

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2004

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, September 13, 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, John Steiner, and Macon Roberts

Board Members Excused: Jake Metcalfe

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

Crystal Kennedy announced that she attended the AASB Fall Boardsmanship meeting that was held in Anchorage on September 11-12 along with Macon Roberts. She mentioned that one of the sessions dealt with the new state assessments and information regarding this topic is on their web site.

Ms. Kennedy noted that the School Board Legislative Subcommittee is planning two candidate forums on October 4 and 5 at Clark Middle School and Dimond High School respectively from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. More information will be forthcoming.

Mary Marks welcomed the new kindergarten students to the District and noted that this is the second week of school but the first day for our new kindergarten students. Ms. Marks stated that she attended a School Business Partnership luncheon on September 7 and is excited about the redirection that is taking place.

Ms. Marks announced that the four School Board members who attended the Broad Institute in July 2004 met on September 8 to discuss their report that will be presented to the remaining School Board members on September 16.

Ms. Marks stated that she would like to discuss term limits with the rest of the School Board at some future time. She would also like to speak with the Assembly on this topic. Ms. Marks feels that nine years is not enough time to serve on the School Board and hinders participation at the state and national level.

Tim Steele reminded the Board about the Joint School Board/Assembly Work Session scheduled for September 17 from 10 am to 12 p.m

Carol Comeau reported that we had a terrific start to our new school year and thanked the principals and teachers for a good start. She also noted that staffing has been a struggle, but once projections are met, principals can complete their staffing assignments

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

John Steiner noted that the a new attachment to ASD Memorandum #47 – Alaska Association of School Boards Core Resolutions has been added; the changes to the resolution are now noted in color. Attachment B to ASD Memorandum #38 - Award of Contract: Mitsubishi Projectors and Replacement Bulbs and ASD Memorandum #34 – First Week of School Enrollment Update have been added to the packet. John Steiner moved and Jeff Friedman seconded the motion to approve the agenda. It was unanimously approved.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #37 - Wright Group Excellence in Education Award

Recently, Wright Group/McGraw-Hill honored the Anchorage School District, along with five other school districts in the nation, with its annual Excellence in Education Award. This award was presented to Sandy Schoff, Director of Mathematics, during the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics' annual conference in Philadelphia.

The Anchorage School District was the only major urban district in the United States that outperformed its state averages in both reading and math in all grades tested. It was noted that the district achieved impressive math scores using *Everyday Mathematics*. In 2003, 75% of the district's Grade 3 students scored in the advanced and proficient ranges. In Grade 6, almost 68% performed with similar success.

It is requested the School Board recognize the Anchorage School District's Mathematics Department for its dedication and commitment to teaching

children to understand mathematics and for its successful implementation of *Everyday Mathematics*.

2. ASD Memorandum #41 – Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year

The Wal-Mart State Teacher of the Year honors the creativity and dedication of America’s teachers. Each year Wal-Mart stores nationwide recognize one outstanding teacher to represent each state.

Winners are awarded a \$10,000 education grant from Wal-Mart made payable to the teacher’s school to be used at the discretion of the teacher. In addition to the grant, the teachers also receive a Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year jacket, which symbolizes the teacher’s commitment to serving his or her students.

This year’s Wal-Mart State Teacher of the Year winner is Lucy Thisius, a second-grade teacher at Chugiak Elementary School. Ms. Thisius was selected because of her contributions to education and the positive impact she has on her students.

Ms. Thisius’ name has been entered into the national Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year contest; with a winner to be announced in October.

It is requested that the School Board recognize this outstanding teacher from Chugiak Elementary as Wal-Mart’s State Teacher of the Year.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

Student representative Loretta Nabong offered congratulations to South Anchorage High School for opening this year. He commented that the school year has started off very well. The Student Advisory Board will be meeting very soon and he will inform the administration and School Board of the scheduled meeting dates.

2. Military Delegate

LTC David Jones was absent.

3. MECC

William Johnson gave his end-of-the-year report. He noted that the MECC has had a very successful and productive work session during this past reporting period. Their means of measurement included: a) 30 percent increase in membership, the group stayed together and was functional; b) the quality and variety of committee members were a cross section of the community; c) they followed their mission statement and accomplished their goals; d) they maintained a strong group decorum and democratic debates during meetings; e) they maintained a 70 percent quorum-rate during the year; f) had excellent sub-committee work topics and attained good results; g) received positive feedback from ASD internal communities; h) increased visibility with community outreach opportunities; i) received outstanding support and access to information from District staff; j) received support and faith in Committee's direction and decision making from the School Board; and k) received feedback from the minority community.

Mr. Johnson provided sub-committee reports on monitoring, curriculum and outreach as well as copies of meeting agendas and meeting minutes. This provided a detailed look at issues, discussion points and recommendations.

Mr. Johnson reported that the MECC will continue to learn and improve as a unit. They will continue to find ways to inform and engage all of their constituents (School Board members, parents and students, ASD administration and staff, and the community at-large) on issues affecting the students in the District.

Mr. Johnson noted that the curriculum sub-committee appreciated the opportunity to review two Anchorage School District courses: Alaska Studies and Essentials of Anatomy and Physiology.

The proposed monitoring sub-committee goals for 2004-2005 include an investigation as to whether or not minority students are being treated fairly/unfairly relative to Anchorage School District responses/reactions to behavioral problems. They hope this will be accomplished by being familiar with District discipline policies, reviewing due process procedures, analyzing statistical reports, contacting appropriate school district staff, and any other means deemed necessary to gather information to make the determination.

The ideas/challenges for 2004-2005 for the outreach sub-committee include the following: a) include notices of all 2004-2005 MECC meetings in the school newsletters and parent packets/student folders; b) include meeting dates on the MECC web site and in an Anchorage Daily News advertisement if one is needed for new members next year; c) translate the flyer in five languages and ensure that schools include the flyer in their newsletters at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year; d) prepare Compass articles or letters to the editor from the MECC as a group on educational issues of concern to the minority community, i.e., the impact of budget cuts and support for community schools; e) ensure bios/photos for all members on the web site are complete; f) include ads in newspapers/other publications that serve minority communities at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year; and g) review the goals in their mission statement and include any recommended changes.

Mr. Johnson noted that MECC meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month, Room 320/Administration Building at 12 noon.

Jeff Friedman asked Mr. Johnson to tell the audience how they can get in touch with a member of the MECC. Mr. Johnson responded that MECC is part of the ASD web site which contains addresses and contact information for members as well as membership information.

Mary Marks thanked Mr. Johnson and members of the MECC. She commented that it is a hard task and often challenging to get the members together and out in the field. Ms. Marks commended him and the committee for their dedication and devotion to the administration and students.

John Steiner echoed the sentiments of what has been stated and commented that he appreciated the detailed report Mr. Johnson provided.

Tim Steele also appreciated the previous comments and congratulated Mr. Johnson on his election to a second term as chair of the MECC.

Carol Comeau stated that this end-of-the-report will be placed on the District web site. This will give the community a chance to review the contents.

Mr. Johnson thanked the Superintendent and School Board and noted that the committee and volunteers deserve the appreciation that has been offered to him tonight.

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

Speaker Guy Okada, President of Anchorage Principals' Association, stated that principals play a critical role in the District; they are the connection to students, staff, and community. They are involved in every aspect of their schools' operation - assigning students to classes evaluating teachers and support staff, enforcing the rules, keeping their schools' environment comfortable and secure. Mr. Okada quoted Superintendent Comeau directly from the Classroom Connection - Welcome to the 2004-2005 School Year, "the effectiveness of a school is directly related to the principal - effective schools have effective principals." Mr. Okada further commented that principals make sure the delivery of education is one of quality; each year principals are told about the advancement of students and how our students are doing. Each year, they are told they must do more. He feels that Anchorage principals do a good job and that the School Board has hired the best and brightest to lead our schools. Mr. Okada emphasized that the best that has been offered to APA is a one-year contract. He commented that morale among the principals is among the lowest and principals deserve to be fairly compensated. APA President Okada urged the School Board to settle their contract and reminded them that APA is the only bargaining group in ASD without a contract. He commented that mediation is occurring in the near future and the principals want to settle and receive a fair compensation package.

Speaker Celeste Hodge, Deputy Director of Outreach Liaison in the Municipality, talked about promoting diversity in Anchorage. She mentioned that the Municipality plans to organize an educational outreach program. Ms. Hodge thanked Michelle Egan for her participation and noted her interest in working with the District to promote diversity. Superintendent Comeau asked for additional posters so she can distribute them at the October General Leadership meeting.

Speaker Michelle Mandel, parent of a kindergarten student at Chester Valley, expressed her concerns with the fact that Chester Valley has been removed from the November bonds. She is concerned that the Chester Valley parents have not been informed about this decision. Ms. Mandell feels that the needs for Chester Valley are life threatening issues at the school, i.e., no smoke alarms or sprinklers; garbage cans in front of the kindergarten room to catch leaks; walls buckling on one side of the building; and no hot water in the restrooms. Ms. Mandel expressed her frustration with the fact that surrounding schools in this area have been renovated and nothing has been done at Chester Valley. She will encourage parents to contact the School District, School Board, legislators, Mayor, etc. about these serious safety issues. Superintendent Comeau stated that she encouraged Sharon Mitchell to invite the administration to her school to

respond to the parents' concerns. Ms. Mandell responded that she is very interested in having this meeting and will work with Ms. Mitchell to secure a date.

Superintendent Comeau stated that she takes full responsibility for removing Chester Valley from this bond. She noted that this geographic area did not support the school bonds during the last election, and she could not get a consensus last fall from the community on the size of the school they wanted; a 26 classroom school or a smaller school. A decision on what size the school will be needs to occur before this project goes back to the voters. Ms. Comeau further commented that the administration has made a commitment to the Assembly that the District will not go back to the voters until 2006. She also reminded Ms. Mandell and the audience that five other planning projects were removed from this package in order to reduce the amount of the bond package. Ms. Comeau urged Ms. Mandell to support this bond package. The only way to have the Chester Valley project come before the voters is to support the rest of the proposed projects. Ms. Mandell responded that she is not concerned about the rest of the projects—only Chester Valley. She feels that the District must educate the public and feels that the public will support the Chester Valley bond if they knew it dealt with life safety issues. Ms. Mandell offered her help to inform the public about the needed projects.

Jeff Friedman responded that the District does try to educate the public through community councils, newspaper ads, Chamber of Commerce meetings, but not everyone in the community attends these functions. He urged Ms. Mandell to give him ideas on how the District can reach the community. Tim Steele suggested Ms. Mandell serve on the "School Bonds Yes" committee. He also urged her to speak with our legislators, mayor, assembly members, etc.

Mary Marks also thanked Ms. Mandell for coming forward and sharing her concerns. She encouraged her to use the MECC as a resource for outreach.

Speaker Stu Grenier expressed his concern over the eight foot barbed wire fence that the Air Force is planning along the north boundary of the Bartlett High School campus. He commented that the Air Force was not clear where the fence was to be installed. The community was not informed until after school ended in June, and it was not advertised again until today, September 13, in the newspaper. Mr. Grenier stated that the project did not involve an acceptable public process. He is upset that the fence is next to the sports field and will destroy the beautiful Bartlett campus, and will result in the loss of some trails and the wooded nature of the campus, especially near the sports field. Mr. Grenier stated that this is a high school and not a penitentiary. He hopes that an informed public will respectfully request that the fence be moved 30 yards north

to preserve the wooded area. Mr. Grenier stated that this topic is on the agenda for the Northeast Community Council's meeting of September 16, 2004.

Speaker Gary Solen is the parent of a Bartlett junior; he is involved in running and skiing and has worked on the trails near Bartlett. Mr. Solen feels the loss of the Scenic Park playground equipment is equivalent to the loss of the space at Bartlett. He asked the School Board and the Administration to work with the Air Force to open a comment period so the community can voice their opinion. He encouraged a formal request be made to the Air Force to reconsider their fencing project.

Assistant Superintendent George Vakalis gave a brief update on where the District currently was in their discussions with the Air Force on this project. He noted that there is joint ownership by four different groups on this land. Mr. Vakalis stated that he met with the principal and coaches and came up with a different proposal that they will offer the Air Force.

Theresa Obermeyer stated that bond indebtedness is a lie. She stated when the truth is not know, it becomes very dangerous. Ms. Obermeyer stated that she is fine because she always tells the truth. She further commented that there is nothing fair or decent in this state.

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 | May 10, 2004 | 6:30 p.m. |
| b. | Special Meeting | June 14, 2004 | 4:30 p.m. |
| c. | Regular Meeting | June 14, 2004 | 6:30 p.m. |
| d. | Special Meeting | June 19, 2004 | 9:30 a.m. |
| e. | Special Meeting | June 28, 2004 | 4:30 p.m. |
| f. | Regular Meeting | June 28, 2004 | 6:30 p.m. |

2. ASD Memorandum #48 - ASD Resolution in Support of Mayor's Diversity Week, September 26-October 3, 2004

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing September 26 through October 3 as Mayor's Diversity Week.

3. ASD Memorandum #46 - Recommendation to Reinstate CUBE Membership in National School Boards Association

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to reinstate the CUBE membership in the National School Boards Association (NSBA) for \$3,250 for the 2004-2005 school year.

4. ASD Memorandum #38 - Award of Contract: Mitsubishi Projectors and Replacement Bulbs

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract for Mitsubishi multimedia projectors and replacement bulbs to Chariot Group in the amount of \$117,849.

5. ASD Memorandum #36 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Fund for Improvement of Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept Congressional earmarked grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Education Program in the amount of \$497,050. These funds will support bilingual education services.

6. ASD Memorandum #40 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Project MIR: Mission is Russian

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program, in the amount of \$161,245. The project will implement the second year of the K-6 Russian Partial Immersion program at Turnagain Elementary School, with initiation of the kindergarten and first grade classroom programs.

7. ASD Memorandum #44 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: HIV Prevention RARE-T

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the HIV/AIDS Prevention RARE-T Continuation Grant from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$20,810.

8. ASD Memorandum #47 - Alaska Association of School Boards Core Resolutions

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the Association of Alaska School Board's (AASB) Belief Statements and Core Resolutions as recommended by the AASB Board of Directors with the changes and additions proposed by the Anchorage School Board Legislative Subcommittee. (Attachment A).

9. ASD Memorandum #31 - 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 #48; #46; #40; and #47.

ACTION:

<p>Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Jeff Friedman</p>	<p>to approve minutes from the Special Meeting of May 10, 2004; Special Meeting of June 14, 2004; Regular Meeting of June 14, 2004; Special Meeting of June 19, 2004; Special Meeting of June 28, 2004; Regular Meeting of June 28, 2004; Memorandum #38; Memorandum #36; Memorandum #44; and Memorandum #31.</p>
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VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #48 - ASD Resolution in Support of Mayor's Diversity Week, September 26-October 3, 2004

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing September 26 through October 3 as Mayor's Diversity Week.

ACTION:

Moved by Macon Roberts Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve ASD Memorandum #48.
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The School Board passed a friendly amendment unanimously to add the text of the resolution into the main motion.

ACTION:

Moved by Macon Roberts Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve Resolution #2: Whereas , people of all ages, cultures, abilities and backgrounds make significant contributions to the growth of this great nation, the State of Alaska, the Municipality of Anchorage and the Anchorage School District; and Whereas , our community’s diversity is reflected in our staff and student population and this diversity lends strength to our district and its mission to educate all students for success in life; and Whereas , we can empower our students and staff to reach their greatest potential by recognizing and celebrating their individual strengths and contributions; and Whereas , providing an environment where students, staff and families can develop mutual respect and understanding is a priority of the Anchorage School Board; Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Anchorage School Board recognizes September 29 through October 3, 2004 as “Mayor’s Diversity Week” in the Anchorage School District and joins the Municipality of Anchorage and Mayor Begich in encouraging citizens and schools to participate in events and activities that celebrate diversity and build bridges of understanding.
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Superintendent Carol Comeau commented that it is important for the School Board to pass this resolution. She stated that she will distribute the resolution at the general leadership meeting on September 15. Ms. Comeau will stress the importance of honoring diversity in their school to each principal. She asked each Board member to read a section of the resolution.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #46 - Recommendation to Reinstate CUBE Membership in National School Boards Association

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to reinstate the CUBE membership in the National School Boards Association (NSBA) for \$3,250 for the 2004-2005 school year.

ACTION:

Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve ASD Memorandum #46.
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Theresa Obermeyer announced that she had been elected to the CUBE board when she was an Anchorage School Board member. She stated that it did not cost the School District anything to join CUBE when she was on the Board. She stated that it is frightening that unfair elections occur in the state of Alaska.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #40 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Project MIR: Mission is Russian

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Foreign Language Assistance Program, in the amount

of \$161,245. The project will implement the second year of the K-6 Russian Partial Immersion program at Turnagain Elementary School, with initiation of the kindergarten and first grade classroom programs.

ACTION:

Moved by Macon Roberts Seconded by Jeff Friedman	to approve ASD Memorandum #40.
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Macon Roberts commented that he pulled this memorandum to stress the importance of our support for our newest immersion program, which teaches the Russian language. Mr. Roberts noted that other immersion programs have done very well and our students are fortunate to have these programs available to them.

Carol Comeau thanked the Board for their support of immersion programs. She noted that Janice Gullickson is the coordinator of world languages for the district. Meg Marman, principal at Turnagain Elementary, is also a strong supporter of the program. Ms. Comeau stated that many business leaders have thanked her for starting this program in one of our schools.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

The School Board recessed at 7:50 p.m. and returned at 8 p.m.

The Board decided unanimously to discuss ASD Memorandum #21 - School Business Partnership report, 2003-2004 before the AASB Core Resolutions discussion. Please refer to this summary under the Superintendent's Report regarding the presentation on the end-of-year report.

ASD Memorandum #47 - Alaska Association of School Boards Core Resolutions

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the Association of Alaska School Board's (AASB) Belief Statements and Core Resolutions as recommended by the AASB Board of Directors with the changes and additions proposed by the Anchorage School Board Legislative Subcommittee. (Attachment A).

ACTION:

Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve ASD Memorandum #47.
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Jeff Friedman stated that he would like to make an amendment to the main motion. He feels that it is appropriate to send suggested changes to the AASB core resolutions, but let AASB adopt their belief statements and core resolutions as recommended by the AASB Board of Directors.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Crystal Kennedy	to substitute the following language for the main motion: That the School Board adopt the legislative committee's recommended changes to the AASB 2004 Belief Statements and Core Resolutions.
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VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

ADMENDMENT TO THE MOTION PASSED

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT1. ASD Memorandum #21 – School Business Partnership Report 2003-2004

The Anchorage School Business Partnership (SBP) program continues to flourish. Since 1991, the ASD has enjoyed over 500 SBP and 450 are listed at this time. Eighty-five new partnerships were formed during 2003–2004. It is an expectation that each school will have at least one partnership, and currently 89 percent of all schools are active with at least one.

Due to budget cuts during the summer of 2003, the President's position was eliminated and the only salaried employee for the SBP program was the part-time coordinator. Due to the generous financial help of the ASD, support from the Assistant Superintendent's office and staff at Alaska Airlines, the program still sustained growth.

School Business Partnerships represent many forms of positive collaborations between schools and businesses, including mentorships, internships, on-the-job training, experiential learning and in-kind donations. Partnerships are both small and large, ranging from a one-person business involved with a school to large corporations involved with many schools and/or the entire District.

Being a school business partner takes time, commitment, caring, relationship building, understanding and planning. Effort on the part of schools and the business partners is essential in facilitating career and academic success for students.

A new feature this year was the addition of a monthly electronic SBP newsletter sent to educators and business partners, then added to the asdk12.org/depts/sbp web site. Each month, schools and businesses were invited to contribute articles and photos.

In December, a Districtwide project under the direction of SBP was introduced to the ASD principals. During January and February, over 1600 students submitted original quotes and artwork for a calendar fundraiser. The final calendar will be available in the fall of 2004, thanks to the sponsorship of Alaska Airlines and the help of Pam Butcher, Publications Technician at the King Career Center.

In January, ASD and SBP collaborated on an application for a \$10,000 National SBP Award, but unfortunately, did not win.

In February, ConocoPhillips provided David Duncan, graphic artist, to develop a new logo for the program, and in April the SBP Board made its final selection from the five designs. The logo will be used on the web site and other print materials to market School Business Partnerships.

The four main venues of recognition and support are as follows:

- August Kick-Off Breakfast
- Best Practices Publication
- May STAR Award Recognition
- ASD Web Site

ASD's support and enhancement of the SBP web site has increased the visibility of the program to educators and the community, particularly in the ability of principals and business partners to establish partnerships on line. During the year, staff at Alaska Airlines updated the SBP database.

In 2003-2004, three elementary SBP coordinators were added to assist principals at their schools, and seven middle schools had active SBP coordinators. The six high school coordinators had three training meetings to further their knowledge in SBP and to assist their schools become more proactive in establishing their own partnership agreements.

The SBP Student Board was active for its third year. Students participated in service projects for Covenant House and the ASD Summer Art Program. The board also invited several guest speakers for their monthly meetings. The board assisted with the annual STAR Awards and participated in the Alaska Charity Walk. SBP student boards were also established at East and West High Schools.

The Sixth Annual Volume of *Best Practices* (Attachment A) represents partnerships that exemplify the highest levels of achievement. These partnerships also serve as exemplars of excellence that can be duplicated in other schools and businesses. The complete list of partnerships is on line at the Anchorage School District Website.

The School Business Partnership Board thanks the Anchorage School Board for its active support of the program. Together we are able to build stronger relationships between schools and the business community, thus establishing more educational opportunities for students.

Jim Utter, Chair of the School Business Partnership Board, and Barbara Stallone, Co-Chair, gave a brief presentation of their year's activities.

Ms. Stallone stated that she is proud of this group and feels they have made a huge difference. She noted that Sharon Sellens retired this past year and Jim Utter assumed her role. Ms. Stallone thanked everyone for their participation in the calendar fund raiser; she said the children's quotes were priceless. She also encouraged the School Board to purchase the calendars for Christmas presents.

Jan Christensen highlighted the significant activities this past year and noted that she is delighted to have Jim Utter back with the program. She commented that their focus will be on the schools that do not have a

defined partnership. One of their goals is that each school will have one documented formal partnership by the end of 2004-2005. Ms. Christensen noted her appreciation for all the work that Sharon Sellens put in this past year as well as Barbara Stallone and Karla Korman.

Carol Comeau commented that she is interested in each school having a quality partnership – not in how many they have. It will be a challenge to all schools to working on having one thriving partnership.

Mary Marks stated that having a student representative on the board of directors has been valuable. She is looking forward to the 2004-2005 school year and making good progress in attaining additional partnerships.

Jeff Friedman commented that the comments he has received indicate that the program is working and providing a valuable service. Mr. Friedman appreciates the program very much.

John Steiner agreed that financial support from the businesses is not the most important aspect of the program—it is very useful, but most important is what the school gets out of the program. He also noted the excellent public relations that we receive cannot be purchased with money. Mr. Steiner read a few of the student comments from the calendar and noted that they were wonderful and people will certainly enjoy receiving one of the calendars.

Tim Steele thanked Mr. Utter, Ms. Stallone, and Ms. Christensen for their quality leadership.

2. ASD Memorandum #32 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of August 12, 2004 through September 2, 2004.

3. ASD Memorandum #34 – First Week of School Enrollment Update

The total membership on the fourth day of school, September 13, 2004, was 48,969. This enrollment represents 98.9 percent of the 49,499 projected membership for the official membership date of September 30. Kindergarten enrollment figures are based on the number of activations to date, since kindergarten students did not start classes until today, September 13, 2004.

Compared to the fourth day of school last year, membership is down by 55 students. Elementary schools are down by 465 students; middle schools are down by 173 students; senior high schools are up by 394 students; other secondary schools are up by 31 students, and special services are up by 85 students. Attachment A provides membership detail by school.

Last year, registration procedures were modified to limit activations to those students or parents that actually showed up at registration. Those procedures were in place again this year, which should allow for legitimate comparisons between this year and last year's enrollment. However, this year we are reporting non-special ed preschool students for the first time which does affect the comparison of the two years.

Membership has continually increased since the first day of school. Between the first and fourth day of school membership has increased by (1.55%). Based on prior years' experience, membership should increase by approximately 1.0 percent to reach our projected membership levels.

Carol Comeau noted that as of today, September 13, there are 49,121 students enrolled in the Anchorage School District, which is 99.24 percent of our projected enrollment. In order to make our 2004-2005 projection of 49,499 students, we need an additional 378 students. She commented that we are ahead of where we were last year. Discussions are occurring with executive directors and assistant superintendent for instruction to determine staffing adjustments.

Jeff Friedman stated that he is hearing from the population at South Anchorage High School that they are overcrowded. He asked why did this happen. Carol Comeau responded that when the boundaries were drawn, they did not realize the large number of seniors at Service that were willing to transfer to attend South Anchorage, which was their new home school. She noted that the Dimond seniors did not leave Dimond to attend South.

Mike Henry stated that he surveyed the 2003-2004 juniors last year to see how many would be moving to South Anchorage; the numbers from Service High did not hold true. A large number of seniors changed schools to be a part of the first graduating class at South Anchorage. He also noted that there is a large growth factor in the south area. Mr. Henry did recognize that there are some advanced placement classes that are overcrowded because it is hard to explain to a student that there is no room in an AP class. He informed the Board that additional FTE was

given to South Anchorage so they could start reducing class sizes today. Mr. Henry also stated that there was some overcrowding on the buses but that has been relieved once the students on zone exemptions were reminded that they did not have bus privileges.

Carol Comeau stated that there is a shortage of textbooks and chairs and those items were being borrowed from other schools; some items were ordered with an expedited delivery time.

John Steiner stated that he finds it interesting regarding the moving of the Service seniors to South Anchorage High School. He suggested thought be given to establishing a deadline for senior to make a commitment to attend the new Eagle River area high school when it opens in 2005-2006.

Tim Steele reminded everyone that glitches will occur—the last time a new high school opened was over 30 years ago. He stated that everyone is really happy with the opening of school this year.

4. ASD Memorandum #42 – Summer School Report

Summer School 2004 in the Anchorage School District served over 3,300 students at 23 sites. Following are reports from Patricia McRae, Executive Director of Elementary Education; Gail Opalinski, Executive Director of Middle School Education; Mike Henry, Executive Director of High School Education; and Jerry Sjolander, Executive Director of Special Education.

Carol Comeau noted that all divisions did an excellent job with this report and asked Jan Christensen to make a formal recommendation to her on an enrichment aspect for the summer school 2005 program.

Jan Christensen stated that we had excellent summer school programs. She also noted that the middle school model is going to be presented at the Council of Great City Schools Conference in October 2004 in Las Vegas. Ms. Christensen stated that there was a definite increase in achievement on those entering and exiting the program. She is also excited about coming forward with a recommendation for an enrichment program for summer school 2005. This will give students an opportunity to move ahead in credits or in enrichment opportunities.

Patricia McRae noted that the elementary program served over 1,000 students in six sites, geographically located across town; no transportation was provided for the students. She commented that the students showed a positive attitude about how they felt about school and their love of learning. She thanked the Board for allowing the elementary division to offer a quality summer school program to their students.

Gail Opalinski stated that 511 students completed summer school. All pre and post test indicators show positive gains were made by students. She stated that current research shows that middle school students lose skills over the summer so this makes summer school at the middle school level even more important. Ms. Opalinski stated that there were three sites offered across town. She would like to offer additional enrichment courses for those students who have passed and want to keep up their skills.

Mike Henry reported that 1,900 students attended summer school and earned credit in almost 2,500 sections. At the end of the high school portion, a survey was distributed to students to learn why they were there. The administration predicted that they were there because of the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam, but it turned out that they were there because they had failed a class or were behind in credits. Over 20 percent of the students wanted flexibility for the upcoming year. Mr. Henry commented that the survey was very revealing and indicated that they should continue to offer remediation services. He further indicated that even though the students reported that the exam was not the case, their test scores show that they need help in the exam area. Mr. Henry also feels that PLATO has played a big part in student success. He is interested in seeing how many of these students pass the exam in October. Mr. Henry stated that high school summer school was very successful this past summer. It was held at four different sites with no major incidents and credits the success to good principals and fine educators. Mr. Henry is looking forward to coming forward with an enrichment proposal for summer school 2005.

Jerry Sjolander noted that his summary is focused on the extended year program. Students eligible for this program must meet certain criteria and the focus of the program is to prevent students from regressing. Sixty to 70 students attended Whaley School during summer school 2004. The activities were largely academic based using the Follow the Leaders program and community experiences. Principals hired special education teachers and special education teacher assistants to make sure the general education teachers were aware of the special accommodations in the students' IEPs. Mr. Sjolander stated that there is no specific data available regarding special education students who signed up for regular summer school. He further stated that he would like to continue to offer more support for those special education students who take regular classes and to offer more opportunities for pre-kindergarten students. Mr. Sjolander

will incorporate these items into his recommendation for summer school 2005.

John Steiner asked how summer school 2004 compared to last year. Mike Henry responded that it was comparable to last year; Gail Opalinski stated that it was about the same for the last three years; Patricia McRae noted that the same number of students began the program, but about 100 more students completed the program this year; and Jerry Sjolander reported that it was about the same as last year.

John Steiner asked if we will be able to review pre and post testing during the summer or can we look at last year's testing compared to next year on those students who went to summer school versus those who did not attend summer school. Carol Comeau responded that she is not sure that data base is available due to the different variables requested. Ms. Comeau stated that she would like to know if the students who attended summer school are having a better year. Patricia McRae commented that a summer school report is sent to the child's school indicating his/her progress and what they accomplished. Gail Opalinski reported that the summer school information shows on the student's transcript. Ms. Comeau stated discussion are taking place with Ed McLain in Assessment and Evaluation to research ways we can identify those students who went to summer school and see how they are doing.

Tim Steele suggested looking at the data on those students not passing the high school exam to see if they attended summer school.

Carol Comeau would like some reference made to this topic in the Profile of Performance document. She stated that summer school increases attendance by making students more successful. Ms. Comeau reported that she visited West High summer school students who have struggled with math in the past. Once they started becoming successful, they became empowered. She suggested doing some correlation regarding this in the profile document.

Jeff Friedman strongly supports the idea of collecting data, but thinks we need to remember the staff time and computer resources needed to accomplish this task. He stated that if we need to commit money to do this then we should, but not lose track of the time we are asking staff to commit too.

Mary Marks asked since we have had a successful summer school program and adopted our Six-Year Instruction Plan, is the administration

going back to see what changes need to be done. Jan Christensen responded that her division is in the process of doing that now and a report will be forthcoming in October to the School Board.

Carol Comeau informed the Board that she told her staff that she would like a recommendation in early November for an enrichment program for summer school 2005. Once this has been costed out, the information needs to be relayed to parents on what will be available next summer.

John Steiner asked if part of the analysis of the program will include what is different at the sites and what will be done differently or is it due to the variability of the population at the different sites. Patricia McRae responded that we do serve a large number of students with special needs so there is a huge variability there. She commented that we strive for a consistent program so kids get the consistent curriculum. Ms. McRae indicated that improvements are made every summer due to teacher input.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Crystal Kennedy reported that the assembly did vote to put the bond propositions on the ballot for November 2004 for reimbursable projects. She noted that a couple items were removed since they were not reimbursable by the state of Alaska. Ms. Kennedy asked the administration if they were able to come up with an alternative way of funding those projects that were removed. Ms. Comeau responded that nothing has been decided to date. We need to compare West/Romig with the current educational specifications and then come up with a plan. She also responded that once the site has been purchased through the site selection process for the southwest Anchorage elementary school, initial planning must be completed. Ms. Comeau commented that the grave pit will most likely have building beginning by summer 2005. Ms. Comeau noted that both projects are needed.

Tim Steele asked for an update on the review of the site selection process. George Vakalis responded that he spoke with Kathy Hammond and they are experiencing a slight delay in the planning department. Currently, they are about three-quarters of the way through the study and asked if the district would object to contracting the service out to complete the project. Mr. Vakalis stated that it would not be in the best interest of the District since they are so far into the

project. He suggested that they request additional resources from the Mayor. Mr. Vakalis further stated that there are a couple of sites that came up in the study and feels that the Mayor will come up with the additional resources needed to complete the study. He feels that the study could be completed within the new few months.

John Steiner asked the Superintendent if the administration is working on an information campaign regarding the November bonds. Ms. Comeau stated that it is currently underway and noted that a couple of Service High School parents are interested in chairing the "School Bonds Yes" committee. She also noted that we need to be in communication with the Northeast Community Council regarding this election. Ms. Comeau stated that the election will cost approximately \$100,000; we are currently working the logistics of the election through the Governor's office as well as the Division of Elections. Because this is a national election, a request has been forwarded to the Department of Justice.

Ms. Comeau encouraged the Board members to give her any ideas for the information campaign based on their experience from last spring's election.

John Steiner commented that based on the testimony tonight from Michelle Mandell, the need for factual information is imperative. He feels that we need to tell the public the real needs and not just the dollar figure associated with the project. Carol Comeau responded that we need to be careful to not over inflate the issue. Although the testimony tonight was very compelling, they must understand the districtwide needs. The projects on the bond proposition include what is most needed at this time.

Tim Steele suggested that the administration prepare a paper that simply outlines why the need is so great for the school renovations and the Muldoon area middle school.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of September 13, 2004 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:10 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Jeff Friedman, Clerk

Mary Kay Sambo
Recording Secretary

Date