

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 22, 2004

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, November 22, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, Tim Steele, presided.

Board Members Present: Tim Steele, Mary Marks, Crystal Kennedy, John Steiner, Jeff Friedman, Jake Metcalfe and Macon Roberts.

Others Present: Jan Christensen, Enid Hunter, Mike Henry, Patricia McRae, Jerry Sjolander, Eric Tollefsen, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Loretta Nabong, Ray Amsden, Pam Chenier, Stan Syta, Rhonda Gardner, Michelle Egan, Larry Wiget, Brian Griggs, LTC David Jones, William Johnson, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, Tim Steele Presiding

B. MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

The Sand Lake Orff Ensemble

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Macon Roberts announced that on Friday the 19th he attended a conference at the Millennium Hotel sponsored by the Division of Juvenile Justice. The title was DMC, which stands for Disproportionate Minority Contact. A taskforce was formed to see if the trend of the large number of minorities in the justice system can be turned around. On the 20th Mr. Roberts attended the 36th anniversary of OPAC (Old People's Action Group.) The Superintendent pointed out the important participation of the senior citizens in our school system such as the foster grandparent program. Many seniors are active foster parents as well as raising their own children and grandchildren. Mr. Steiner also represented the Board at that meeting.

Mary Marks shared that on the 19th she was invited to be a guest speaker at Fort Richardson. The topic was "People of Honor Honoring Life, Culture and Traditions, Living with Pride." This is Alaska Native American Heritage month. Ms. Marks talked to them about the Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act. Ms. Marks spoke about the Alaska native people, how they feel and what the land, culture and heritage means to the Alaskan people. Ms. Marks added that she was also presented with an award. Ms. Marks was honored to share a little bit of Alaskan history.

Tim Steele announced that there would be a community meeting at Girdwood School at 7:00 p.m. on December 2. This is the kick-off on the District's budget development process. The Administration will be asking for input from the community on the budget as well as scheduling and other topics. All are welcome to attend.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by: Jake Metcalfe that the Agenda be approved.
seconded by: Mary Marks

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #107 - Crayola Dream-Makers Recipients

Twenty years ago the Crayola Dream-Makers program was introduced to encourage the creativity and conceptual development of kindergarten through sixth-grade children through art activities emphasizing the value of visual learning in all curricular areas, and calling attention to the creative work of children through exhibitions of their artwork. The theme for the 2004 Dream-Makers competition was "Dreaming Beyond the Book." Artwork submissions reflected this theme and were judged on the basis of visual appeal, originality and craftsmanship.

Jan Christensen read the memorandum while Tim Steele and Mary Marks presented the plaques to the students.

2. Middle School Presentation - Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders

Superintendent Carol Comeau stated that the middle schools, for the last four years, have been working with the Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders curriculum. This is a focus on helping our young people in the middle schools learn how to avoid bullying and harassment as well as a number of other issues. Executive Director of Middle Schools, Gail Opalinski will give a presentation about what they are doing in the middle schools and how students are being involved in this very important issue.

Ms. Opalinski introduced Jan Davis and Gary Stein, teachers at Wendler Middle School. Ms. Davis also brought students from Wendler to demonstrate one of the lessons that is being taught.

Ms. Opalinski commented that at the beginning of this year the staff felt that they were ready to do Aggressors, Victims, and Bystanders throughout the District. They have tried it out at several of the schools and found that the students responded favorably as well as the teachers. They trained four teachers from every middle school and Polaris K-12 and also four of the School Resource Officers. The four teachers from each of the schools trained the other teachers in their schools. This program is presented by teachers in the schools within their teams.

Jan Davis explained to the Board that there are three major assumptions that the 12 AVB modules work on. #1. Fighting is not a viable way to resolve problems or conflicts. #2. All adolescents can learn different skills. #3. New skills will enable students to not only maintain self-respect but the respect of others. Studies showed that approximately 38 percent of students stated that bullying was none of their business; 27 percent stated that they wanted to help but didn't know how to help; 25 percent of the students surveyed stated that they didn't have the skills to help. Ms. Davis stated that the AVC program is taught by third person. It doesn't point fingers - it teaches how to solve problems. It focuses how the victim, bystander and bully all can have interrelated roles in the whole arena of harassment and how they can build the skills together to solve problems in a nonviolent way.

Ms Davis further explained that The "Think-first" model shows how one thinks and what skills we have to solve our problems; the beliefs that are supporting the problem-solving skills; and how we do it or the style of it. The four steps are to keep cool, size up the situation, think it through and do the right thing. Ms. Davis stated that the reason that the students buy-in to this program is because it's all about them and the problems in middle school - it makes the students the center of the curriculum. It trains through conflicts that are relevant to middle school students. It is based on beliefs that the middle school student has. More importantly, it allows students to see that fighting is the very last solution to solve a problem or conflict and it teaches that in a school environment there are so many other options that there is no reason to fight. Wendler students, Ben Williams, Erica Bills, Tory Leach, Jennifer Mitchell and Rachel Schoenborn, gave a brief demonstration of role-playing a situation and explained to the Board why they enjoyed the program.

Gary Stein commented to the Board that one of the most important things she mentions at every meeting is "Conflict is inevitable - it's how we handle it that counts." Ms. Stein added that it has been wonderful to watch the students mature and use the vocabulary from the program in their daily lives.

Carol Comeau commented that she had the occasion to meet Dr. Slaby, who developed this program, and he was pleased to see how well our middle schools developed this program and made it work in all of the schools. This model is truly going to make a significant difference for our young people. Ms. Comeau added that she hopes they will carry what they've learned on to the high school and continue to work through those issues when they get to high school as leaders. Four of the school resource officers also received the training, so they are working collaboratively with it. There are also two canine unit officers from APD who worked at Clark Middle School before, who also have the training.

Jake Metcalfe asked how this works with peer mediation. Ms. Opalinski replied that it is complementary. The research shows that peer mediation is not appropriate for a bullying situation because there is not a balance of power. Also, the program is trying to change the habit of mind, the way you actually look at the conflict and figure out ways to resolve it. Peer mediation would fit right in that. It would be one of the things students could look at solving a conflict. It is complementary but sometimes peer mediation is not appropriate. Mr. Metcalfe asked if there has been a reduction in violence or bullying type situations. Ms. Opalinski replied that because students are able to identify them more we have actually had more students report, but the recidivism has gone down. There are more reports of potential violent situations. The nice thing about this is that it gives the students some ways to look at their own situations.

Macon Roberts commented that it is very evident how enthused the teachers are about this. Mr. Roberts asked if the victim gets support from bystanders who normally would walk on by. Ms. Davis replied that it gives kids who don't know what to say a way to say it. It teaches the students how to maintain respect for others and themselves. It's not what you do but how you do it.

Tim Steele asked when the students would receive this training in the eighth grade. Gail Opalinski replied that it depends on the schools. At least two schools taught the program to all seventh-graders last year so those eighth-graders have already had it. The majority is doing it in

seventh and eighth grade classes. Not all have completed the program yet and they are setting it up in different ways. A few schools are reorganizing their schedules so they are doing it three days a week for several weeks to get through it. It is twelve lessons so it goes through the whole process. The teachers have been wonderful about learning how to deliver the lessons but also cooperating and figuring how it would not interfere with the educational process. Mr. Steele responded that it sounds like a great program. This program gives kids life skills, not just something that is appropriate for only middle school students.

Mary Marks asked one of the students how they would handle a situation where a gang was involved and a student needed to get beyond a gang leader in order to tell an adult when bullying is taking place. The student replied that if the gang leader approaches them and puts pressure on them they go to the security guard, someone they trust, or their group members and talk to them about it. Most of the time, they can help.

Mr. Steiner asked what the students are taught to do if the skills they've learned in the role-playing do not work out and someone does want to fight. Jan Davis replied that during the class period there are several groups and a lot of them do end up where they do want to fight. They stop and talk about what other tools they could have. Statistics have shown that those who want to fight have only one or two tools before they fight. We talk to the students about getting more tools. With almost every one that comes up there is a teachable moment and they learn more tools or what they could have done. Practicing this helps them out in future situations.

Carol Comeau commented that as staff changes over we need to make sure that the clerical staff, security and noon attendants be brought into the training as well - not just the classroom staff. The common vocabulary that they are talking about is the key because people know who to react and respond. Mr. Steele added that the counselors at the elementary schools are hopefully learning it as well. Patricia McRae mentioned that the Elementary Education Department has purchased a similar program for the elementary schools' staff and they have all gone through the training.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

No report.

2. Military Delegate

LTC Jones thanked Ms. Fischer at Mirror Lake Middle School who invited representatives from Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson to speak at the area wide PTSA presidents and principals meeting on December 7, 2004 at 9:30 am, about support services for students whose parents are deployed or are about to be deployed. They will talk about the types of things that can help the students and keep them doing things well at school.

3. M.E.C.C.

Mr. William Johnson reported that the MECC met November 18 at noon with a quorum. Mr. Johnson stated that he will deliver the MECC goals to the Board in January. At the meeting, Debbie Bogart shared information on the Multicultural Youth Leadership Conference scheduled for January 20, 2005 at the Egan Center from 8:30 to 4:30 and Rhonda Gardner gave a brief update on NCLB. For more information Mr. Johnson asked that the public please visit the MECC website. The next meeting is January 20, 2005 at noon in Room 320. Mr. Johnson wished everyone in the District a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

Superintendent Comeau reported that she attended the Student Advisory Board meeting this morning and asked the students to talk to their friends and staff at their school to talk about the calendar options and the budget and she would attend their meeting in December to learn the results of their discussions. Ms. Comeau commended the students because they were very helpful and terrific last year when it came to contacting Board members, the legislators and administration. They did it in a very respectful, thoughtful manner that reinforced how important programs and activities are in our schools.

G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

H. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum #130 - Acceptance of Grant Award - Crossroads Smart Families Initiative

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$49,880 for a partnership program at Crossroads School in parenting.

2. ASD Memorandum #108 - Award of Contract: Chugiak High School Library Roof Repairs

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Chugiak High School Library Roof Repairs to Consolidated Enterprises, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$548,900.

3. ASD Memorandum #109 - Award of Contract: Steller School Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation for the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Steller School Roof Repairs to Industrial Roofing for the Base Bid amount of \$428,344 and additive Alternate #1 in the amount of \$89,029, for a total construction contract of \$517,373.

4. ASD Memorandum #116 - Award of Contract: Frozen Potato Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Country Foods to furnish frozen potato products in the estimated amount of \$138,219.

5. ASD Memorandum #105 - 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: Memorandum #130, #101 and #103.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman
seconded by: Macon Roberts

to approve ASD Memorandum #108;
Memorandum #109;
Memorandum #116; and
Memorandum #105.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #130 - Acceptance of Grant Award - Crossroads Smart Families Initiative

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant award from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services in the amount of \$49,880 for a partnership program at Crossroads School in parenting.

MOTION:

Moved by: Jake Metcalfe
seconded by: Jeff Friedman

to approve ASD Memorandum #130.

Jake Metcalfe requested some background of the program and wanted to give an opportunity for any comments from interested parties. Carol Comeau requested Karin Parker, principal of the program to come forward to speak to the Board.

Karin Parker reported that the purpose for the grant is to address parenting fathers, which are not addressed in the regular program at Crossroads. It was felt that there was a need to look at the parenting fathers and how to best meet their needs. Chugachmiut came forward with an idea for a grant proposal where they would offer some support as well as one of their staff members who is very experienced in providing this kind of instruction. They collaboratively wrote the grant looking at some key issues they wanted to provide for students in the Anchorage School District, the first being support for the parenting fathers, keeping all of the students in school, giving them skills and developing their parenting, communication and problem solving skills. And working collaboratively with them to be the best parents they can possibly be to their babies at Crossroads.

Patrick Anderson reported that the Chugachmiut tribal consortium came to Crossroads after developing a relationship with them trying to explore what they could do together and he ran into Commissioner Gilbertson who said that there was a half million dollars that was going to be available for the marriage promotion funding. Marriage promotion funding is a year earlier at being delivered than nationwide monies so they felt it would be a great opportunity for them to explore what they could do in encouraging responsible fatherhood. They are also trying to encourage dads who have children in the school at Williwaw to come in and participate. In 1964 Secretary of Labor, Daniel Moynihan observed that there was an absence of fathers and a trend of social problems in the black community. He thought that it was going to happen in other communities and it would have some deleterious effects. Mr. Anderson further stated that they are trying to encourage as many as possible fathers of these children of these fragile families to become responsible. This grant gives us an opportunity to develop a curriculum. The program puts together 45 hours of training with 15 hours of support services to try to improve their ability to parent and their education and employment skills.

Jeff Friedman thanked Mr. Anderson for his involvement in this and appreciates all of the help the Chugachmiut tribal consortium is giving.

Macon Roberts shared how important he feels this program is from his own personal experience and admires what they are doing.

Carol Comeau encouraged the Board members to stop by Crossroads and find out when these are going on. This whole opportunity to strengthen families for our parenting teams is very important. Ms. Comeau added that when she attended their graduation last spring and the stories of success of those young women and how proud they are in getting a diploma says that we are on the right track. When we add in the father piece where they are feeling better about their responsibilities and they are moving on to success that is going to help strengthen those families even more.

Mary Marks appreciated Mr. Anderson and Ms. Parker for coming and sharing this information with the Board. This is a great opportunity because it is causing fathers to take accountability for their actions and be a part of their children's lives. It is a proven fact that when a father is involved with their children, children are less apt to get involved in bad habits. It takes both parents to make a good habit so that we are training our kids in the appropriate way and not picking up bad habits.

Mr. Anderson stated that within the Alaska native community about 12 percent of the children are being raised by relatives and 11 percent of the fathers raise their families and 21 percent of the families are headed by single mothers.

Jake Metcalfe commented that we need to be proud of this program and it offers something to the community to make it a better place.

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I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #101 - Facility Change Order Report and Completed Projects for the Month of October

The monthly Facility Change Order Report for the month of October is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month. There are no completed projects for this month.

Crystal Kennedy asked for the current status of the drainage and road situation in front of the Eagle River High School and the implications that go along with that in terms of the housing development. George Vakalis responded that there is a drainage problem and the extent is still being investigated. The District has acknowledged that some could possibly be from the construction site itself. An engineering firm is doing the studies to determine what is causing it and how to fix it. It will be fixed by next summer. Some of it was caused by the way the street was plowed and dammed up in the gutters.

The other issue regarding the development of the road, which is who is responsible for developing the road to collector status if in fact that is a requirement. That is yet to be determined. We are building a building and if one of the requirements of that building is that the road has to be upgraded to collector status the District has a responsibility to the city to make that happen. The traffic engineer and State traffic people concurred with the study that was done as far as how traffic flow should be accomplished relevant to the school. A design was done and accepted by the city. The question at hand is whether or not the traffic engineer had the authority to grant the District the permission to use the solution that was developed by the consulting firm hired by the District. Even though it affects the District, it is not a District issue. The District will do what it is told to do. At this time, it is between the Municipality and Mr. Vicente. It has been remanded back to the Planning and Zoning Board for further clarification and jurisdictional reasons.

Ms. Kennedy thanked Mr. Vakalis for his report and wanted to give an opportunity for the public to hear it as well. Ms. Kennedy asked what the cost of the drainage issue might be. Mr. Vakalis responded that the cost is not known at this time. If it is found that there was a flaw in the engineering or the application on the ground by the contractor was incorrect the District would perhaps have some recourse for assisting in the funding of this effort. Ms. Comeau assured the Board members that the Administration would let them know when the hearing is scheduled and will keep them updated as this goes forward.

John Steiner appreciated the commitment to keep the Board informed. Mr. Steiner asked about the District's solution in terms of traffic and wondered if it was a study of the traffic flow or is the District doing something different than what is planned now. Mr. Vakalis explained that the District hired an outside consulting firm to do the study and the firm came up with the solution. The solution is to create another turn lane to turn out of Yosemite on to Eagle River Loop Extension. It is an extension of length for the right hand turn lane.

ASD Memorandum #103 End-of-Month Membership Summary for October 31, 2004

The end-of-month membership report for October 29, 2004 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of October was 49,399. This enrollment represents a decrease of 55 students when compared to the September 30, 2004 total of 49,454.

Carol Comeau reported that this memorandum shows that from September to the end of October the District declined 55 students. Ms. Comeau pointed out the new attachments. Attachment C shows the EED capacity figures as well as the program capacity figures. The maps that show the percentage of capacity may change according to the program needs. John Steiner stated that he appreciates the work involved in presenting this and especially the maps.

Jeff Friedman also thanked Mr. Amsden and Ms. Dargan-Steed for the information. Sometimes the program and EED capacities are close and sometimes they are quite a bit apart. It may be a good idea to look at the design of those schools that have program capacities that are a lot larger than the EED capacities. The difference might be because it is a particularly well-designed school and we ought to look at some of those schools and see if there are aspects of them that we might want to repeat because if we can build more capacity with fewer square feet we certainly want to do that.

Carol Comeau added that these maps will hopefully be incorporated into the District's CIP. The middle school bond was successful because we could show the overcrowding clearly.

Tim Steele thanked the Administration for this information and also noticed that the elementary and kindergarten levels are growing again. We also have a

large pocket of overcrowding in the southwest side of town, which highlights the need for the new elementary school in that area.

Mary Marks mentioned that with NCLB and the fact that parents have the option of going to a different school there is a lot tied into this. There is a lot of information that we need to educate the community on. Ms. Comeau agreed and added that it has made the projections very complex. It gets very complex when we get into the NCLB and providing choice. From one year to the next we do not know what that is. We need to educate the community so they understand we are not trying to hide information but give the most accurate information. We also know that it will change from February until the test scores come back and we look at AYP and enrollment projections activation. It's going to continue to change more than it did before. The conditions are changing almost every month now.

ASD Memorandum #102 – Operating Budget Transfers – October Monthly Report FY 2004-2005

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of October 2004 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.

ASD Memorandum #104 – Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: October 31, 2004

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 October 31, 2004.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mary Marks wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked everyone for all they do for the Board.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION-
(PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of November 22, 2004, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:50 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Jeff Friedman, Clerk

Robin Siegfried, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved