

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2004

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, November 15, 2004 at 6:31 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: Jake Metcalfe, Crystal Kennedy, Mary Marks, Tim Steele, Jeff Friedman, John Steiner, and Macon Roberts

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Enid Hunter, Gail Opalinski, Jeff Wood, Pam Chenier, Debbie Bogart, Steve Kalmes, Ray Amsden, Janet Stokesbary, Eric Tollefsen, Stan Syta, Mark Mew, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and other interested people.

B. ANNOUNCEMENT

Macon Roberts and Mary Marks represented the School Board at the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention held at the Egan Center on October 25-30, 2004. Mr. Roberts also represented the Board at the Healthy Futures Lifestyles Conference at the Captain Cook on November 5. He explained that this is a program that encourages exercise and healthy life styles in the schools and also works very closely with the physical education teachers.

Crystal Kennedy noted the next Legislative Subcommittee meeting will be held at 12 noon on November 16, 2004 in the Administration Building, Room 322.

Tim Steele commented that he attended the Alaska Association of School Boards conference on November 11-14. Governor Murkowski made his announcement about his budget proposal for educational funding.

Mary Marks reported that the next Audit Subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 320.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved unanimously.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS1. ASD Memorandum #64 - Alaska Middle School Principal of the Year

Jeanne Fischer, Principal at Mirror Lake Middle School, has been named Alaska's 2004 Middle School Principal of the Year. This award was presented to Fischer by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals in mid-October in Washington, D.C.

MetLife recognized Fischer for her high-performing quality school leadership and for helping prepare students for the work force and for success as future citizens in the nation. She has been with the Anchorage School District since 1982, and principal of Mirror Lake Middle School since 1997.

It is requested the School Board recognize honoree Jeanne Fischer for her professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm that led to this award.

2. ASD Memorandum #62 - National Young Leader

Dimond High student Luma Silva attended the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. this past summer - a unique leadership development program which invites high school students to meet with today's leaders. Selection is based on scholastic merit, community involvement and leadership contributions.

Luma, a 16-year old Girdwood resident, was born in Brazil and moved to the United States five years ago. Since arriving in the U.S. she has learned English as well as American customs and has maintained a 4.0 grade point average the past two years. She has worked with disabled children on a regular basis, been an active member of the Multicultural Club, and tutored classmates in mathematics. She has completed her high school requirements early and has been invited to participate in the Early Honors program at Alaska Pacific University, where students enroll in university courses to complete their high school diploma and receive college credits. She is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Last May she became a citizen of the U.S.

It is requested that the School Board recognize Luma Silva for her outstanding academic, community involvement and leadership contributions.

3. Presentation – State Height and Weight Study

Dr. John Middaugh thanked Superintendent Comeau and Janice Bates for their support in being allowed to conduct this study as well as Tammy Green, who worked on this project prior to moving to the University of Alaska Anchorage. He noted that the project owes its success to funding that was provided to DHHS from Senator Ted Stevens. Dr. Richard Mandsanger, Director of Public Health, and Beverly Wooley, Director of the Division of Health and Social Services, also assisted with this project. Dr. Middaugh noted that Erin Peterson is the heart and soul of this study.

Dr. Middaugh provided the School Board and the Superintendent with a fact sheet as well as a full study (the full study will be posted on the ASD Web site on November 16, 2004).

Erin Peterson provided an overview of the key findings in the report. She reported that the School District and the Alaska Division of Public Health collaborated to assess the prevalence of overweight among children in the Anchorage School District. They analyzed routinely collected height and weight measurements for students in grades K-12. Data collected by school nurses from 41,261 students spanning five school years were included in the analysis. A total of 78,303 individual height and weight values were used. They assessed and classified student weight status using BMI-for-age values and the categories defined by the National Center for Health Statistics. Over the five-year time period, two percent of students were underweight, 62 percent were at a normal weight, 18 percent were at-risk for becoming overweight, and 18 percent were overweight. Of students entering kindergarten or first grade, 32 percent were overweight or at-risk for becoming overweight. Students of a racial or ethnic background other than white were more likely to be overweight or at-risk for becoming overweight than white students. Ms. Peterson noted that schools can play a role in helping to address childhood overweight. She did note that educators cannot solve this problem alone; parents and community partners must take an active role in preventing and addressing childhood obesity. Dr. Middaugh stated that this is a national problem and hopes that schools will

help to identify what will work to address this problem. Dr. Mandsanger stated that the numbers were virtually identical between Alaska and Arkansas. He commented that he hopes the data can be used in the community to help address these issues, i.e., restaurants, development of exercise programs in the community and the schools, etc.

Ms. Peterson explained the following tables: Classification of Adult and Youth Weight Status; Body Mass Index Reference Data; Initial and Final Sample Composition - ASD Students 1998-2003; Proportion of Students Sampled by Grade - ASD Students 1998-2003; and ASD Data Conclusions.

Beth Wooley stated that it will require kids, parents, health care providers, and the community as a whole to address this problem. She hopes that a task force will be developed to work on this issue.

Mary Marks thanked Dr. Middaugh, Dr. Mandsanger, Tammy Green, and Erin Peterson for sharing this information tonight. She too is concerned with obesity and overweight for all students and families. Ms. Marks believes we have too many "tech" things in our houses, which makes it easy not to leave our homes. She stated that we have gotten lazy and we need to rethink how we do things to motivate us.

Macon Roberts agreed with Ms. Marks and mentioned that healthy lifestyles is a good step in the right direction. Mr. Roberts commented that better food is more expensive and is looking for a day when healthier foods and dietary foods are as available as staple foods. He stated that this is not an excuse, but could be a fact that may maximize obesity among the lower economic classes due to improper food choices. Erin Peterson responded there seems to be small differences among groups; no one group is doing poorly and all the rest are doing well. She did agree that what is available and what is affordable does drive what people eat and ultimately their weight is affected.

John Steiner expressed his concern with soda pop machines in our high schools and the fact that they are tied to funding activities. There is a discrepancy between getting kids out to do something healthy and having soda pop available, which is not healthy. Noting that this is a societal problem, he stated that we must do something to set our programs in the right direction.

Tim Steele stated that the main purpose of the soda machines is not to fund activities, but to provide food and drink for students. Mr. Steele asked if he was wrong in that assumption. Carol Comeau responded that there absolutely needs to be further discussion; the data in the obesity report is compelling. She stated that our physical education and health teachers and nurses are monitoring the height and weight of students; healthy futures initiative clearly shows there are organized activities and logs; the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant also includes exercise in their program. Ms. Comeau believes that we must focus on a healthier lifestyle.

Dr. Peter Mjos stated that physical activity is clearly one of the most important messages for children into adult life. Seventy percent of adults are either overweight or obese; this comes with disease. He further stated that obese children become obese adults. He believes that future adults will have a shorter lifespan than we have now with obesity overtaking smoking as the number one leader of death. Dr. Mjos encouraged the District to look at the student as a whole person and not only in academic terms. Students who are fit sleep better. Thirty to 40 minutes per week of physical exercise is not enough physical education for students. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends physical activity for students at the rate of 30 minutes daily for K-6 and 45 minutes daily for 7-12. He noted that no one in the state is complying with that recommendation. Dr. Mjos stated that students in Norway have up to six breaks per day along with physical education. He understands the obstacles, but feels that this is as important to students as academics. He also commented that we must move away from competitive sports and into sports which are enjoyable; this would require a major change in the physical education program. If we don't do this, ultimately, the lack of physical activity may jeopardize our economic status. Dr. Mjos would like to establish a statewide task force to make recommendations to approach this very serious problem, which is preventable and reversible.

Jake Metcalfe asked what Dr. Mjos sees as the problem for obesity within the last 30 years. Dr. Mjos responded that it is based on the decline of physical activity, electronic toys, television, computers, and snacking in front of the television and computer.

Macon Roberts asked if there is curriculum that includes the study of nutrition where students can learn about healthy food. Carol Comeau responded that it is included in the healthy life skills curriculum.

Jeff Friedman stated that it would be great to have one hour per day to do physical activity within our already busy day. He commented that it would be easy for the legislature to lengthen the school day or school year, but until that is done, we are facing an uphill battle. Mr. Friedman emphasized that penalties come with the academics. We must work as a community, but this must also be funded appropriately. He commented that it should be funded through the NCLB legislation.

Carol Comeau stated that she will put together a task force to include the community and work on increasing activities during the day.

#### E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

##### 1. Student Advisory

Lorett Nabong reported the Student Advisory Board will meet on November 22 at King Career Center at 9 a.m. He invited the School Board to attend. Mr. Nabong thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the AASB Leadership Institute. He met student representatives from across the state and found that rural/urban issues are quite different. He reminded everyone that the parent/teacher conferences will begin next week and hopes that all students do well.

Mary Marks commented that she spoke with Mr. Nabong during the leadership conference about the possibility of having a school tour for visiting representatives during the next conference. This would be a great opportunity for our visiting youth to see one of our big high schools and experience a large village.

##### 2. Military Delegate

LTC Jones reported that he attended a Veterans Program at Chugiak High School and gave accolades to the ROTC, chorus, band, and to Rick Volk. He also attended the AASB convention and noted that Governor Murkowski's message on the education

budget was well received. LTC Jones also noted that he works for an organization that deals with physical fitness everyday and thanked the individuals for their presentation on obesity.

3. MECC

William Johnson reported the next MECC meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18, Room 320, at 12 noon. The agenda will include a mini brief on NCLB by Rhonda Gardner as well as a discussion with Debbie Bogart on the multi-cultural conference. The MECC goals will also be finalized at this meeting. Mr. Johnson thanked the community and the School Board for their efforts on passing the school bonds.

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

Graham McDonald is a teacher at UAA and interested in providing the District with a program called "ReSurfacing in Education." He explained the program is a series of exercises designed specifically to enable students the deliberate control of their will and attention. It prepares children to meet the future with the following life skills: self-awareness; elimination of blame; empowerment of innate ability; responsibility for their feelings; and ability to make good life decisions. Mr. McDonald stated that he is trying to reach parents and teachers to provide information about his program. Carol Comeau stated that she will provide the information to Robb Boyer, Director of Staff Development, for his review and see if it is appropriate for teachers.

Michael Hansen stated his disappointment with the School District and their policies regarding visits to his son's classroom. He noted that the school has made special rules for him. Mr. Hansen does not feel the rules are legitimate because he has not disrupted his son's classroom. He also reported that the school has deemed his son habitually truant. Mr. Hansen explained that his son has been in the emergency room four times this month.

Superintendent Comeau stated that we are working through due process with Mr. Hansen and reported that Jerry Sjolander is available to talk with him. She further commented that schools do have rules and all parents are expected to check in at the office and follow school rules. She will set up a meeting with Mr. Sjolander and the school staff to review his concerns.

John Steiner stated that the School Board can only review this problem after the due process has been completed. He assured Mr. Hansen that we care, but must wait until the appropriate time to take action.

Tom Nightswander is the medical director for Fetal Alcohol for the State of Alaska. He commented that these are very difficult students within our classrooms as most of the children don't carry the characteristics of the diagnosis; only about ten percent look abnormal. Dr. Nightswander stated that it takes a special skill set to deal with these children on a daily basis as many of these students also have ADHD. Behavior concepts typically do not work with these students. He mentioned that they would like to have an expert in the District in the special education department that has received adequate training and additional resource training. Dr. Nightswander stated if these students can be identified early, secondary disabilities may be preventable. He encouraged the District to provide training for teachers and nurses.

Barbara Bundy is an archeologist and a life-long Alaskan who wished to speak on creationism versus evolution. She informed the Board and the Superintendent that many scientists within the community are available to help with the subject of evolution. She maintained a concern about what is being placed in textbooks and noted that it is illegal to teach creationism in our schools. Ms. Bundy hopes that every ASD student will be able to walk into any university and be up to speed in the science area and evolution theory.

Theresa Obermeyer stated that Bob Bundy is responsible for jailing her and Barbara Bundy is his daughter. Ms. Obermeyer stated that Bob Bundy is a criminal.

Ms. Obermeyer was ruled out of order and directed by President Steele to stop speaking about Mr. Bundy. Ms. Obermeyer refused to comply with Mr. Steele's request and continued her slanderous comments about Mr. Bundy. The School Board recessed at 8:00 p.m. and took a ten minute break.

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
  - a. Special Meeting September 13, 2004 4:30 p.m.
  - b. Regular Meeting September 13, 2004 6:30 p.m.
  - c. Special Meeting September 16, 2004 4:15 p.m.
  - d. Special Meeting September 27, 2004 4:30 p.m.
  - e. Regular Meeting September 27, 2004 6:30 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #117 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Anchorage Principals' Association 2004-2007

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Anchorage Principals' Association which will establish terms and conditions of employment for individuals in this unit during the period between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2007.

3. ASD Memorandum #100 - A Resolution in Support of Principal Appreciation Day

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 19, 2004, as Principal Appreciation Day in the Anchorage School District.

4. ASD Memorandum #97 - Resolution for American Education Week and All School Employees

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 14-20, 2004, as American Education Week for all employees in the Anchorage School District.

5. ASD Memorandum #95 - FY 2005-2006 Financial Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2005-2006 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the budget for FY 2005-2006 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenues and use of fund balance not-to-exceed \$566,920,364. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

	<u>FY 2005-2006 Financial Plan</u>
General Fund	\$ 429,540,000
Food Service Fund	14,525,583
Debt Service Fund	77,854,781
Local/State/Federal Projects Fund	<u>45,000,000</u>
Total - All Funds	<u>\$ 566,920,364</u>

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated costs increases, further review of the fees' structure, School Board requests, Administration, community, staff and students' budget review team recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility must be allowed for adjustments based on the budget being in alignment with academic achievement, updated demographic and/or economic information, as well as the status of the Waldorf and The Master's Preparatory Leadership Academy Charter School applications scheduled for School Board review.

6. ASD Memorandum #88 - Appropriation of State of Alaska Legislative Grant Funds Senate Bill 283

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept from the State of Alaska grant appropriations funded by Senate Bill No. 283 in the total amount of \$435,000.

7. ASD Memorandum #111 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Railroad Summer Youth Employment Program 2006

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Railroad Corporation for an ongoing program described in a current Memorandum of Agreement. This award for \$28,000 supports supervised summer employment for youth from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Career Center.

8. ASD Memorandum #112 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Fund for the Improvement of Education Earmark Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education in the amount of \$497,050 for the implementation of PLATO. \$248,525 will be allocated to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, and \$248,525 will be allocated to the Anchorage School District. The project will continue to help schools improve student achievement by providing computer-based diagnostic assessment and alternative forms of instruction. The project addresses individual student skill gaps in math and reading.

9. ASD Memorandum #113 - Acceptance of continuation Grant Award: Title II D Enhancing Education Through Technology

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation grant award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) in the amount of \$7,110. Funds will be used to continue the evaluation process begun at the end of the 2003-2004 grant period.

10. ASD Memorandum #114 - Acceptance of Continuation Contract Agreement: The Alaska Association of Alaska School Boards for the Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a continuation contract agreement from the Association of Alaska School Boards in the amount of \$248,071 to continue the Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement (ICE).

11. ASD Memorandum #96 - 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 #117, #100; #97; and #95.

**ACTION:**

<p>Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks</p>	<p>to approve Minutes from the Special Meeting of September 13, 2004; Regular Meeting of September 13, 2004 (Revised); Special Meeting of September 16, 2004; Special Meeting of September 27, 2004 (Revised); Regular Meeting of September 27, 2004 (Revised); Memorandum #88; Memorandum #111; Memorandum #112; Memorandum #113; Memorandum #114; and Memorandum #96.</p>
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**VOTE:**

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

**ASD Memorandum #117 - Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Anchorage Principals' Association 2004-2007**

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the Anchorage Principals' Association which will establish terms and conditions of employment for individuals in this unit during the period between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2007.

**ACTION:**

<p>Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Jake Metcalfe</p>	<p>to approve Memorandum #117.</p>
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Guy Okada, President of the Anchorage Principals' Association, asked the Board to approve this tentative agreement. He noted that collective bargaining began ten months ago and working without a contract has been frustrating. Mr. Okada stated that he wished the agreement could have been reached earlier, but is happy to be where we are today. He

thanked the School board for everything they do for students and the community.

Mary Marks thanked Mr. Okada for sharing his feelings at the past few meetings. She also thanked the principals for keeping their tone positive and for keeping our schools and students safe.

Jeff Friedman noted his appreciation for APA's willingness to maintain an open dialog. He stated that principals hold a very important position and are considered the leaders in our schools. Mr. Friedman encouraged Mr. Okada's continued presence at the Board meetings.

Macon Roberts agreed with Ms. Marks and Mr. Friedman and thanked the bargaining teams. He emphasized to the public that the School Board and Administration support the principals.

Carol Comeau applauded Mr. Okada and his fellow principals who lead our schools. She strongly encouraged the Board to ratify the contract.

John Steiner noted that with state standards and NCLB requirements, principals face the brunt of the focus. He stated that we rely on the principal to lead the school, improve instruction, and attain the best student achievement. Mr. Steiner commented that we may have an agreement, but we still must engage the principals on how they can be most effective on leading the charge.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #100 - A Resolution in Support of Principal Appreciation Day

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 19, 2004, as Principal Appreciation Day in the Anchorage School District.

ACTION:

Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Macon Roberts	to approve Memorandum #100.
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The School Board members read the resolution into the record.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #97 - Resolution for American Education Week and All School Employees

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating November 14-20, 2004, as American Education Week for all employees in the Anchorage School District.

ACTION:

Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Macon Roberts	to approve Memorandum #97.
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Rich Kronberg, President of Anchorage Education Association, spoke on behalf of the association and thanked the School Board and the Administration for their support of teachers. Mr. Kronberg noted that other than parents, teachers are the most important factor in the field of education. If a student has three great teachers, it increases a better chance for success in school; learning takes place during the relationship between student and teacher. Mr. Kronberg stated that the District must attract, keep, and support high quality teachers. He noted that one of the positive consequences of NCLB has focused us in that direction, but competitive compensation must also be a top priority. We must foster an attitude which shows teachers that they are valued and respected in their profession. Mr. Kronberg applauded Superintendent Comeau for showing the community that assaults on teachers are not acceptable. He thanked the School Board for this resolution in support of educators; every student must have the opportunity to learn.

Jake Metcalfe suggested that the District stress to the legislature how important it is for a school district to not have to deal with a continual budget deficit; there needs to be education relief. He noted that we are looking at \$800 million dollars of overflow and we need to start paying the people who educate our children with a competitive salary. Mr. Metcalfe warned if this is not done, our quality of life will decrease and our students will leave the state.

Superintendent Comeau thanked Mr. Kronberg for his comments and noted that there are many other jobs other than teachers and principals within the school district. She stated that we must tell all of our employees how important they are to the success of students.

The School Board members read the resolution into the record.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #95 – FY 2005-2006 Financial Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to prepare the Anchorage School District's FY 2005-2006 Preliminary Financial Plan in accordance with the financial projections set forth in this memorandum. Specifically, the budget for FY 2005-2006 is to be established for planning purposes with projected revenues and use of fund balance not-to-exceed \$566,920,364. This includes individual fund budgets currently projected as follows:

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Local/State/Federal Projects Fund	<u>45,000,000</u>
Total – All Funds	<u>\$ 566,920,364</u>

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to adjust the budget expenditure ceiling indicated above in accordance with any negotiated contract adjustments and other associated costs increases, further review of the fees' structure, School Board requests, Administration, community, staff and students' budget review team recommendations as implemented by the Superintendent. In addition, flexibility must be allowed for adjustments based on the budget being in alignment with academic achievement, updated demographic and/or economic information, as well as the status of the Waldorf and

The Master's Preparatory Leadership Academy Charter School applications scheduled for School Board review.

**ACTION:**

Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Jeff Friedman	to approve Memorandum #95.
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Carol Comeau explained that after the work session on the budget last week, the notes and discussion were reviewed by the Administration. They have built an upper level of the budget recommendation which includes the governor's proposed plan along with the Board's authorized use of keeping the undesignated fund balance to five percent. From the Administration's calculations and the use of the fund balance to cover existing one-time expenditures, which would include items such as major maintenance projects, data warehouse, technology, etc., reduces the gap to \$7 million dollars. Ms. Comeau stated that the Administration will continually readjust the budget once information is obtained. This is no different than what has been done in previous years. Ms. Comeau stated that a balanced budget will be brought forward to the Board in mid-January for the public hearings and Board action.

John Steiner stated that the Board did approve or indicate last week that they would be willing to take the fund balance to five percent of our general fund, which is calculated to be approximately \$6.5 million dollars. His concern is the memo states that \$3.5 million dollars will go towards items outside the annual ordinary budget for one-time expenses and about \$3 million dollars may go towards one-time expenses that normally would be handled in the course of the normal annual budget. Mr. Steiner's concern is that by putting some of the fund balance toward one-time expenses that routinely come up every year anyway, we will not have the fund balance available next year for the same one-time expenses. He stated that the Board is effectively allowing the District to spend \$3 million dollars extra on recurring items. His concern is should the Board actually be looking at the cuts in the recurring items and having all the \$6.5 million dollars be outside of that.

Superintendent Comeau responded her understanding from the Board was that they were interested in using the fund balance for major maintenance projects so we would not need an April bond package. Also the expense of opening the new Eagle River High School has to be considered; this is not a recurring cost, but is an additional one-time expenditure. She mentioned the data warehouse issue as well as the technology needs, which will be also considered as one-time expenditures.

Janet Stokesbary stated that during the budget process of preparing the 2004-2005 budget, the Board originally approved the use of \$4.5 million dollars of the fund balance to lessen the fiscal gap so there were less expenditures that actually had to be cut. Prior to that, we used a little over \$5 million dollars to again, for the same purpose, reduce the fiscal gap before they actually started reducing and cutting back on the expenditures. Ms. Stokesbary explained that was the same basis that was used in going forward with this budget process. Carol Comeau responded that this process is no different that what has been done in the past. She reminded the Board that they directed the Administration to truly look at costs of a data warehouse and major maintenance projects, which are substantial and sorely needed.

John Steiner thought that these items would not have been in the ordinary budget. If funds were spent on this, it would not reduce the fiscal gap. Carol Comeau responded that this was true; they would not probably have been in our budget with all the anticipated cuts. Mr. Steiner stated that he understands that the Eagle River High School needs would have been put in the 2005-2006 budget, which is a one-time expenditure, but if we are spending fund balance on those items outside of an ordinary budget, then how does the \$3 million dollars bring down our fiscal gap. He commented that he is not questioning using the \$6.5 million dollars from the fund balance, he is asking what kinds of things the money will go towards. He hopes that it will not go towards things that will ordinarily be in our budget except perhaps the Eagle River High School. Mr. Steiner stated that we still have a \$10 million dollar gap instead of a \$7 million dollar gap.

Janet Stokesbary noted that one other item that has been potentially identified is \$335,000 from our current budget. They are anticipating the transfer of this money to next year for the emergency preparedness supplies. This is not something they have had continually in the budget every year, but is something that could be eliminated or carried forward as a one-time source. There are some of the items within the major maintenance budget that could vary from year to year. Ms. Stokesbary stated that they were anticipating using some of the fund balance for new items that were not even discussed internally yet, which is the \$3.5 million. We were identifying \$3 million dollars as potentially being used towards existing one-time expenditures, i.e., equipment, emergency preparedness supplies, Eagle River extra allocation, etc. Carol Comeau stated that it could include a textbook adoption.

There was a lengthy, in-depth discussion by the School Board members and the Superintendent regarding the use of the fund balance and the fiscal gap anticipated for the 2005-2006 financial plan.

AMENDMENT:

<p>Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Crystal Kennedy</p>	<p>to build the budget based on the governor's proposed funding without the use of fund balance, then indicate up to \$3.0 million dollars in application fund balance for either one-time expenses or to preserve program cuts for one year, plus \$3.5 million for one-time expenditures outside an ordinary budget.</p>
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The Board recessed at 10:20 p.m. and returned at 10:40 p.m.

Mr. Steiner withdrew his amendment and added a new amendment with the concurrence of Ms. Kennedy, who seconded the motion, and the School Board.

AMENDMENT:

<p>Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Crystal Kennedy</p>	<p>this guidance directs the Administration to build the budget based on the governor's proposed funding without use of fund balance, plus \$6.5 million from fund balance for one-time expenditures outside the ordinary annual budget.</p>
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Mr. Steiner noted that the fiscal gap for 2005-2006 is revised to \$10 million instead of \$7 million as indicated in the original recommendation.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Kennedy, Friedman, Steiner, Roberts

Nays: Metcalfe, Marks, Steele

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT1. ASD Memorandum #94 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of October 15, 2004 through November 5, 2004.

2. ASD Memorandum #72 - 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center 2003-2004 Year-End Report

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) 2003-2004 Year End Report is the Anchorage School District (ASD) report to the School Board and the community on the achievement of the afterschool program. The 21st CCLC programs were held in the following elementary schools: Chester Valley, Creekside Park, Fairview, Government Hill, Mountain View, Muldoon, North Star, Northwood, Ptarmigan, Russian Jack, Taku, Tudor, Ursa Major, Williwaw, Willow Crest, and Wonder Park. Programs were also held at Clark and Romig middle schools.

21st CCLC DEMOGRAPHICS:

Enrollment in the afterschool program is by teacher/staff referral with each school having the capacity to serve 100 students from 3:30-5:30 p.m. daily during the school year. Bus transportation home is provided for students who normally ride the bus home after school. A partnership with the Children In Transition/Homeless (CIT/H) program provides cab or other transportation to the CIT/H students.

Bonnie Hardy gave a brief presentation on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grant. Ms. Hardy noted the following goals for the program: 1) enrolled students will improve their academic performance in reading, writing, and math; 2) the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center will enable students to develop positive attitudes, skills, and behaviors; 3) the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning

Center will enhance student learning through cooperative community partnerships, recreation, and cultural enrichment; 4) the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers will strengthen parents as partners in their children's education through parent literacy and other educational development; and 5) the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Centers will develop mechanisms to sustain the centers beyond the federal and state funding cycle. Ms. Hardy also pointed out that 70 percent of the staff in the centers are certified teachers, who report that students are turning in their homework and are doing better in their regular classrooms and have improved attitudes about school.

Jake Metcalfe called attention to goal number five, which calls for sustaining the centers beyond the federal and state funding. Noting that our operating budget has dropped considerably, Mr. Metcalfe asked what our chances might be to stop the flow of money from decreasing. Ms. Hardy responded that the federal funding under NCLB is currently at \$1 billion dollars; the law actually allows \$2 billion dollars. She further commented that there is a movement around the country to educate our leaders on after school programs and to increase funding. Ms. Hardy stated that the State Department of Education and Early Development is limited on what they receive and the Anchorage School District is lucky to receive the funding that we do. Carol Comeau commented that the biggest challenge is that this is flat-funded at the presidential level, and we need to continue to make the case. She noted that unless there is an increase at the federal level, funds may be diverted to other programs. Superintendent Comeau stated that she and Larry Wiget met with Congressman Don Young's aid to stress the importance of this program, and stated our congressional delegation is fully aware of our needs.

Jeff Friedman stated that he is amazed at how strong the results have been in this program; hard statistics and strong survey data show this program to be very successful. He noted that this is a good example on how we can use data to see what programs should be funded. He feels this is a great example for a relatively small amount of money and if we could double our money, we may be able to double our results.

Mary Marks thanked Ms. Hardy for her report and commented that she presented the report to the National Association of School Boards Council of Urban Education in San Antonio at a

recent conference. She noted that the panel was overwhelmed when they reviewed the diversity of the program and how well it is working. Ms. Marks stated that the students who attend are referred by a teacher. The program only accepts 100 students, which is a one to ten ratio. This allows the student to achieve to the best of their ability.

Jake Metcalfe asked for an explanation of literacy activities as noted in goal number four. Bonnie Hardy responded that parent activities are scheduled once a month and may be sponsored by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, PTA, or Title I. Parents are invited to participate in a “make it/take it” activity so they can make educational resources to help their children at home.

Tim Steele asked if the District is providing transportation for students attending the program. Carol Comeau responded yes, it is a collaborative effort with Title I paying a portion of the costs.

3. ASD Memorandum #76 – Class Size Report 2004-2005

This report for the 2004-2005 school year is divided into the following categories: Elementary Education, Middle School Education, High School Education, Special Education, Bilingual Education, and Charter Schools. In addition, the Administration has compiled information on class sizes in the alternative programs and the student-to-counselor ratio at the seven major high schools.

Each major department in the Instructional Division has provided detailed information on class sizes and, at the high school level, the counselor-to-student ratio.

Carol Comeau thanked the School Board for maintaining a lower class size. She noted that some adjustments continue to be made within the schools.

4. ASD Memorandum #99 – Smaller Learning Communities Update

The main goals of Smaller Learning Communities are to personalize education for all students, increase opportunities and academic achievement for all students, and create a safe and welcoming environment at school. Anchorage high schools are large, and it is too easy for students to remain anonymous or get lost in the crowd. By dividing the large school into smaller parts

(houses), we are able to better serve all students. We want to retain the advantages of being large schools, while gaining some of the benefits that smaller schools have. We are attempting to provide the best of both worlds.

There are some key characteristics each high school is working with in the move toward Smaller Learning Communities within the Anchorage School District.

- Ninth grade transition: The seven comprehensive high schools have developed plans with engaging activities and programs to assist freshman students the minute they step foot on the high school campuses. The goal is to provide support to make the transition into high school a smooth and enjoyable experience. The outcome is expected to be fewer failing grades, less suspensions and a more rigorous curriculum.
- Outreach: There are a variety of outreach activities being pursued at each school to better inform faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members. These activities include student retreats, PTSA meetings, parent group meetings, faculty meetings, student forums, lunch discussions with students, meeting with eighth grade students, and student government discussions.
- Coordination with Curriculum Specialists: High schools are coordinating with curriculum specialists to adhere to the requirements of the Alaska State Standards, No Child Left Behind, and the Curriculum Audit.
- Teaming: Each school is looking at adding or expanding teaming efforts within their school. Most include language arts and social studies at the ninth and tenth grade level. Some include other subjects. The main idea is to help make the curriculum more relevant to students.

Professional development time and opportunities continue to be the major efforts in this grant. The High School Division appreciates the School Board's resolution in support of a restructured day in order to assist the professional development of our teachers. We are interested in continuing to work with the Board to help make this happen.

Expenditures this year are mostly for a .4 FTE building coordinator in each high school, added duty addenda for teachers working on professional development, expenses for teacher representatives at each high school to attend an Effective Schools conference, substitute teachers for in-school trainings, and contracted services for outside experts to work with teachers.

To maximize the professional development opportunities, the Administration is currently in negotiation with Learning 24/7 to bring another national educational conference to Anchorage during April 2005. This would allow all high school teachers to attend a conference with national and local educational experts for a fraction of the cost of sending them out of state for the same benefit.

For more information on Smaller Learning Communities, the following websites offer general to very specific information.

The Federal Smaller Learning Communities Website

[www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SLCP/](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SLCP/)

The Small Schools Workshop - This site contains a wealth of information including general information, current articles on schools moving to this model, and conferences.

[www.smallschoolsworkshop.org](http://www.smallschoolsworkshop.org)

This is the Northwest Regional Laboratory site. They are our evaluating agency, but they also offer assistance for implementation on this site.

[www.nwrel.org/scpd/sslc/index.shtml](http://www.nwrel.org/scpd/sslc/index.shtml)

This site addresses what the SLC idea is and why we're doing it. It's a fairly cogent discussion of the reasons and benefits.

[www.ntlf.com/html/lib/suppmat/74tinto.htm](http://www.ntlf.com/html/lib/suppmat/74tinto.htm)

5. ASD Memorandum #98 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2004-2005 School Year

The purpose of this report is to inform the School Board on a quarterly basis of new grants that have been submitted for funding.

Crossroads Smart Families Initiative; to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Assistance, for \$49,889 for a one-year project. Crossroads School: A collaboration

between the ASD Crossroads School for pregnant and parenting teens and Chugachmiut tribal consortium to provide workshops and supportive services for teen parents, focusing on teen fathers. The project is designed to help youth achieve academically; at the same time learning such important family life skills as personal responsibility, parenting, job and career planning, and financial planning. This grant has been funded.

Success in English Language Proficiency for Academic Success (SELPAA) Project; an earmark grant award from the U.S. Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Education, for \$497,050 for a three-year project. Bilingual/Multicultural Education Program: To purchase and implement a computer-assisted language instruction program, English Language Learning System (ELLIS), for English language acquisition and academic achievement. Funds also will support professional development for teachers in project schools.

YWCA Girls on the Run Fitness Program; to the YWCA of Anchorage; for \$6,513. Twenty-first Century Community Learning Centers: To implement the Girls on the Run Fitness Program in a summer intensive program for 300 youth at all elementary sites. The program supports projects for youth that promote fitness in a safe and fun manner, that expand fitness opportunities for disadvantaged youth, and that promote health. This grant has been funded.

#### Partnership Grants

Alaska Railroad Youth Summer Employment Program; an ongoing memorandum of agreement with the Alaska Railroad, for \$28,000 for a summer 2005 project. King Career Center: To support supervised summer employment for youth through a partnership between the Alaska Railroad Corporation and Martin Luther King, Jr. Career Center. This summer work experience places high school students as tour guides on passenger trains and in Railroad offices. Students gain knowledge about such Alaska topics as Alaska History, cultures, geography, natural resources, and tourism.

Healthy Kids, Healthy Minds; to the Municipality of Anchorage, Parks and Recreation Department, for \$30,000 for a twelve-month project. Anchorage Community Education Association, in partnership with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Program: To continue an academic-based recreational program at the thirteen 21st Century Community Learning Centers sites. The grant will support program staff and will provide physical education equipment.

Other

Best Buy te@ch Grants; to Best Buy Children's Foundation for awards of Best Buy gift cards at \$2,500 per winning school. The competition rewards schools for integrating interactive technology into their curriculum.

- Bear Valley Elementary: To enhance the current multimedia reading and writing workshop program for students through updated digital technology and training.
- College Gate Elementary: To establish a "Tech Club" for primary and intermediate students to learn and apply digital photography after school and then teach other students in their classes how to use the camera for classroom projects.
- Lake Otis Elementary: To continue the use of electronic portfolios to document students' work such as book reports, writing, art projects, and presentation skills. The grant will be used to purchase additional digital cameras, peripherals, and CDs.
- Muldoon Elementary: Kindergarteners will be partnered with sixth graders to create multimedia storylines, through the use of digital cameras, camcorders, and storage media.
- Romig Middle School: This project will produce a student video presentation created and delivered by students from Romig's Peer Education Program.
- Scenic Park Elementary: To enhance a current Technology Leadership Grant project that integrates handheld computers into teaching and learning by the production of a student news program.
- Spring Hill Elementary: To provide the technology for students to create and share visual presentations and acting performances on books they have read, and to collect and compare scientific data. The grant is for digital projection and photography equipment.
- Susitna Elementary: To use multimedia projection to enhance lessons. The grant will purchase a multimedia projector.
- Taku Elementary: To improve the quality of video production of iMovies which introduce the theme of the month for the school-wide positive discipline program at Taku, and to produce visual display materials that support each theme.

- Turnagain Elementary: To expand a webquest program in which sixth grade students do Internet research and prepare a presentation on World War I figures who they believe made the greatest sacrifice in the war. The grant will provide color printers and a digital camcorder.
- Willow Crest Elementary: To expand the school's website on Alaska animals to include a community piece. The grant will be used to purchase digital video equipment and related equipment.
- Wonder Park Elementary: To provide technology for students to create, produce, and distribute classroom books using their own stories, poems, and literature with pictures of themselves and of classroom activities.
- Goldenview Middle School: To provide computer access outside of lab or common areas in the school through wireless capabilities. The grant will provide hardware and wireless access points that will connect into the school's Ethernet network, and related hardware.
- Gruening Middle School: Students will learn media production through creating class and school announcements. The grant will purchase a multimedia projector.
- Mirror Lake Middle School: To provide students with a loaner camera program so that they can record science around them as part of the science curriculum. The grant will supply a mobile center with digital cameras, hard drives, and printers.

• Celebrating the Art in Language Arts; to the Ezra Jack Keats Minigrants Program, for \$350. Willow Crest Elementary: To create a winter unit inspired by Keats' "Snowy Day." Students will produce winter collages and contribute to a classroom book similar to "Snowy Day," but with an Alaskan perspective.

Rocket Payload Investigation; to the Toshiba America Foundation, for \$716. Kasuun Elementary: To provide materials for a science lesson that involves designing and building rockets to carry a payload as high as possible.

Keying in on Conversations--APTE 2004-2005 Study Group Inquiry Project; to the University of Alaska Anchorage, for \$1,440. Taku Elementary: To implement strategies that will enhance students' communication skills through discussing literature. The grant will provide children's literature and professional books for teachers.

- I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
- J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS
- K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - (PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/  
LITIGATION
- L. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of November 15, 2004 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:15 p.m.

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Tim Steele, President

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Jeff Friedman, Clerk

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Mary Kay Sambo  
Recording Secretary

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Date