.

4. ASD Memorandum #343 – Award of Contract: Lake Otis Elementary School Mechanical

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction

contract for Lake Otis Elementary School Mechanical Upgrades to the low responsive bidder, Consolidated Contracting and Engineering for the Base Bid in the amount of \$716,666 and allowance assignments of \$50,656, and accept Alternate #1 in the amount of \$236,333, and Alternate #2 in the amount of \$71,445, for a total award of \$1,075,100.

5. ASD Memorandum #344 - Award of Contract: Campbell Elementary School Mechanical Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Campbell Elementary School Mechanical Upgrades to the low responsive bidder, Consolidated Contracting and Engineering, for the Base Bid in the amount of \$178,735, allowance assignment of \$20,153 with associated additive Alternative #1 of \$10,603, Alternate #1 in the amount of \$31,620 and Alternate #2 in the amount of \$15,111, for a total award of \$256,222.

6. ASD Memorandum #345 Award of Contract: Homestead Elementary School Restroom

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a construction contract for Homestead Elementary School to the low responsive bidder, St. George Chadux Corp., for the Base Bid in the amount of \$93,000 and accept Alternate #3 in the amount of \$89,900, for a total award of \$182,900.

7. ASD Memorandum #332 - Award of Contract: Campbell Elementary School Restroom Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Campbell Elementary School Restroom Renovations to the low responsive bidder, St. George Chadux Corporation, for the Base Bid in the amount of \$268,000.

8. ASD Memorandum #333 - Award of Contract: Huffman Elementary School Restroom Renovations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for

the Huffman Elementary School Restroom Renovations to Goertz Construction, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$177,768 and accept Alternate #1 in the amount of \$9,311 for a total award of \$187,079.

9. ASD Memorandum #334 - Award of Contract: Three School Standby Generator Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Three School Standby Generator Upgrades to the lowest responsive bidder, Goertz Construction, Inc. for the Base Bid in the amount of \$448,719.

10. ASD Memorandum #335 - Award of Contract: Five School Lighting Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Five School Lighting Replacement to the lowest responsive bidder, Consolidated Contracting and Engineering, for the Base Bid amount of \$114,411.

11. ASD Memorandum #331 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Following the Leaders Coordinator

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the grant of \$70,000 from Achievement Technologies, one of the partners in the Following the Leaders (FTL) organization. The program will provide an on-line evaluation and remediation program for students.

12. ASD Memorandum #353 - Approval of grant Award: Amendment to High Intensity Reading Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to accept an amendment grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), for the secondary High Intensity Summer Reading Program, for a total amount of \$15,000.

13. ASD Memorandum #289 - Family Partnership School Charter Changes

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the proposed revisions to the Family Partnership Charter School Charter.

14. ASD Memorandum #346 - Personnel Report

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

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner
seconded by Mary Marks

to approve Memorandum #341;
Memorandum #343;
Memorandum #344;
Memorandum #345;
Memorandum #332;
Memorandum #333;
Memorandum #334;
Memorandum #335;
Memorandum #331;
Memorandum #353; and
Memorandum #346.

ASD Memorandum #338 - School Board Policy Revisions - Section 440.1(a) Minimum Age (Second Reading)

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

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
seconded by: Mary Marks

to approve ASD Memorandum #338.

Theresa Obermeyer commented on the difficult job Mr. Steele has as Board President. Ms. Obermeyer stated that she thinks it is important to talk about the year a child should start school. Modified Primary was good because it slowed them down and they did not have to grow up so quickly. Ms. Obermeyer stated that people need to think about the ages they are emotionally as well as chronologically and she recommends

parents slow them down. It is difficult to grow up with the transience, emotional security, emotional maturity, and diversity. Ms. Obermeyer urges parents to not only look at the intellectual side but also the emotional side.

Carol Comeau announced that Dr. Wiget informed her that the Governor signed this legislation Friday. If the Board approves this policy it will allow the Administrators to review each case and make a recommendation to go forward and will not have to bring them back to the Board as they had to do last year. Mr. Steele mentioned that part of this is not only the two-week change but also the fact that they can allow the Administration to implement the criteria that they have established on accepting the students. John Steiner commented that this change is consistent with state law and the Board supports it because it makes it more consistent around the country and makes a lot of sense.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Friedman

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #305 - FY 2003-2004 Budget Adjustments

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize a budget increase of \$711,650 to the General Fund using the General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance as the revenue source. In addition, it is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process budget transfers from unexpended accounts at year-end, in the amount of \$2,354,000 into various accounts where unanticipated expenditures occurred. It is also recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process budget transfers in the amount of \$112,750 from unexpended accounts into various accounts for one-time expenditure needs. These expenditure requests are outlined below. Since the overall revision will not exceed the approved upper limit of the budget, no approval from the Anchorage Assembly is required.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner to approve ASD Memorandum #305.
seconded by: Macon Roberts

Theresa Obermeyer stated that she marvels at all the budgets. The speaker stated that where we live a handful of people have a large amount of money to spend and it is time for all of us in a very fair-minded way to figure this out because it is time to create a brighter future here. Ms. Obermeyer has seen these documents for fourteen years and considers it double talk. The speaker stated that the money that exists is all of our money - we are Alaskans and the permanent fund is for all of us. The speaker asked the Board to check her website at www.tobermeyer.info. They have a section that says \$25 billion Alaska Permanent Fund Board.

Carol Comeau stated that this past month, since the Legislature acted and the Governor made his public commitment of support, the Administration has been reviewing unanticipated expenditures as well as some items they believe to be critical to be funded - some out of the undesignated fund balance that are listed on pages 2, 3, and 4, and looking at budget transfers using existing districtwide funds from various accounts to fund things that are over-expended because of unforeseen circumstances and budget transfers that two departments are able to fund within their existing department fund by reallocation. Because they are all over \$30,000, they need to be brought to the Board for approval. This is an increase to the expenditure authority of the General Fund of \$711,650. The other funds remain unchanged. Ms. Comeau added that the Administration believes these recommendations are all important and critical to keep the operation of the District running smoothly. This is under the authorized cap by the Assembly. We do this every June once we know what the level of funding is from the Legislature. The Assembly unanimously approved the District's ability to expend the additional revenues. This is the last stage of the budget adjustment for the 2003-2004 school year.

Crystal Kennedy stated that she is pleased that we are purchasing the 2200 Apple computers even though they are 3-6 years old. In visiting some elementary schools Ms. Kennedy discovered that they have some very successful software that only works in those computers, so they were glad that they would be able to keep them. Ms. Kennedy asked if we are building the maintenance into the budget for these older computers. Jeff Wood replied that currently it is handled at the site level. It will not be treated like new equipment but will be worked in under the current existing support.

John Steiner stated that earlier today he spoke to George Vakalis about the radios. The system is to be upgraded in 2007 and this is the first grouping of purchases being proposed. It wasn't clear to Mr. Steiner if we need them now or if we can leave the money in the undesignated fund balance

to accrue interest. Mr. Steiner asked for a clarification if any money that we do not spend in the contingency is added to the undesignated fund balance so this decision on these items will actually reduce additions to the undesignated fund balance rather than taking money out of the existing balance. Janet Stokesbary replied that it is not actually adding money to the undesignated fund balance. It is not using part of the money from the current undesignated fund balance. The contingency was set aside separately because the District did not actually have a funding source to support the upper limit that the Assembly had approved a year ago. Carol Comeau stated that if these weren't approved, any funds that weren't expended would go into the undesignated fund balance. Ms. Stokesbary confirmed Ms. Comeau's statement. The funds would remain in the fund balance and earn interest earnings.

Mr. Steiner wondered that if we currently have radios for the next three years, until 2007, that would continue to satisfy our needs, is there any particular reason to buy and begin depreciating those radios now versus leaving that money in the undesignated fund balance earning interest and buying them in three years. Ms. Comeau replied that they discussed these issues and felt that it was better to do this incrementally rather than waiting until 2007 and hoping that we had the funds since we knew we had to have the emergency radios. George Vakalis added that we are talking 500 radios and the cost is \$2500 plus charging units and extra batteries. The cost is \$1.25 million at the minimum. We felt that rather than trying to make one big purchase, either out of fund balance or bonding, it would be better to start purchasing some now. We can use them now - we do have a need. In 2007 we have to go to a new system. We are getting 50 new radios from a grant. These radios will operate under our current system and the new system. We felt that without knowing what would happen in the future that it would be best to start phasing in the buys. Mr. Steiner asked if we have any idea historically if these types of radios are going up or down in price. Mr. Vakalis replied that the current radios that we have now have been at the approximate same cost for at least the last seven years. Those prices have not fluctuated. The city and fire department also pay this same price.

Mr. Friedman arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Steiner made the motion that the Board delete the \$290,000 radio purchase line item out of the recommendation, which would require a reduction to the total budget adjustments on top of page 4 to \$421,650. It would also require similar adjustment on page 1 of the total.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner
seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

that the Board delete the \$290,000 radio purchase line item out of the recommendation, which would require a reduction to the total budget adjustments on top of page 4 to \$421,650. It would also require similar adjustment on page 1 of the total.

Mr. Steiner spoke to his motion stating that it appears that right now, we do not have the crying need for the radios. If we buy them today, by 2007 we will have three year-old radios. If we wait and buy them in 2007 we will have brand new radios. We do not have information at this time that we expect that the radios will go up in price and the money is in the fund balance and if we keep in the back of our minds that we have the need for these radios we can make sure that that money remains in the fund balance. It seems to Mr. Steiner it would be better to keep the money in the fund balance earning interest rather than having radios get older unnecessarily. Mr. Steiner feels it would be better to keep the money in the fund balance and spend it in 2007 when we need the radios.

Crystal Kennedy asked for clarification of what the need is currently for new radios. George Vakalis responded that we currently do have a need for new radios and we a need to replace some of the existing radios. As a result of a Federal grant we will receive 50 radios of the new type. The \$1.25 million seemed like a lot of money and to phase it over a length of time seemed more palatable. We may have a bigger need for the fund balance at a later time and may not get the radios when the time comes. We do need the radios. Crystal Kennedy asked if the 50 radios that we will receive through the grant would replace the most needed radios at this time. Mr. Vakalis replied that it would.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Kennedy, Friedman,
Steiner, Roberts

Nays: Metcalfe, Marks,
Steele

AMENDMENT PASSED

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

Ayes: Kennedy, Friedman,
Steiner, Roberts

Nays: Metcalfe, Marks,
Steele
MAIN MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #289 – Family Partnership School Charter Changes

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the proposed revisions to the Family Partnership Charter School Charter.

ACTION:

Moved by: Mary Marks to approve ASD Memorandum #289.
seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

Ben Brown stated that he became involved with this issue in mid May when he heard that the principal would not be returning. Mr. Brown investigated and found out that the APC does indeed have the authority to legally do this but he questioned whether or not parents had been notified appropriately of this change. Mr. Brown did not find anything in the newsletters up until June about the proposed Charter changes. The speaker also had concern about the executive meetings and thought perhaps things were being done during the executive meetings. The APC agreed to give them 17 days to get the information out to the parents. Thirty-five people voted to disagree with the findings and thirty agreed. Another six or so said they did not have enough information. They were told they were not enough of an example of the school to make a difference. Mr. Brown added that since only 30 people agreed with them that they did not have enough of an example to make a difference as well.

Valerie Burgess asked the Board to not approve the changes. The speaker views the changes as a political view that the majority of their school does not adhere to. Forty-nine percent voted against the change, 8 percent felt they did not have enough information for a total of 57 percent not being ready for the charter change being requested. The speaker believes the school has not earned the movement away from the accountability to the District that the APC desires, which is a huge part of their reasoning for wanting a non Type B chief administrator to run the school. Of high concern to those for and against the charter changes is the APC's chairperson's application for the recently vacated chief administrator position. The speaker requested an amendment to the charter stating that any committee person who helps redesign or create a job position would not be allowed to apply for that position for a period of four years. The APC did not want to delay the charter changes for this request. The speaker then went to the school district to see a complete list of the

applicants. The speaker found out that many of the applications had gone directly to the APC's personal post office box. The speaker was told this was highly irregular. The speaker is concerned that no Type A or Type B personnel would be available for parents and sponsored teachers in the office throughout the day. Plans have been announced to not have an academic facilitator in the office. This person currently oversees the work of sponsored teachers and learning plans of the students. Without this Type A person in the office and with no requirement for a Type B person we could reasonably have no Alaska certified educators in the school office. A third issue involves no longer allowing parents who are also teachers chair the APC board. The speaker feels teachers in our schools see themselves as parents first and should have the right to participate in the school uninhibited. The speaker feels this is a political move away from the attachments to ASD. The speaker summarized the major charter changes as movements away from the high educational standards that most parents would hope would be emanated from the top down.

Clotilde Brown learned about the principal losing his job while searching the school web site. The speaker was told the APC was going to have a meeting. Ms. Brown went to the meeting and asked why he would not be there and she received a vague answer. Ms. Brown stated that she worries that the things that are happening are concerning. One of the members is applying for the position of chief administrator and the speaker feels that qualifications are being lowered so she personally can qualify for the position. The speaker urges the Board to disband the committee as she cannot trust the way they handle things in the school. Ms. Brown thinks all changes should be rejected and feels these changes would not benefit the children or teachers in the school.

Happy Chronister, a teacher at Family Partnership stated that she attends the APC meetings. Ms. Chronister stated that usually the principal, Connie Bensler and Carla Buys are the only non APC members that attend. Most of the parents are content to have the APC make the decisions and they have left it to her to sound the alarm if she sees anything that affects them adversely. Ms. Chronister agrees the APC should have done more to notify parents of the changes. The speaker supports the change to the charter that allows the APC to hire a person without a Type B certificate. The speaker does not see this as lowering the standard. She views it as a positive move and one that broadens the pool of applicants. The speaker believes there are many qualified individuals who would make excellent administrators for their school who do not have a Type B certificate. They need someone who embraces the parent directed philosophy, excellent people skills, and an understanding of

finances. The speaker urges the Board to support this charter change so they can consider a broader range of applicants in years to come for the position of their chief administrator.

Ashleigh Atkinson has been a student of Family Partnership for seven years and is in favor of the changes. Their school is all about choices. They want the best person for the job whether they have a Type B certificate or not. The speaker feels it is better to have too many applicants than not enough.

Macon Roberts asked Happy Chronister how accessible are computers to the parents. The speaker stated that she knows of two families who do not use the website. They have the access to the website if they wanted to look at it. Ms. Chronister supports the changes except for one, which would allow the teacher member to chair the APC. Jake Metcalfe asked if there was an e-mail or letter sent out about the changes. Ms. Chronister stated that there was no letter or e-mail sent.

John Steiner asked what information was given when the survey was sent to the 400 people. Did it include just the changes; were they summarized; were the implications mentioned? Ashleigh Atkinson replied that they sent out a cover letter explaining it and it included both sides. The charter changes were available in the office and online. They were summarized.

Carla Buys stated that she will be the student representative on the 31st. Ms. Buys attends the meetings. Ms. Buys stated that all information regarding changes was made public. The speaker feels the charter changes will improve the school.

Katie Weidemaier, a teacher/sponsor for Family Partnership stated that she is concerned about the changes and does not agree with them. The speaker is also concerned about notification of the changes. Her families don't always use their computers, especially during the month of June when they leave to do their field trips, science studies, etc. Ms. Weidemaier is concerned about the academic facilitator position as well as the administrative position. Every teacher is required to meet mandates put forth by NCLB. Eliminating the Type B certificate weakens them in this area with NCLB. Having a Type B certificated administrator is crucial for the partnership with ASD and the rest of the school district. The speaker is concerned that someone who is doing her evaluation may not have a background that is crucial in looking at the ability of a teacher to do his/her job.

Macon Roberts stated to the speaker that she answered the question of which position would be more conducive to the mission of the school. The principal would be more conducive to the mission of the school in light of the goals of the school and in light of the NCLB. The speaker confirmed that and stated it is crucial that if she is having difficulty with a parent that she has someone to back her up. She cannot guarantee that a person without the experience of a Type B certificate administrator would know how to handle that situation if it would arise.

