

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #314 (2004-2005)

June 13, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: PRECALCULUS AND AP CALCULUS TEXTBOOK AND  
MATERIALS ADOPTION

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the adoption of the following math textbook and materials for precalculus and calculus:

PRE CALCULUS, 2nd edition. Blitzer. Prentice Hall. 2004.

CALCULUS, 8th edition. Larson/Hostetler/Edwards. Houghton Mifflin. 2006.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The math committee requested materials from all publishers of precalculus and calculus books. It is important that the prescribed content of these courses adequately prepare students to take AP Calculus and/or pass the national AP Calculus tests. The materials must include not only skills, but applications; use of calculators, computers, communication; problem solving and must make connections to other disciplines. The selected textbooks should reflect criteria described in the national standards, as well as the Anchorage School District course content Standards. The articulation between the two textbooks should also allow students to move easily from precalculus to calculus.

Sample materials were available for preview at the seven regular high schools and at the math office at 6th and K. A significant number of preview materials met our criteria. Discussions were held within math departments at the high schools who also included students in their review process, and at the cross-district math committee meeting, which includes representation from teachers, principals, the community, and the University. Representatives for each course from each high school met to discuss the books and unanimously selected the Blitzer's Pre Calculus and the Larson's Calculus books.

With the assistance of Carrie Fleischhacker, the information was provided to the Student Advisory Board. Copies of the books were made available to the Central Council of PTAs, as they had not yet scheduled their next meeting. The Curriculum Principals meeting was cancelled, but each math department chair will meet with his/her curriculum principal to discuss the materials. The math curriculum coordinator met with the senior high principals on May 18, and the MECC on May 19 to present the materials and answer questions. Both groups support the adoption of the selected materials.

The approximate cost of the precalculus book is \$75 per student and the approximate cost of the calculus book is \$110 per student. In both cases, the publishing companies will provide the teacher materials at no additional cost. School Board approval of this recommendation will allow schools to purchase materials for implementation in the 2005-2006 school year.

Both books are available for review in the School Board Office on the third floor of the Administration Building at 4600 DeBarr Road.

CC/JC/SS

Prepared by: Enid Hunter, Executive Director, Curriculum/Instructional Support  
Sandy Schoff, Coordinator, Mathematics Programs

Approved by: Jan Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction