



will get this year's base student allocation but we do believe something will happen before June 30th. The current based student allocation is in the statute. Also the regulations read that for the first eight months of the year we receive the prior year's allocation until they are able to actually put in the 20-day count period in October and they complete the audit. It is the last several three months of the year that they pay us based on the current year formula and number of students. So, for the month of July we should be getting the same dollar amount as 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the prior year. Ms. Comeau added that we've also been approved by the Assembly at a certain level of funding, so we will be alright. Ms. Comeau reported that she has directed the staff to compile a list of non-tenured teachers and we will have to prepare lay-off notices before the end of the school year if they (legislators) have not completed their work. We will also look at the budget cuts that were put together before the Board approved the budget in January. We are cautiously optimistic and keep sending messages to Juneau hoping that they will complete their work in the next couple of days.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #289 - Presidential Excellence Award for Math & Science

Jody Solmonson of Bear Valley Elementary School and Patricia Underwood of Inlet View Elementary School are among 95 outstanding teachers recently honored for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the nation's highest honor for teaching in these fields.

Mary Marks read the memorandum while Jeff Friedman presented the certificates.

2. ASD Memorandum #295 - Pencils Full of Stars

The idea for a poetry booklet penned by students began in 1970 when Northwood Elementary School first grade teacher Bell Benton set out to collect student poetry to present at the District's Fine Art Festival. Astonished with the number of submissions, Ms. Benton compiled the collection and titled it, "Pencils Full of Stars."

Crystal Kennedy read the memorandum. The plaques and certificates were presented to the Gold Nugget winners, the Mielke winters and the Bell Benton Award winners.

John Steiner congratulated the teachers and the students who wrote these wonderful works.

3. ASD Memorandum #304 – Healthy Futures/Heart Run

Children are not as active as they should be. U.S. health studies report that fewer than one in four children get 20 minutes of vigorous activity every day of the week. In addition, an extensive study recently found a direct connection between students' fitness and academic performance. According to the *Learning Connection: The Value of Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity in Our Schools*, physical activity programs are linked to stronger academic achievement.

Tim Steele read the memorandum. Jeff Friedman presented the certificates.

4. ASD Memorandum #305 – Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship Recipients

The Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarships, given in cooperation with the American Association of School Administrators, recognize the outstanding accomplishments in special talents, leadership, obstacles overcome and community service of exemplary high school juniors. Students must also maintain a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average. Each state-level Tribute award carries with it a \$2,500 scholarship. The top three state winners are designated as "Gold" awards. The Gold winners compete on the basis of their original application at the national level for one of nine \$25,000 scholarships.

John Steiner read the memorandum while Jeff Friedman presented the certificates.

5. ASD Memorandum #306 – Spirit of Youth Awards

The Spirit of Youth Campaign was created to recognize Alaska teens for their dedication to positive community service projects. Each year middle and senior high students are awarded for finding creative ways to impact the lives of others in their community. Congratulations to the following Anchorage School District 2005 Spirit of Youth award winners:

**Ellen Gaither**, for helping to raise money for Tsunami victims, teaching kids in her church and taking time to clean up garbage in her neighborhood;

**Kayla McDowell**, for her work as a youth court attorney, a tutor for youth in the summer and her volunteer activity at her church;

**Alec'dair D. Scott**, for his contributions as a youth minister, founder of the Bartlett Gospel Choir, and as a senior mediator who saved the life of a fellow student; and

**Darius Willis**, for his volunteer work as a youth minister and participation in the Bartlett Gospel Choir.

Macon Roberts read the memorandum while Jeff Friedman presented the certificates.

6. Presentation: Healthy Futures Challenge

Sharon Vassiere gave a brief explanation of the program, which is a program designed to help increase physical activity in children in the community. Thirty elementary schools, 2 middle schools and 2 high schools are currently participating through the physical educator on site. Lynda Barcome stated that the program helps to reinforce the basic concepts that she has been teaching her students for years, which is that physical activity should be taken in their weekly schedule at least three to five days a week. The activity logs help to reinforce that concept and allow the students to realize they need to build up their time endurance and a couple of minutes aren't always enough to provide their heart with the exercise that it needs. For the Eagle River area, the Beach Lake Trails Jamboree started off the program a year ago. In the second year, 110 Alpenglow kids participated in the event. There were almost 400 kids from Eagle River and it was pouring rain. After that they were given an activity log to use every month. The students were encouraged to keep the logs and try new activities. There were 539 logs turned in. Thanks to ConocoPhillips and Healthy Futures, the water bottles were big motivators. Other events included the Ski 4 Kids, Snowshoe event the Heart Run, The New Zoo Run and the Salmon Run. We have to find ways to keep kids busy all year through. The speakers thanked the Board members for taking the Healthy Futures Challenge. Michelle stated that the Board

members have a packet in front of them for the ASD IditaFeat. Twenty teams of adults that work for ASD are going to join the Board members. The goal, as a team, is to collectively log 10,000 minutes of activity. They will be looking for consistency and for people to form new good habits or push their physical exercise if they are already very active. Participants will use a log throughout the week and record the minutes of activity.

Carol Comeau reported that the Administration would bring a resolution to the Board in the second week in June for a community wide wellness initiative.

Ms. Vassier added that Bonnie Sosa began this program and recruited a community school advisory committee and recruited Conoco Philips to make this their signature program where they support the efforts through the water bottles and stickers for the logs. It is truly a community school wide initiative that has taken on like wild fire.

7. Presentation: Rural Exchange Program to Chevak - Central Students

Dave Lenehan, a science teacher from Central Middle School of Science is the leader of the interchange this year between Central Middle School and sister school, Chevak School, which is a Chupik village in the Y.K. Delta. The students who were part of the program are Mark Rogers, Jaren Knox, Courtney Craig, Meredith Spears and Kate Wisler. The students and Mr. Lenehan showed a set of slides and described what impressed them while in the village of Chevak. Mr. Lenehan reported that Chevak is in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. Courtney Craig stated that when the Chevakers were here, one of the big things was getting help from Sgt. Craig to get them on the Air Force Base to see and tour the jets. They also attended Fur Rondy events and a hockey game. Meredith Spears stated that it was fun to see their homes. They were really nice and looked like the homes in Anchorage but a little smaller. The baskets and dolls that they make are very beautiful. Kate Wisler reported that they hiked to some old sod houses sites that the Eskimos used to live in before the white people came. They took about a 40-minute hike from the village. All they saw were holes in the ground and Mr. Lenehan told them the story about them. It was really interesting just to look at nature. While at school they went to three sessions of Eskimo dancing and the elders

taught them how to dance. Mark Rogers reported that he was impressed at how well the youth communicated with the elders. Every Tuesday they have a function called "Service to the Elders" where they pair up in groups of two and go do chores for the elders at their homes. They keep the old traditions alive and pass them down to the youth. Jaren Knox reported that they went to their school, which is about the size of Central, but they only have about 375 students there. After that they followed their hosts to their classes. Mostly after school he and his friends from Central played basketball with the kids and some of the teachers there. They made them feel welcome during their time there.

Tim Steele asked how students are selected. Dave Lenehan responded that the students chosen to go to Chevak were the students whose families volunteered to host students from Chevak. They thought that if you are willing to take kids that you do not know into your home, that shows a great desire and those are the students who should get a chance to go. Ms. Comeau commented that the program is funded through a grant with the Humanities Forum. The sister school program is an outgrowth of the individual student exchange program. Ms. Comeau mentioned that she recently attended a Humanities Forum Board meeting and they talked about the pros and cons of the individual exchanges and sister school exchanges. For Anchorage, it seems like the sister school exchange is working better because a group of students get to participate and it becomes something that is very important to a class or group of students.

Mary Marks thanked the students for sharing their experience. It meant a lot to her when they said that they felt welcomed.

Macon Roberts commented that his son went to a Russian mission four years ago and he had an excellent experience. For those parents who have reservations about hosting a student, it was a good experience.

#### E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

##### 1. Student Advisory Board

Lorett Nabong introduced and passed his chair on to the new student representative recently elected - Ralph Feriani.

Carol Comeau told Mr. Nabong that he has done a truly wonderful job and she presented him with a gold pan. Ms. Comeau reported that she appreciated Loret's excellent representation of the students. He has brought issues forward. When Ms. Comeau attended the student advisory meetings and gave her assignments he helped bring the issues back to the Board members so they had the benefit of hearing the student voice. Ms. Comeau wished Mr. Nabong the very best and knows he will be very successful in whatever he decides to do. Jeff Friedman read the engraving on the gold pan. "Loret Nabong, School Board Student Representative (2003-2005). Thank you for being a positive role model and an outstanding advocate for the students of the Anchorage School District."

Ralph Feriani, currently a sophomore at Dimond High School, reported that the last student advisory meeting was on May 16 in the ASD Administration Building. The main negative incident that occurred was the fight at the Gruening library that the middle school student reported. The elections for student representative occurred and only Dimond had their new student advisory board members present. They had a spokeswoman from the American Cancer Society. This past Saturday there was a fundraiser at one of the middle schools to help fight cancer. Sports are a very big subject right now. Dimond High School won the penny drive for American Red Cross and raised over \$16,000. Proms were scheduled throughout April and May and Polaris recently had community plays. Mr. Feriani congratulated the seniors for graduating next week and encouraged safe celebrations. Mr. Feriani also encouraged everyone to attend the graduation ceremonies. The senior's last day is May 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Feriani also wished the students good luck with finals.

Mr. Friedman stated that the Board looks forward to working with Mr. Feriani over the next couple years.

## 2. Military Delegate

LTC David Jones reported that he attended a fascinating UAA conference called "Ready to Read - Ready to Learn" focusing on pre Kindergarten learning and the impact it has on lifelong capabilities. They showed pictures of brain activity development in 0 to three-year-olds and the difference between those who have been read to and taught good learning habits and those who had

not. Colonel Jones stated that it was a fascinating conference and he learned a lot. LTC Jones looks forward to seeing where the state will go with this program. There is a lot of untapped capability out there that we need to get to. Mr. Jones encouraged everyone to go home and read to their child.

3. M.E.C.C.

William Johnson reported that the M.E.C.C. congratulates the high school graduates. It's the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning.

Mr. Johnson further reported that the deadline for the recruitment effort for members of the M.E.C.C. is June 1. Mr. Johnson explained that the M.E.C.C. makes recommendations to the School Board relating to citizen involvement in school activities and in the education of minority students. Mr. Johnson appreciates people visiting the website or calling to become involved. The last M.E.C.C. meeting was on held on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The members had a math textbook adoption committee briefing on the outcome on the Pre Calculus and AP Calculus books from Sandy Schoff. There was also a presentation on the draft of the Culturally Responsive Six-Year Plan, which is part of the District's Six-Year Plan, by Dr. Hunter and Ms. Gardner. The members also went over the music textbook adoption committee's outcome, which is related to elementary band methods by Mike Martinson. Mr. Johnson stated that the committee appreciates the efforts of all of the committees and supervisors who presented information to them.

The committee also updated their membership list and will have six vacancies next year. The committee will also submit the recommendations for a name change. They thought there is a need to add to their identity and use the word "advisory" in their title. Sub committee reports were given. June 16 is the next meeting at noon in the Administration Building. Mr. Johnson appreciated Stella Hoffer for her assistance during Ms. Haas' absence.

Mary Marks asked if the title change would change the way the members are appointed to the committee. Superintendent Comeau responded that it would not change anything. This is the one Board advisory committee and they wanted to put the word "advisory" in their title to make it clear that they are advisory to the School Board. They will still solicit applications and there will

be a sub committee working with Jan Christensen to bring forth members to be approved by the School Board as in the past. Macon Roberts expressed his appreciation on the Policy Committee's behalf of the suggestions and feedback that the M.E.C.C. submitted to the committee.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Dan Loring asked the Board members if there had been any action regarding the policy concerning parent monitors on school buses. Mr. Loring stated that the policy is perplexing to him because First Student understands there are some routes that have habitual problems for a long period of time, though they have told him the bus routes are cut, the students increased, and they are responsible for managing the buses. When he talked to the principal at Central Middle School she referred him to First Student and he felt it seemed she did not want to take any ownership of the behavior on the bus. Mr. Loring asked if there has been anything done concerning the management of school buses in the district and if so, what has taken place. Secondly, Mr. Loring wanted to talk about community and parent school participation. In his opinion, as a parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader the District could do a lot to increase involvement. Mr. Loring stated that he feels Fairview parents are not part of the team. Mr. Loring also wanted to talk about the achievement gap and the graduation rate. Mr. Loring stated that he did research on public education and found the high school graduation rate was 64 percent for Anchorage. Out of 50 states, Anchorage was number 40. It also surprised him when he found out that 23 percent of native students at Bartlett graduate. It also surprised him that 31 percent of native students graduate at West. Mr. Loring commented that he was surprised that the six-year plan's goal is to produce a 58.8 graduation rate and he wondered why.

Carol Comeau responded that regarding the bus issues - she had asked Steve Kalmes to look for best practices around the country to see if other large districts have parent monitors on the buses or what kinds of things they do to deal with school buses with perpetual problems. First Student does work with Steve Kalmes and the Transportation Department and it is our expectation that the buses are safe. Ms. Comeau further stated that after Mr. Loring brought that one bus incident to her attention, she forwarded the concern immediately and she is glad to hear that it stopped. Ms. Comeau commented that regarding the achievement gap - we all know we need to do better and we are working hard with it. We all share the concern with the Alaska Native achievement rate but we believe

we are making good progress for those students who continue to be on track for graduation, and it takes parents working with the school, getting their kids to school on time, and to stay in school. We are working closely with the Cook Inlet Tribal Council and the Partners for Success Program in seven different schools (Bartlett and West being two of them). Ms. Comeau stated that we feel they are making progress, but we know we have more to do. We expect the parents and community at Fairview are part of the school improvement plan discussions and we will meet with the principal to talk about some of the issues brought forward. John Steiner asked Mr. Loring if the graduation percent Mr. Loring mentioned was an Anchorage number or an Alaska number. Mr. Loring responded that it was an Alaska number. And the Alaska graduation rate as reported was 64.9 percent. Our district as reported was at 64.8 percent. Carol Comeau assured Mr. Steiner that the Administration will check that as she does not believe that it is the same information that she has. Ms. Comeau asked Mr. Loring for the citation that he received his information from. Mr. Loring stated that it was in the response to the Federal Government under NCLB and it came from the Alaska State Department of Education website. Mr. Steiner added that it is a concern of many of the Board members as well and he does remember seeing a goal of along the lines that Mr. Loring mentioned and it is something that needs to be looked at.

Ralph Feriani commented that he believes the biggest issue on buses is students being assaulted because students in middle school and high school already hear the profanity while they are in the halls of school but he would think the goal of the parent monitors would be to watch the harassment issues because most of the time the bus drivers are so focused on the road that they can not focus back on what is happening towards the rear of the bus. Ms. Comeau responded that it was Mr. Loring's point when he testified before and we are looking into it.

Mary Marks reported that the First Alaskans Institute has taken a huge part in this role of working with the ASD as well as across the state to close the achievement gap amongst the native students, so she knows what Mr. Loring is saying. But, if you look at the whole picture, we've made some huge progress and a lot of people want it to happen tomorrow and it is unrealistic and unfair to put that on anyone's shoulders. It takes all of us to close the gap for all students who need those resources - our staff as well as the state involvement. We are making some improvement but it is not happening at a great speed. It takes all of us.

G. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Comeau stated that there is another amendment to the Personnel and Travel Report Addendum and asked the Board to please add Ed Graff under change of assignment. A transfer from Kasuun Elementary to Rogers Park Elementary is recommended. Tim Steele mentioned that there is also an addendum for ASD Memorandum 291 - the Dimond High School Traffic Safety Upgrades. The maps are passed out for information, showing the original parking lot and the upgrade.

1. Approval of Minutes:

- |                    |   |                |            |
|--------------------|---|----------------|------------|
| a. Special Meeting | - | March 28, 2005 | 4:30 p.m.  |
| b. Regular Meeting | - | March 28, 2005 | 6:30 p.m.  |
| c. Special Meeting | - | April 11, 2005 | 4:30 p.m.  |
| d. Regular Meeting | - | April 11, 2005 | 6:30 p.m.  |
| e. Special Meeting | - | April 21, 2005 | 12:00 p.m. |

2. ASD Memorandum #274 – 2005-2006 Hazardous Transportation Recommendations

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve recommendations A through H for the 2005-2006 school year.

3. ASD Memorandum #243 – Revision to School Board: Section 450 – Students Rights and Responsibilities (Second Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 450-452, Appendix A, and Appendix A-1 on second reading.

4. ASD Memorandum #299 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Project Appeal (Advanced Placement for Every Able Learner)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the U. S. Department of Education's Advanced Placement Incentive Program, in the amount of \$898,588, for the first year of a three-year project. The project will expand Advanced Placement (AP) and will

increase access to higher level coursework for low-income students in four Alaskan communities.

5. ASD Memorandum #284 – Award/Renewal of Health Insurance Contracts and Change of Provider

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Aetna for group medical, dental and COBRA administration for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, and renew the contract with Vision Service Plan (VSP) for group vision care insurance.

6. ASD Memorandum #275 – Award of Contract: King Career Center Heating Piping Revisions

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the King Career Center Heating Piping Revisions project to Consolidated Contracting & Engineering for the Base Bid amount of \$207,222, plus Alternates 1 and 2 in the amount of \$150,444, and Allowance/Assignment of \$13,446, for a total award amount of \$371,112.

7. ASD Memorandum #283 – Award of Contract: Chester Valley Elementary School Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Chester Valley Elementary School Roof Upgrades project to Stark-Lewis, LLC, for the Base Bid amount of \$590,991.

8. ASD Memorandum #287 – Award of Contract: East Anchorage High School Renovation Project Phase 4A, Site Work Improvements

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for East High School Renovation Project, Site Work Improvements to the lowest bidder Central Environmental, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$296,800.

9. ASD Memorandum #292 – Award of Contract: Yosemite Drive Turn Lane Improvements at Veterans Parkway

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Yosemite Drive Turn Lane Improvements at Veterans Parkway project to the lowest bidder, Seacoast Construction Co., Inc. for the base bid in the amount of \$215,511.

10. ASD Memorandum #298 – Award of Contract: Chugiak 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 the Chugiak Elementary School Mechanical Upgrades project to the low responsive bidder, Norcoast Mechanical, for the Base Bid in the amount of \$310,500 and accept Alternates #1-3 in the amount of \$165,800, and Allowance #1 in the amount of \$35,249 for a total award of \$511,549.

11. ASD Memorandum #291 – Award of Contract: Dimond High School Replacement Phase 2 – Demolition, Traffic Safety Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize an increase in the scope of work for the Dimond High School Replacement School – Phase 2 Demolition, Traffic Safety Upgrades project and approve a change order for this work in the amount of \$697,269 to Neeser Construction, Inc.

12. ASD Memorandum #310 – Request for Budget Adjustment for Two Safety Vehicles

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a budget transfer for \$52,000 for the Transportation Department to purchase two replacement vehicles for use by safety officers.

13. ASD Memorandum #276 – Personnel Report

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

The following memoranda were removed from the Agenda: Memoranda #243.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele  
seconded by: Mary Marks

to approve the Minutes of Special Meeting of March 28, 2005; the Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 28, 2005; The Minutes of Special Meeting of April 11, 2005; the Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 11, 2005; Minutes of Special Meeting of April 21, 2005; and ASD Memorandum#274; Memorandum #299; Memorandum #284; Memorandum #275; Memorandum #283; Memorandum #287; Memorandum #292; Memorandum #298; Memorandum #291 (as amended); Memorandum #310; and Memorandum #276 (as amended with addendum).

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

The Board recessed at 8:10 p.m. and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

ASD Memorandum #243 – Revision to School Board: Section 450 – Students Rights and Responsibilities (Second Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 450-452, Appendix A, and Appendix A-1 on second reading.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner  
seconded by: Macon Roberts

to approve Memorandum #243

Jan Christensen reported that the Policy Committee met on May 12 and looked at the three-year look back policy again. The committee agreed to retain the originally proposed language that was passed on first reading. Almost all of the M.E.C.C. suggestions were incorporated into the final document. After the committee met, word from legal counsel was received concerning language on Page 22. 2.e.(5). JDO representative, Andie Stone, proposed the language suggesting it would be an appropriate amendment to this policy.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner  
seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

to amend the draft to substitute on Pg 22 of the revision in section d. Hearing and Appeals under 2. e. (5) and substitute the language in the email that was distributed to the Board dated Friday, May 20, 2005 12:58 p.m. from Ms. Rhonda Gardner...."The Board may also Postpone Imposition of Discipline subject to the student fulfilling stated conditions. Where the student meets the required conditions, the suspension or expulsion will not be imposed. Where the student does not meet the required conditions, the Superintendent will explain the District's determination that the conditions have not been met and give the student an opportunity to respond. The student is not entitled to further hearings with respect to the original actions leading to the suspension or expulsion. It is Board policy to use this option rarely and only where special circumstances exist to justify postponement."

John Steiner noted that the original language read that there would be no further hearing on the matter and this language adjusts it to indicate that although there would be no further hearing on the underlying conduct that the Board has already determined warrants disciplinary sanction, if

the Board has sought to postpone it pending conditions, the Superintendent would give it an opportunity for the student to indicate whether the student believes that the conditions were met before the Superintendent makes a final conclusion as to whether they have been met or not. Mr. Steiner thinks this amendment is appropriate.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

VOTE ON AMENDMENT PASSED

Crystal Kennedy requested a look at the Drugs and Alcohol portion on Page 6. The language talks about the "potential sale, distribution, use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs or inhalants, drug paraphernalia..." Ms. Kennedy stated that she appreciates the fact that the distribution verbiage is in there but she did not see the distribution used in Sub Section 3, that states "The first and any subsequent offense for the sale or attempted sale of prohibited substances will result in a recommendation to the School Board for expulsion from the Anchorage School District." Ms. Kennedy stated that the Board has had several conversations in the past regarding the fact that we will have students who bring something from home and pass that around in school and that really was as significant as someone who is selling a drug at school. Ms. Kennedy would like to see the same standard for someone who is giving away the drug as for selling the drug. There may be a greater standard that needs to be met for those who are trying to give away drugs. Perhaps the distribution of prohibited substances should be inserted. Ms. Comeau responded that she has no problem with that and asked Ms. Christensen for her opinion. Ms. Christensen did not have any objection and asked Mr. Henry and Ms. Opalinski, who also did not have any objection to the added language. Mr. Steele commented that it is still distribution. Carol Comeau responded that if it isn't the "sale" there is the giving and passing along, and we have seen some cases where we have students who have a reaction to taking something that someone handed them and that is the distribution; but they didn't buy it. The word "distribution" will add to it rather than be redundant. Jeff Friedman commented that under the current policy and proposal, distribution as a first offense would result in a suspension and Ms. Kennedy is suggesting that distribution, along with sale would almost automatically result in an expulsion on first offense.

Tim Steele stated the he does not want students to be expelled for distributing Tylenol, Aspirin, Midol etc. Ms. Comeau stated that she does not disagree with that, but can't emphasize enough that for some students, even those drugs cause severe reactions and we need to do everything we can to explain to our youth who think it is just an aspirin, etc., there are policies in place and they need to follow them.

John Steiner commented that b. at the bottom of the page notes that the possession of over the counter prescription drugs are not subject to the cumulative violation policies described above. There is a question whether that refers to both the cumulative things in #1. and #2. and also in #3. Ms. Comeau stated that she thinks this amendment would raise the bar on what Mr. Steele described. If that's not the Board's intent then the amendment should not be passed. If you want to clarify it, that would be fine. We all worry about what kids are passing around and distributing to each other and they are sometimes pretty tainted drugs when they look like they are just a vitamin or aspirin and suddenly it turns out there's a lot more there.

Crystal Kennedy stated that her assumption is that if a student currently cannot be expelled for the sale or possession of aspirin they are probably not going to be expelled for the distribution of it either. This talks about prohibited substances in terms of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, etc. Jeff Friedman commented that he thinks the sale of an over the counter drug would fall into the higher category. One option is that we can pass what we have now and ask the Policy Committee to look further into that. We can think about this some more and propose it as a change for the future. It is a large change and we did not get a lot of input from the schools on this because we did not ask them about it.

Carol Comeau felt Mr. Friedman gave a good suggestion and recommended passing the amended version now and direct this one section back through the Policy Sub Committee to discuss it and run it by the principals. If they thought it was a good idea we could bring it back after some language was proposed so we can fully explore Mr. Steele's concern. Crystal Kennedy stated that she is agreeable to that if we can get to the point where someone can be expelled the first time because to her it is just as serious to hand somebody a drug as it is to sell one. Jeff Friedman pointed out that even under the current policy that could happen. If they are handing out aspirin the Board still has the authority to expel them first time if we feel like the way they are doing it is extremely dangerous. Ms. Kennedy responded there have been times when kids have passed something out at school and they were not expelled and the

second drug and alcohol comes about and they are expelled. Ms. Kennedy would rather expel them the first time rather than giving the impression it is okay to do it the first time and they will be expelled the second time.

Jeff Friedman stated that it is his understanding that the Board has asked by unanimous consent to let the Policy Sub Committee revisit this particular issue that Ms. Kennedy has raised.

John Steiner called for a point of order and asked if it is referred back will it require a formal first and second reading. Carol Comeau responded that it could be the first and second two meetings in June. It would only be on this section and this has been done before. The principals are meeting on the first of the month and the information could be sent out and it can be talked about at the Policy Committee. It should not take that long, but it will slow down the printing of the handbook. Tim Steele commented that he preferred that we move along and if we want to make an amendment it would cost us a year in terms of getting it in the next publication. It seems we are pretty tight in terms of getting this published and it is critical that it be published for this next year. John Steiner commented that it seems it would be good to do something about this. The way it is now, if someone has distributed and not sold, all they have violated is the possession standard and they could be distributing something very serious and we technically would only be able to suspend them and it would be somewhat problematic since under the sanctions the first offense for use or possession appears to be limited to suspension. Because distribution of different things might go to different levels, perhaps we could write this to make it that the sale will and the distribution "may" so that it allows for some distinction depending upon the severity of what is being distributed.

Crystal Kennedy moved to change 14(3) to read "The first and any subsequent offense for the sale or attempted sale, or distribution of prohibited substances will result in a recommendation to the School Board for expulsion from the Anchorage School District. The motion failed for lack of a second.

The Board took an at-ease at 8:40 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by: John Steiner  
Seconded by: Tim Steele (for discussion)

in 14 (a) (3) on page 7 after "prohibited substances will..." insert "and the first or any subsequent offense for the

distribution of prohibited substances may..."

John Steiner stated the result would be that the entire paragraph would read, "The first and any subsequent offense for the sale or attempted sale of prohibited substances will and the first or any subsequent offense for the distribution of prohibited substances may result in a recommendation to the School Board for expulsion from the Anchorage School District." Mr. Steiner commented that the intent of the motion is that he thinks distribution can be an extremely serious problem and it is not limited to whether someone is collecting money for the distribution and not necessarily even relevant. In certain circumstances Mr. Steiner thinks it should be subject to expulsion on the first time but he also believes if someone gives their friend an aspirin for a headache it does not necessarily mean that they should be expelled. Therefore, there needs to be a level of discretion.

Jan Christen stated that she supports the amendment.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

VOTE ON AMENDMENT PASSED

Crystal Kennedy asked why the recommendation to delete "race and ethnicity" and choose one term and add religion and change "sex or gender" to one or the other. Ms. Kennedy wondered why we were staying with the word "sex" or "gender" when it means the same. Rhonda Gardner responded that one place said "sex" and the other said "gender" and at one point they were both put in there and it was discussed with Mr. Owens at JDO. It was his recommendation to leave them both in there in both places to avoid any confusion and in fact, one of them apparently can mean something else in various places.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT1. ASD Memorandum #277 – Third Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report 2004-2005

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

Mike Henry reported that the numbers in the memo are not correct. The written description indicates for the high schools that there was a slight increase in attendance and in fact that is not correct. The numbers at the bottom of the page – there were some slight decreases and one school had a slight increase. The numbers in the high schools for report card pickup for this particular quarter are down across the board and we do not know why. The number of parents that attend PTSA meetings are up as well as the number of contacts and involvement we have with parents on getting students to attend the tests are up. Mr. Henry wanted everyone to understand that the verbiage as described is wrong. The numbers are down.

John Steiner agreed with Mr. Henry that it is hard to figure out why the numbers would be down. It may have to do with people's schedules or finding a line to talk to the teacher or maybe because they think the students are doing well or the teacher graded them fairly so they don't need to see them. Mr. Steiner asked about the effect on report card pickup due to the calendar change in 06/07. Carol Comeau responded that we will be looking at the parent/teacher conference issue for 06/07 and 07/08. We will have to look at the teachers' contract and what we think is the best way to approach that. There are still a number of issues relating to that. At this point and time the calendar has been approved and we will study and bring back a recommendation to the Board on conferences. John Steiner stated that it seems that parent availability is greater in the evening (which is a greater burden on teachers), but also if the time is too short and the parents wait in line to talk to the teacher, it is frustrating. Mr. Steiner encourages the continued discussion to find the best solution that we can within the constraints that we have.

Crystal Kennedy commented that she did not go pick up her son's report card during the last grading period because all but two of his teachers regularly report to her on his grades. The parent/teacher contact happens outside of the school as well.

Mary Marks agreed with Crystal Kennedy and she does the same thing.

2. ASD Memorandum #278 - Third Quarter Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report 2004-2005

Each quarter information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools. This information is shown in the narrative below and also as Attachments A-F.

3. ASD Memorandum #293 - Service High School Freshman Academy

Robert Service High School realizes that freshmen are entering our doors with a wide variety of skill levels that can often lead to academic jeopardy. We also realize that our rate of student retention and the number of successful course attempts need to be improved. Finally, we realize that the transition from middle to high school is one that can be improved upon for all students, from the highly gifted to those in need of remediation. Therefore, we are implementing a Freshman Academy Program as a focused smaller learning community program during the 2005-2006 school year.

Ms. Comeau reported that she is very excited about this program and thinks that what Mr. Henry and the high school principals have done in each of the high schools to move towards trying to develop programs and opportunities for students based on their building's need. This is a great example of that.

Lou Pondolino, Mike Henry and Ms. Lin Hinderman briefed the Board on this issue.

Mike Henry commented that even though this is a proposal for Service High School there are many of these items that are happening right now in all of the high schools. This is quite a bold step and thought it should be brought to Ms. Christensen and Ms. Comeau and the Board to let them know what is going on.

Service High School wants to increase the attendance rates and decrease the suspension rates and increase the success rates and decrease the failure rates and decrease the drop-out rates and increase the graduation rates of all of their students, starting with the incoming ninth graders the minute they set foot on the Service High School campus. This program is in the Lower 48 where other states have done this and it has been a great success.

Lou Pondolfino reported to the Board that with the Smaller Learning Communities Grant the principals had the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. to the Model Schools Conference. The Gates Foundation recognizes 30 high schools across the country as model schools because of a number of criteria factors of achievement. One of the common threads that Mr. Pondolfino found while there, was the focus on the freshman class. We have a dropout rate that is not acceptable. We have 500 freshman this year and 300 seniors. Some of that had to do with the opening of South, but from his past experience at East High School the same ratio occurs. The team went to North and South Carolina and looked at three different schools - one of the model schools and two other high achieving schools and their programs. They brought back the program and it became teacher driven at that point. They are not just teachers of low or average kids - they are teachers of high achieving kids as well.

Crystal Kennedy stated that she pulled this memorandum so that they would have an opportunity to promote it. Ms. Kennedy expects that this will be in all the high schools eventually.

John Steiner commented that he is very excited about this. It is a bold move and commendable one. It will be interesting to see how it works. Mr. Steiner thinks the separated lunch is a good thing. The interaction between freshmen and upper classmen has always been an interesting issue.

Jeff Friedman commented that the Board has always supported the smaller learning communities but this one seems real exciting. Whether a high achiever or low, it is going to give them strengths. Mr. Friedman is thrilled to learn that it came from the teachers and they are behind it.

John Steiner noted that Dimond, East and Bartlett High Schools are implementing some version of this as well.

4. ASD Memorandum #279 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of April 20, 2005 through May 13, 2005.

5. ASD Memorandum #280 – End-Of-Month Membership Report for April 2005

The end-of-month membership report for April 29, 2005 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of April was 48,610. This enrollment represents a decrease of 844 students when compared to the September 30, 2004 total of 49,454. The membership totals are compared in the following table

6. ASD Memorandum #281 – Operating Budget Transfers – April Monthly Report FY 2004-2005

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of April 2005 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 April 2005 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

7. ASD Memorandum #282 – Treasurer’s Report/Financial Recap: April 30, 2005

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 April 30, 2005.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS
- K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS  
LITIGATION
- L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 23, 2005, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:25 p.m.

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Jeff Friedman, President

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John Steiner, Clerk

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Robin Siegfried, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved