

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #319 (2004-2005)

June 13, 2005

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REVIEW/END OF YEAR REPORT FOR FY 2004-2005:
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP CHARTER SCHOOL

PERTINENT FACTS:

School Board Policy 333.10 on Charter Schools requires an Annual Review of each Charter School. To be specific, the Policy states:

“The charter school will be subject to review of its operations and finances by the School Board. Annually, the Academic Policy Committee will submit a concise 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, but is not limited to information on the attainment of student performance expectations, including copies of the Terra Nova and Benchmark reports; recommendations for remediation of poor student performance; school goal attainment; trends in student/staff enrollment and mobility; an end of year preliminary financial statement showing revenues and expenditures; minutes of the meetings of the governing body 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; a list of the Academic Policy Committee for the past and coming school year, including officers, and staff members by position; a list of employees and job titles; and other information requested by the School Board.

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

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

Family Partnership Charter School has experienced one of the most positive years since its inception. There has been a renewal of cooperation and trust between the school administration, office staff and Academic Policy Committee. The effort of the new principal, Mr. Reed Whitmore, has been to build partnerships and work collaboratively with ASD and the Family Partnership APC. This effort has paid off many times over. Connie Bensler, the Anchorage School District Charter School Liaison, has worked closely with the administration and Academic Policy Committee of this school. Ms. Bensler attended APC monthly meetings and provided assistance to these groups in working within the confines of the Anchorage School District and Charter School rules and regulations.

The intent of this particular charter school is to provide an opportunity for a partnership between home-schooling parents and the Anchorage School District. It gives students an opportunity to have some of their education provided in a home school situation by certificated ASD teachers in classrooms, or in small group instruction after regular school hours. The Individual Learning Plan continues to be improved and simplified in its online form. It is parent friendly and efficient. Sponsor teachers and school staff can access it when necessary to expedite ordering of materials and check progress. The business office has improved its response time, which gives parents a clearer idea of the status of their student's accounts. The principal can track completion of classes and accountability of student achievement. By using this online service, the home school environment is preserved, but made more efficient and accountable.

This unique school combines the structure of the Anchorage School District in the larger arenas of standardized testing and high school graduation requirements with the home school philosophy of individualized learning. The school's goals continue to include more participation by their students in the Districtwide testing. This year, they did not reach the 95 percent participation rate. There is a discussion that is on-going as to how to rectify this and how to impress upon the parents the importance of participating in this high stakes testing.

The biggest change in this charter school is the atmosphere and attitudes of the stakeholders. After several years of turmoil, there is once again a renewed sense of purpose and unity among the Family Partnership Community. The Academic Policy Committee is committed to keeping the school on the right track with curricular decisions, finding a balance of maximizing student funding while providing adequate funding for the infrastructure of the school, and working with the Anchorage School District as partners in the education of their students. The principal has worked effectively in bringing to the school a vision of success and hope that permeates throughout the school. It is a pleasure working with the staff and parents of the school. We are very proud of having this charter

school as part of the Anchorage School District and look forward to another successful school year next year.

CC/JC/CB

Attachment

Prepared by: Connie Bensler, Charter School Liaison

Approved by: Jan Christensen, Assistant superintendent, Instruction