

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #267 (2004-2005)

April 11, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION FOR USKH OUTSTANDING DESIGN AWARD -  
DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL

*ASD Goals: Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by providing safe, caring, barrier-free schools and collaborating with other community agencies to maximize opportunities for lifelong learning.*

PERTINENT FACTS:

Dimond High School was originally constructed in 1967 as a combination high school and junior high. A district condition audit and a cost-benefit analysis of renovation versus replacement conducted by USKH, Inc. concluded that the old building should be replaced with a new, modern one located on the same site.

During the summer of 1998 architects from USKH, Inc. and the national school design specialists Fanning/Howey met with district faculty, staff, students and parents of Dimond High School to develop a schematic design of the new building. In 1999 voters approved funding to construct a replacement school for Dimond.

The new Dimond High School, is a 268,000-square-foot two-story school designed for 1,600 students. It has four academic houses in two, two-story wings. There are 70 formal teaching stations, plus technology, computer aided design, large group instruction, and business classrooms.

One specific design challenge for USKH was building the new replacement school beside the existing high school and adjacent to an elementary school without disrupting both educational facilities. The new school was sited to require the demolition of three of the existing 12 buildings, allowing the high school to remain in session during the 30-month construction period.

USKH has been recognized by clients and peers for their commitment to quality design. Recently USKH, Inc. was selected by American School & University magazine for their American School & University Architectural Portfolio, which honored the Dimond High School replacement for education design excellence.

It is requested that the School Board recognize USKH, Inc. for its award-winning design.

CC/ME/LN

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