Mary Marks asked who is responsible for putting information on the website. The speaker replied that the office staff webmaster is responsible. Ms. Marks asked how soon the information is put on the website. The speaker responded that she believes it is within a few days.

John Steiner asked for an explanation of the role of the academic facilitator. Katie Weidemaier explained that it is the person who works very closely with the sponsor teachers and oversees the parents' working plans. This person is crucial because she/he allows the teacher to say to the parent what is required. Every student is required to have an ILP that will demonstrate that they have learned what they said they will learn and can show that they have done that through assessment. The principal in the past has worn both hats. In the last two years the academic facilitator has taken that responsibility off of the principal's shoulders so they could specifically look at what each child is learning and whether or not they are making progress.

Carol Comeau stated that two years ago there were a number of problems with this charter school and their lack of accountability with students in private school using it to get extracurricular non academic credit. At that time the charter was changed and they made that commitment to hire someone to work with the teachers and parents to ensure that the standards were met. Ms. Comeau has great concern personally about the loss of their decision as an APC to eliminate the academic facilitator position. It was a position added specifically to deal with serious issues brought before the Board in the past.

John Steiner asked the speaker if she believes the academic facilitator needs to have a Type A or B certificate or could the person be non certificated. Ms. Weidemaier replied that she believes that position needs to be held by someone who holds a Type A or B certificate.

Cliff Reagle is a former member of the Seward Site Based Council. Mr. Reagle stated that with regards to these current issues he is disappointed

with the current circumstances of the APC. Mr. Reagle was not able to find or access the information on the website. The speaker is opposed to the changes not allowing a teacher on the committee, opposed to the non-certificated person being able to apply and opposed to dismissing the current principal. The speaker stated that he feels the principal was not informed that he was not doing the job that he should have been and it was the APC member's responsibility to inform him of the expectations that are needed. Mr. Reagle asked the Board to not accept the changes or at least amend the changes to say that a board member cannot apply for a position at the charter school for the next two years. The speaker would also like to see the current principal be given a chance to stay and meet the committee's expectations. He would not be able to accomplish this unless he is given a clear directive from the committee. It is only fair and the speaker believes we would all like to be given the same opportunity if we were in his shoes.

John Steiner asked the speaker if it could be problematic if the chief administrator who holds a Type B certificate is evaluating the teacher and the teacher is the chair of the APC. The speaker agreed that it could be problematic.

Carol Comeau stated that this charter school has many strong qualities and she has supported it many times on various issues. Ms. Comeau is very troubled by this latest turn of events. Ms. Comeau asked the Board to refer to Attachment B, Document 2: Qualifications for Administrator. The state law does not require charter schools to have a Type B certificated principal as a member of their staff but it does require that all teaching staff be evaluated by a Type B certificated person - either someone that has been contracted by the APC, if there is no hired principal with a Type B certificate, or they have the central administration do it. Ms. Comeau further stated that our district has required the charter schools to contract with someone, or Ms. Comeau herself did a number of principal evaluations in her former position because she retains a Type B certificate. The concern Ms. Comeau has with this Document 2 is that this was prepared by the current chair, Pat Shelton. Ms. Comeau was notified on June 23 that Ms. Shelton had contacted Connie Bensler and Jan Christensen that she had applied for the position of the chief administrator but had asked Ms. Posey on the APC to hold the application until she could talk to one of them. Ms. Comeau stated that she finds this very irregular. When someone who is the chair of the Academic Policy Committee writes a document in April that lists the qualifications and is the chair of the committee that brings forth charter changes and then applies for the position is unheard of in hiring practices. This is not the

way we hire administrators in the Anchorage School District. All job descriptions need to be approved by the HR department. All applications are supposed to be sent in to the HR office. They are supposed to go through a very fair methodical hiring process. It does not have an appearance of an ethical way of hiring someone, especially not in light of the testimony tonight. In reviewing the minutes of the APC meetings while reviewing the Annual Report, Ms. Comeau noticed the dismissal of the current principal was accomplished, and that is the right of the APC to hire and terminate the principal. This was happening around the same time as the new job description was being written and it now turns out to be that an applicant for the position was part of the termination activities of the current principal. Ms. Comeau feels this is not a fair and equitable way to treat anyone. Ms. Comeau would not disagree with some kind of a proposed amendment to these if they want the latitude to hire someone with or without a Type B certificate. Ms. Comeau is not nearly concerned about that one thing if there was some caveat that would say that it would preclude someone who is currently on the APC from being able to be basically get themselves hired. As Ms. Comeau said earlier, when they worked through the charter changes earlier and the APC committed to staffing an academic facilitator it was someone with specific academic expertise who could work with the teachers and sit down with the parents and ensure that their contracts were aligned with State Performance Standards, that students were being monitored to take the tests and making academic progress. Ms. Comeau believes someone with an educational background will take this more seriously than someone without one. Without the academic facilitator or the Type B position they are left without anyone with a strong educational background and knowledge of academic standards accountability, assessment and holding the parents accountable for the use of public funds in the State of Alaska. Ms. Comeau can respect the change of not allowing a parent who is a teacher be the chair of the APC, but Ms. Comeau does not think it is appropriate for a voting student to be on the committee when it involves a personnel issue.

Jeff Friedman asked if this school is different and should have a Type B principal where others should not necessarily have one. Carol Comeau replied that she does not have a problem philosophically with charter schools that do not have a Type B certificated principal as long as there is someone on staff who is going to monitor the instructional and accountability issues. If there is not a principal Ms. Bensler and Ms. Christensen will need to spend time monitoring the instructional issues. There has to be someone on the staff full time that will monitor the instructional issues.

John Steiner asked if, in Ms. Comeau's view, having a Type B certificate is a good indicator of a person's qualifications to perform the functions Ms. Comeau was just discussing. Ms. Comeau stated absolutely because they have to have taught a minimum of three years and complete course work in school law and finance, etc. This school has a strong business manager. It seems they are looking too much on the business side and not enough on the instructional side, which is what charter schools are all about - approaching instructional excellence through different methods. Mr. Steiner asked if this charter school is required to meet all the NCLB requirements of any other school. Ms. Comeau replied that they are required to meet all NCLB requirements.

John Steiner asked that as the arrangement is with the charter school and the APC, if there is not a Type B requirement, is there any other role that the District has to influence the selection of a chief administrator for the concerns described, or does the District have to accept whoever they choose, whether or not they put a priority on that? Ms. Comeau answered that they have to follow personnel procedures and can hire no one that is not on the eligible for hire list for the position. The Board policy and state law clearly allows the APC to hire the chief school administrator.

Macon Roberts asked Ms. Comeau if she finds it rather alarming that a teacher who sits on the APC has the ability to choose a vote for or against the principal who is evaluating him/her? Ms. Comeau replied that it is awkward, but no, because that is the nature of charter schools. The APC must have certificated and non certificated staff representatives and students and parents or community members. Ms. Comeau is hopeful that people on the APC are ethical and give due process and treat all people fairly before a decision is made.

John Steiner stated to Ms. Comeau that the actual memo states a recommendation from the Administration to approve the revisions and she has stated that she finds it troubling and irregular for a current member or chair of the APC to be eligible potentially, as the chief school administrator. There was no prohibition in the existing charter school charter that would preclude that and nothing is proposed that would change it. The only change that would cause that to be true would be the change in the Type B certificate. Mr. Steiner asked Ms. Comeau if she would recommend that the Board reject the Type B certificate elimination or take other action that would address the concern she has mentioned. Ms. Comeau replied that Village Charter School does not have someone on staff with a Type B certificate, so to be consistent, our policy is

consistent with statute, which does not require someone on staff with a Type B certificate. The reason Ms. Comeau signed the memo the way it was, is because technically the Type B certificate is not the issue. After reading the minutes, looking at the email and meeting with various people, Ms. Comeau believes an amendment should be made that would preclude someone currently on the APC from applying for the chief administrator position for a length of time. Ms. Comeau suggested passing everything else and turning this one section back to the APC and sit down with them and see if there could be a compromise. Ms. Comeau stated that she can recommend moving everything forward but she has a real concern with the Type B certification issue with the open hiring policy that is happening right now and the procedures that are currently undergoing.

Mr. Steele commented that his perception is that the Board is either better off returning it or approving it unless they are prepared to make changes to all of the sections that refer to certain things.

Jake Metcalfe stated that he feels there is more people supporting it not go forward than going forward. This makes Mr. Metcalfe difficult to approve the recommendation. Mr. Metcalfe asked the Superintendent if it would be advantageous to send it back and is there any time issue that would make it necessary to do this right away. Ms. Comeau replied that she thinks the Type B certificated issue needs to go back and there is a problem with time. They have given Dr. Tatum notice that he will not be returning and they are without a school principal. School for them starts on July 1 because they are on a year-round calendar. The bigger problem is the procedural problem. Ms. Comeau has no problem with the charter changes other than the one section.

Mary Marks commented that she would like to send this back to the APC for them to get further dialogue from the families. The Board has heard from the different testimonies that it was not enough information and it was not very easy to find information regarding what happened at the meetings. There are still a lot of mixed emotions in regards to the charter changes. Ms. Marks is still hearing a lot of frustrations in regards to the charter school and feels it needs to be further reviewed. Ms. Marks is not in favor of the recommendation at this point.

Jeff Friedman stated that this is difficult because he believes the role as a School Board member is not to second-guess the APC. The whole notion of a charter school is the APC makes this sort of decision and unless it is really off track they need to work with their parents to make sure they

have the support to go forward with policy changes like this and sometimes they need to make decisions that not all parents agree with. On the other side of the coin Mr. Friedman sees this is splitting the school in half and it could be a bad time for this school. Mr. Friedman does not support going through and making changes but would support sending it back to make sure the families' voices are heard.

Mr. Metcalfe asked Ms. Comeau to confirm that if the recommendation was sent back the policies that are in place will remain in affect and the school could go ahead and hire a principal with a Type B certificate. Ms. Comeau stated that that is correct. It could be an interim appointment that would not bind them contractually.

Tim Steele commented that it disturbs him significantly that it appears as though folks are not informed and there might be some significant disagreement or divisions in the community. We've seen in responses to the survey that there are some serious divisions. Mr. Steele stated that his concern is academic excellence. If there is no academic facilitator and no certificated principal, Mr. Steele has a serious concern about how these parents will get the support when they need it to make the academic excellence that they all want for their children. Mr. Steele does not want to send this forward knowing that there is a serious problem that is going to develop.

John Steiner stated that in his view, this school needs to have a Type B certificated person. Even though it is not required by state law to have a Type B certificated person for a charter school generally, a home school charter school is the least "like a school" school that one could possibly have. The Type B certificated person winds up being, like it or not, the bottom line requirement to ensure that something that is so "un-school like" still maintains the attributes of a school sufficient to satisfy both our requirements as the District, and state law, federal NCLB, to keep it together as a school. There have been some references to the existing chair who has attended policy committee meetings, very bright, very articulate, helpful and knowledgeable. Mr. Steiner has no concerns theoretically about that person despite what may be a little bit of a seemingly irregular process. But, for this particular school, Mr. Steiner's sense is that a Type B really may make the difference. Mr. Steiner does not feel the Board needs to make it a mandate that all charter schools must have a Type B certificated person, but he has a sense that a home-school charter school should have that requirement. Mr. Steiner suggested removing the deletion in 7.5.1 and not approving the change striking the phrase "must hold a Type B certificate."

The Board took a brief recess from 8:45 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.

Ms. Cassandra Posey, Vice Chair of APC expressed her concerns regarding some of the things heard tonight. The APC as a board has not sent any information to their administrator or business manager to cut the position of academic facilitator from the school. They have discussed how to redesign it because their enrollment was not at 500 people as before. They also wanted to redesign the position so that the administrator had more contact with the parents and also took on part of that position as was stated in the charter. They asked their web master to compile information regarding the charter changes on the web site. The process that they used is the same one they have used for all charter changes and information being disseminated to families that go out for a 30-day comment period. From the comments from family members that came to them this time they decided to discuss if there was a way to accumulate on the web policies that have passed the comment period and illuminate the ones that are currently up without causing confusion. They added e-mail to the method of charter changes and what is going on. A few comments came in both pro and con. There were some that felt that in lowering the Type B it would lower the standards of the school. They explained that the group created the qualifications from a form that was used to evaluate the administrator. They looked at the attributes and characteristics they felt would be useful for their school and they created the form that required teaching experience, financial experience and a background with nonprofits and a minimum of a Masters Degree. The committee wanted to look at a larger pool of applicants that had additional qualifications. Some applications were mailed to their post office box and some to the ASD administration building. They ask for things that the district does not typically ask for when teachers put together their packets. They ask for a particular cover letter, an example of financial reporting, to demonstrate whether or not they have ever been a member of a nonprofit board before, and an essay on different teaching practices. There were a number of people that sent that information to their post office box and some to the school district office. It was suggested that Ms. Shelton apply for the position because some people were afraid that they would not get applicants who were qualified for the position. The committee did choose three applicants, including one out of state without a Type B. The committee narrowed it down to two that have Type B certificates. The interview committee agreed that Pat Shelton did not have to interview for the position. The speaker stated that they are also concerned about the school staying together and having a good academic commitment to standards and in their home based model they believe their commitment

must begin at home and that the connection in their school is between an ASD teacher, a parent and a student. That strong bond and commitment has brought about some excellent test scores, responsible behavior in the community as volunteering, and also national awards. They do have students with IEPs and special needs and although they are doing what is required within their IEP, their IEP requirements are not at the level that is required for the testing to be accomplished. They will continue to work with them and set goals within their IEP to move forward but it is not likely that they will raise them all to the level expected. Ms. Posey added that they expect at some point at the National level there may be some discussion about children with special needs who are doing their best but not performing on those tests. The speaker stated that they were really happy that they were up to 91 percent in performance this year.

Jake Metcalfe asked the speaker how many meetings they have held since June 8 and whether or not people testified and what kind of notice was given regarding the next meeting. Ms. Posey stated that they met on June 25 to give the report to the APC. The speakers at tonight's meeting also testified at the June 25 meeting except for Ms. Weidemaier. A notice was mailed to the families and it was also posted on the web.

Mary Marks asked how the applications were received for the chief administrator position. Ms. Posey replied that the applications came to their post office box and the school district administration building address.

Macon Roberts asked if the academic facilitator position has been terminated. The speaker stated that there was no decision to eliminate the position - they wanted the administrator position redesigned so it is more of a part of the registration process.

John Steiner asked if Pat Shelton's application is no longer a consideration. Ms. Posey stated that that application is no longer a consideration. Mr. Steiner asked the speaker that if the Board decided to not approve the elimination of the sentence "must hold a Type b certificate" would that cause a significant problem for the charter school. The speaker stated that she feels it does because she believes in the APC and its ability to choose the best candidate. Ms. Posey would be disappointed and still believes that it is the best option for a charter school and does not see that they would be willing to not have someone on staff to do what's needed for the families and the students.

Tim Steele asked if the five e-mails specified what the changes were. Ms. Posey explained that they talked about the additional 30-day proposed charter changes and the location of the changes in the office.

Mr. Steele commented that the job description for the chief administrator did have requirements of working with the parents in terms of academic aspects. That job description might be a little difficult to hold them to if they do not have a strong academic background. The speaker replied that those they interviewed have strong academic backgrounds as well as financial and legal information and they were willing to get the Type B certification to add to that cadre of experience.

Mr. Steele stated that he is concerned about NCLB and asked how the changes to the administrative position will help the adequate yearly progress. The speaker stated that it would not be a detriment to it. The commitment is in the home and between the teachers. They had their staff call them and remind them of the commitment. This year the testing date changed and caused some confusion. They will continue to do all they can to encourage them to make their testing commitment.

Jake Metcalfe stated to the speaker that the survey results show more opposed the changes and asked the speaker if the APC would benefit from this being sent back. Ms. Posey replied that she has the list of comments from the families that object to the position being changed. She saw their concerns were addressed in the changes that were proposed. They were concerned that there had been a conspiracy to take the job from the current administrator and give it to someone on the board. The speaker stated that there were people who voted against it because they thought the academic facilitator position was also being eliminated and that anyone could apply for the chief administrative position.

Carol Comeau stated that in the future, as of today, all personnel issues need to go through the HR department. No one should be sending their applications to the school's post office box. Ms. Comeau stated that she cannot find the definition for the academic facilitator. It is not clearly standing out in the documents about the commitment. There is a concern for home-school charter schools that there be a significant statement for academic excellence. Part of that is that there be someone, the principal and or an academic facilitator, that can help parents K-12 identify young people's needs. That does take experience and does not in any way denigrate and diminish the role of the parent. Many of the parents are very successful but a few are not. The position's role was to help parents learn how to develop a standards-based high quality ILP -this was the

commitment of the committee and the role of the academic facilitator. Discussion of downsizing or eliminating the academic facilitator position and then moving to eliminate the Type B certificate sends the wrong message that they do not hold the academics to a high enough level as the business aspects. Ms. Comeau feels it is important that they spend time to clearly understand what is required for their school and so that the APC knows what the expectations are at the Board level and administrative level. Ms. Comeau reminded the speaker that a couple years ago it was agreed that if the parent refused to do the testing in their school they would not be allowed to re-enroll. Those parents should not be allowed to re-enroll. That was a commitment made publicly two years ago. Ms. Comeau recommends that the Administration spend some time meeting with the APC so that it is all clear when this comes back to the Board.

Jake Metcalfe moved to postpone this memorandum with instructions to the APC to review the proposed revisions to the Family Partnership Charter School Charter and meet with the District administration based on the concerns addressed by the Board tonight and to report back to the Board the first meeting in September. Crystal Kennedy seconded the motion.

MOTION TO POSTPONE:

Moved by: Jake Metcalfe
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

to postpone this memorandum with instructions to the APC to review the proposed revisions to the Family Partnership Charter School Charter and meet with the District administration based on the concerns addressed by the Board tonight and to report back to the Board the first meeting in September.

Jake Metcalfe stated that he made his motion because he has serious problems with the committees process. There was a vote and the vote is being ignored. There was a majority of the parents who did not want these changes to take place. There is a lot of debate whether the school supports or opposes the Type B certificate. Mr. Metcalfe thinks the school needs to try to inform everyone there how the changes are going to effect how the school is run. Mr. Metcalfe stated that he can't support it and would like more information.

Jeff Friedman stated that a lot of inter-related issues have been raised tonight and he agrees with Mr. Metcalfe. Rather than opposing on the school the charter school needs to go back and make these decisions. Normally the APC makes the decision and brings it to the Board for approval but it does come to the Board and they do have the responsibility to make sure changes aren't being made that aren't reasonably supported by the school. This is one of those exceptions where it is appropriate for us not to go forward with it and give it some time for community discussion.

John Steiner stated that he does not find the process to be that troubling but does understand the concerns. Mr. Steiner will vote not to postpone and suggested to eliminate the change having to do with the Type B certificate and then perhaps allow the committee in the future to talk to the Administration about whether it would be appropriate to have something along the lines of an agreement with the Superintendent that the chief administrator could obtain a Type B certificate within six months of being hired or something similar to that.

Carol Comeau stated that she believes the postponement would be a benefit because she would like to make sure the statement regarding testing participation is there. Ms. Comeau has more concerns and a postponement would be valuable. It is important to look at it and have the discussions. Ms. Comeau also wants to be sure that the parents get the information.

Macon Roberts agreed that a postponement would be to the benefit of the school. This discussion pointed out that there are some issues that need to be cleared up within the school.

Mary Marks stated that she would support the postponement and thinks this should be brought back to the families so that their voices can be heard. Ms. Marks would also like to see the feedback from the Administration when it comes back to the Board in September.

Tim Steele commented that it is not the Board's position to dominate over the charter school but it is to view concerns. Mr. Steele's concern is the perception that the APC is less representative of its membership. Mr. Steele is also concerned with the academic expertise as well as with the participation in the testing. These are real concerns about the future performance of the school and Mr. Steele hopes that they try to find solutions to those concerns. They are big concerns that go directly to the mission of the school.

VOTE ON POSTPONEMENT:

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

Nays: None

VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED

Ms. Posey asked if the APC is to continue their dialogue or wait to talk with the Administration before they start the dialogue again. Ms. Comeau stated that she believes that they will get the notes from the meeting tonight and will identify the core issues that need to be addressed. They will need to set up a meeting fairly soon and talk about what needs to happen. Carol Comeau announced that she will have a general parent meeting before the Board meeting in September.

G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #340 - Operating Budget Transfers - May Monthly Report FY 2003-2004

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of May 2004 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000 – Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000, which includes summarized justifications.

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of May 2004 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

ASD Memorandum #349 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: May 31, 2004

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. The Treasurer's report and Financial Recap are year-to-date information as of May 31, 2004.

ASD Memorandum #347 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of May 28, 2004 through June 18, 2004.

ASD Memorandum #348 - End-of-Year Membership Summary for FY 2003-2004

The total active enrollment at the end of the 2003-04 school year was 48,357. This enrollment represents a decrease of 1,306 students when compared to September 30, 2003. Table 1 compares the beginning and ending membership totals for the year. For the same time period for the 2002-03 school year, membership declined by 1,387.

ASD Memorandum #350 - Facility Change Order and Completed Projects For the Month of May 2004

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

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.

Carol Comeau stated that this is the end of the first year of this charter school and it is an extremely successful first year. There has been an excellent working relationship with Connie Bensler and the APC. Frontier attained a 96 percent participation rate in testing. This is very significant for a school in some ways very much like the one discussed earlier, but right up front from the beginning there has been an effort to make sure the parents knew what the rules were. Their academic facilitator was very influential in getting that moving.

Narda Butler, Chairperson of the APC, stated that they were very pleased with the first year of their charter school. Ms. Butler appreciates the staff and their willingness to work and commitment to their vision and mission to helping them make the school successful. One of the highlights was the creation of learning profiles offered to each student for parents to be able to then choose curriculum with the academic advisor who is full time at the school. They can then tailor the curriculum so they can be successful. They are planning to move towards a Standards based evaluation so that they know that they are not just acquiring grades but they are actually being able to demonstrate the Standards as they learn them. The Standards are made available through website so parents can check them off as they are learned.

Carol Comeau asked what strategies were developed to get parents to come in for testing. Ms. Butler stated that a parent meeting is required for enrollment and it is strongly stressed that you bring your student in for testing or you cannot re-enroll the following year. Then they did whatever they could to track them down. Ms. Comeau commented that she was impressed with that strong participation and asked if their re-enrollment was stable for next year. Narda Butler stated that they would like to increase to 250 students.

Connie Bensler commented that having one academic facilitator cuts down on the ILPs that have inappropriate items in them and she would like to see this happening elsewhere.

John Steiner commented that he was the School Board Representative at both Family and Frontier graduations. Mr. Steiner appreciated the Standards based check-off list to help to determine graduation.

ASD Memorandum #318 – Annual Review/End of the Year Report for FY 2003-2004 Highland Tech High 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.

Carol Comeau commented that this school has had its challenges but has a strong Standards based model. It has had a number of special education issues to work through. They have a very innovated model that is a Standards based approach to both assessment and placement. It is challenging to parents to learn a Standards based model. It will take a while to get there but they have made it through their first year. It is so new and they have learned a lot. They have had tremendous support from the Gates Foundation and the Chugach School District and their business partners. The special education population is large and posed some significant challenges to their limited staffing and they are going to continue to work on it.

Cindy Stiegele introduced Rebecca Middleson, one of the lead teachers, assists teachers in learning the model. Ms. Steigle stated that the students have enjoyed the school. Now that they understand the model they will challenge the teachers. They will add 11th grade and will move up to 17 teachers plus a special education teacher and TA. Having a

stronger instructional base will be beneficial. Four individuals that are non instruction will be involved in instructional issues as well, and they will also be writing some grants. They will be bumping up stakeholder meetings, workshops, and training parents on report card methodologies. They had six parent conferences. Ms. Stiegele stated that they found those most successful are the ones that are bright but maybe failed in traditional schools because of boredom.

Carol Comeau commented that on Page 6, while we do have an open enrollment policy it's difficult for parents, teachers to really understand what the school is all about. Ms. Comeau appreciated the statement: "All of these concerns are being reviewed and being addressed our strategic planning sessions. Rather than changing our school to become all things for all people, we believe we need to focus on the strengths of our program and effectively communicate that in our message to the public." The parents need to understand the differences.

Carol Comeau asked if the academic policy slots have been filled. Ms. Stiegele replied that they will be filling them. Some moved or changed jobs. They have others who want to participate. They will do some strategic planning workshops to include them in.

Mary Marks commented that her son participated in the interim studies in order to either brush up on some academics or move ahead. He has thoroughly enjoyed Highland Tech. The partnerships have grown tremendously. Ms. Marks enjoyed the dress code and felt it was very important for a 7th grader to be dressed for work.

Jeff Friedman stated that he was impressed with the effort and work the school went through to address the issues. Mr. Friedman asked if parents and teachers were on the APC. Cindy Stiegele replied that they do. They have a student representative and will have more parents on the board in the future.

John Steiner asked if it is only at the high school level that teachers will be required to have a Bachelors Degree in the content area and middle school teachers will be able to provide an array or will this need to be done at the middle school level as well. Gail Opalinski stated that they will have to meet the requirements for being highly qualified in those core areas.

Connie Bensler commented that they need more parents/staff members on the APC. Ms. Bensler also expressed her concern and worry about the promissory note. Ms. Stiegele replied that it is worked into the budget on

a monthly payment and they have begun communications with the National Cooperative Bank and are looking at a refinance for the promissory note. It went from an 8% to 15 % when not able to secure the co-signment of the district on the note. They finished the year with money left in the bank. They have begun communications with the National Cooperative Bank for securing the note refinance and we are talking with the owners about establishing a way to purchase that part of the mall. The payments would be lower. They do have their new partnership with New Tech High and it has provided them with \$100,000 for this year and \$100,000 for next year. Ms. Stiegele added that they received notification from State of Alaska that they will have another \$75,000 in their implementation grant.

Mr. Steele thanked the speakers for doing a wonderful job.

- H. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
- I. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS
- J. EXECUTIVE SESSION-
(PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)
- K. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of June 28, 2004, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:55 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Jeff Friedman, Clerk

Robin Siegfried, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved