

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2005

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, January 10, 2005 at 6:30 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, Jan Christensen, George Vakalis, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Enid Hunter, Gail Opalinski, Patricia McRae, 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. MUSICAL PRESENTATION

The South High Concert Choir performed for the audience.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Marks informed the Board and the audience about the free gun locks that have advertised on television. She noted that gun safety is an important issue for the safety of children, and to call the Alaska State Troopers for more information. Ms. Marks noted that a few School Board members were in attendance at the King Career Center student recognition luncheon. Ms. Marks also attended a recent School Business Partnership luncheon and is looking forward to the changes within the partnership. Ms. Marks stated that she was a judge at a recent spelling bee, and it was a good opportunity to see students among their peers learning about different leadership skills and talking before large groups of people.

Carol Comeau commended all the schools who reached out to the tsunami victims. She made it very clear in her message to all employees to not make this a competitive effort, but to do what you can do to help those in need. Ms. Comeau stated that she is awestruck with the amount of funds raised by the schools. She attended a press conference today and noted that over \$700,000 was raised by the community for the Red Cross effort for the tsunami victims. Ms. Comeau expressed her appreciation and noted how proud she is of our community who reached out to help these individuals. Ms. Comeau thanked all

the employees and students of the Anchorage School District. She stated she is proud to be a part of the Anchorage community.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved with the noted changes: revised personnel report and a revised ASD Memorandum #148 - Facility Change Order Report and Completed Projects for the Month of November 2004.

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #139 – Terry Higley K-12 Teacher Award

Steller Secondary School Spanish teacher Nina Bonito Romine recently received the Terry Higley K-12 Teacher Award from the Alaskans for Languages Acquisition, the statewide world languages teachers professional organization. Ms. Bonito Romine has 22 years of teaching experience with the Anchorage School District, all of which has been at Steller.

Ms. Bonito Romine is recognized as a leader in the field of second language study. She is well known among colleagues for her many teaching strategies that encourage students to communicate both in and out of the classroom. Steller Principal, Dorothy Oetter, describes Bonito Romine as creative, organized, caring and intelligent...working for the good of all students and staff...a wonderful spokesperson for world languages programs.

The Terry Higley K-12 Teacher Award is presented each year to an outstanding teacher of a language other than English at the elementary or secondary level. The award is named in honor of Terry Higley, a former French teacher at Bartlett High School who passed away in 1998.

It is requested that the School Board recognize this award-winning professional for her demonstrated excellence in her role as a Spanish teacher at Steller Secondary School

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

The student representative was absent.

2. Military Delegate

LTC David Jones wished the School Board and the Superintendent a happy new year. He commented that he had attended a meeting with Dean Synder from the University of Alaska Anchorage along with other individuals from the College of Education to discuss a new program that will facilitate military members getting their teaching certificates. LTC Jones noted that the program will begin this summer and teachers could be placed in the classroom as early as next fall. He noted that it is similar to the "troops to teachers" program. Carol Comeau commented that this is a modification to the "troops to teachers" program and the District has hired three to four candidates under this program. She feels it is a good opportunity for both the military and the District

3. MECC

William Johnson did not have a report for this evening, but noted that the next MECC meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2005 at 12 noon in Room 320.

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

Speaker Linda Sharp stated that she had two separate items to address: 1) a request for records dated November 5, 2004 that has not been completed; and 2) a discussion that came before the Board during a prior meeting that was incorrect. Ms. Sharp stated that the Board was told that there were no materials available for teachers and students in the Village Charter School world language program. Ms. Sharp informed the Board that this was not true and shared the daily teaching schedule and the materials with the Board members. She stated that every teacher receives an inservice binder that is four inches thick that includes the music that is taught during the year. An additional small booklet is available for the teacher that outlines what is to be taught in the classroom. Ms. Sharp also showed the global science program materials, which are packaged in a box and cost about \$100 per teacher. She also stated that the school has Saxton math materials for grades 1-4; poetry books; fables; and dictionaries. Ms. Sharp believes that there were adequate materials for the teaching of world languages at Village Charter School.

Speaker Vincent Leaf acknowledges the fact that adequate teaching materials were available in the school. He stated that he saw an inventory of 80 books in the building that have never been used. Mr. Leaf believes that the teachers could have been more creative in their teaching rather than dwell on the problems in the school.

Speaker Tammy Keetch is an advocate for teachers of FAS children. She has seven children who have been diagnosed with FAS and noted that no one child is the same. She is also a trainer of FAS 101 and FAS 102. High school continues to be a very trying time for many of these students. Many are not able to read or understand the materials and have no comprehension skills. Her son has a teacher who said he is lazy and stubborn and just doesn't want to do the work. Ms. Keetch emphasized that this is not true—he just doesn't understand the words. She stated that no one would know that her son has organic brain damage by looking at him. These children need to be taught and disciplined differently and knows that it is sometimes difficult for the teachers. Ms. Keetch asked the Board to advocate for more teacher education for teachers of FAS students. Macon Roberts asked Ms. Keetch if she has met with her son's teacher. Ms. Keetch responded yes and also emails her; she is continuing to work with the teacher. Carol Comeau assured Ms. Keetch that it is very important for her to sit down and discuss her son's education with his teacher. She also stated that she needs to work with Mike Henry. Superintendent Comeau explained the existing training program we currently have in the District and wants her son to know that we care about him. A plan needs to be developed between the school, parent, and teacher to develop a plan for her son. Ms. Comeau also requested Ms. Keetch share any specific ideas she may have with Jerry Sjolander to figure out effective ways to address FAS issues. Crystal Kennedy thanked Ms. Keetch for coming forward and appreciates her efforts for children.

Ms. Keetch introduced her son Robert Keetch, who is a ninth grade student in the District. She engaged him in a question/answer session. Robert Keetch stated that he had a difficult time in elementary school and often times became angry; he was home schooled in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades; and now attends Service High School and likes it very much. He indicated that reading is very difficult; he knows the words, but has a hard time understanding them.

Speaker Richard Hermosillo commented that the closure and the termination of the Village School contract is not going as smoothly as he had hoped. He is saddened by the demise of the schools and found it very difficult to work within the structure of the system. Mr. Hermosillo does not agree with the funding structure that is mandated by the state and the District and hopes to solicit the legislature and let them know of the basic problem with funding at the 150 student level. He feels that 25 children interrupted the educational process for 125 children. Mr. Hermosillo remarked that the Academic Policy Committee worked very hard at trying to make the school work. He stated that the notification process that is essential with due process is very difficult to maintain when we have a centralized administration dealing with a charter school. Mr. Hermosillo did not like the fact that the notification regarding their budget

proposal was not made available until December 10 and they were expected to respond by December 13. This was unacceptable to him and did not provide their small organization adequate time to respond. Mr. Hermosillo expressed his dissatisfaction with the way the Administration deals with charter schools.

#### H. CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda attached. All attachments referred to in memoranda recommendations are on file in the Superintendent's Office.

##### 1. Approval of Minutes

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|----|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| a. | Regular Meeting | October 11, 2004  | 6:30 p.m. |
| b. | Special Meeting | November 15, 2004 | 4:30 p.m. |
| c. | Special Meeting | November 15, 2004 | 6:30 p.m. |
| d. | Special Meeting | November 22, 2004 | 4:30 p.m. |
| e. | Regular Meeting | November 22, 2004 | 6:30 p.m. |
| f. | Special Meeting | December 2, 2004  | 9:30 a.m. |

##### 2. ASD Memorandum #159 - Recommendation on Waldorf Public Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the application for the Waldorf Charter School, which would open in the fall of the 2005-2006 school year in non-District facilities, as specified in their application (Attachment A).

##### 3. ASD Memorandum #141 - Award of Contract: Bartlett High School Renewal Phase 2C Administration and Classroom Renovation

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Bartlett High School Renewal Phase 2C - Administration and Classroom Renovation to Consolidated Enterprises, Inc. for the Base Bid, Allowance and all Alternates 1 through 3, in the amount of \$4,267,320, and to accept Unit Price A.

##### 4. ASD Memorandum #144 - Award of Contract: Emergency Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to provide 22 portable storage containers with emergency supplies to Central Environmental, Inc. for the total amount of \$921,700.00.

5. ASD Memorandum #163 – Renewal of Contract: Zero Balance Banking Service

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew the zero balance banking services contract with the First National Bank of Alaska (Bank) for a one-year period, July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The amount required in the non-interest bearing time open account will be updated effective July 1, 2005 using the current semi-annual adjustment formula.

6. ASD Memorandum #145 – 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: Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2005 and ASD Memorandums #159.

ACTION:

<p>Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Mary Marks</p>	<p>to approve Minutes from the Special Meeting of November 15, 2004; Special Meeting of November 15, 2004; Special Meeting of November 22, 2004; Regular Meeting of November 22, 2004; Special Meeting of December 2, 2004; Memorandum #141; Memorandum #144; Memorandum #163; and Memorandum #145.</p>
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VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting    October 11, 2004    6:30 p.m.

Crystal Kennedy pulled the minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2004 for revision. She will discuss her requested changes with Mary Kay Sambo, School Board Secretary.

ASD Memorandum #159 - Recommendation on Waldorf Public Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the application for the Waldorf Charter School, which would open in the fall of the 2005-2006 school year in non-District facilities, as specified in their application (Attachment A).

**ACTION:**

Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve Memorandum #159.
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Carol Comeau informed the Board that a revised application, budget, and curriculum standards had been received today from the Waldorf Public Charter School. She stated that the Administration believes this group has the ability to lead the school, but has some concerns with them using the Waldorf name. The Administration believes this could be a problem, but overall is pleased with the quality of the proposal, responses to questions, and their commitment to make this a successful public charter school.

Jan Christensen commented that she would like Waldorf to do their presentation, but have Connie Bensler, Charter School Liaison, talk briefly about her conversation with Los Angeles Unified School District regarding a Waldorf based charter school.

Connie Bensler commented that she called three schools in California and attempted to speak with the administrators about possible concerns with having Waldorf concepts taught in a public school. Ms. Bensler was successful in speaking with "Alex" in the L.A. Unified District to discuss anthroposophy. She asked him to explain how his school assured L.A. Unified that this underlying philosophy did not counter act the separation of church and state. Alex stated initially that their attempt to charter it was a problem the first year and they did not receive approval. They then placed a statement in their charter that anthroposophy will not be an underlying part of their curriculum or a part of their school. Ms. Bensler will call tomorrow and request a copy of the statement used in their charter application regarding the non-use of anthroposophy.

Nancy Martin thanked the School Board for their consideration of the Waldorf Public Charter School application. She introduced Rev. Edwina Brown of Shiloh Baptist Church and various teachers in the audience.

Marya Pillifant stated the proposed location for their school would be the Shiloh Baptist Church. Their group has spoken with the fire chief and the Municipality to find out what the requirements are going to be in regards to a sprinkler system. Currently the church does not have a sprinkler system. She indicated that Mike Franks from the District has also walked through the facility and does not foresee a problem with having a school in this site as long as it meets Municipal codes. Ms. Pillifant believes that it is an excellent location for the school; it is near parks and the trail system.

Nancy Martin stated that the revised application addresses the following issues: shortened mission statement; Academic Policy Committee restructuring; decrease of the number of standing committees; the addition of a diversity plan; and the removal of the dress code. They modeled the bylaws after Aquarian Charter School. Mike Martin noted that he assisted with the budget issues for the proposed school and submitted a revised budget. Their materials fee has also been reduced from \$125 to \$25 and they included a statement in the application that will reduce or waive the fee for parents if needed.

Jake Metcalfe asked if Rev. Brown had a problem with a school being located in Shiloh Baptist Church. Rev. Brown responded no.

Mary Marks asked if the teachers they plan to hire have knowledge of the Waldorf methods or are they planning to have them trained. Melissa Janigo responded yes, many already have the knowledge and some are interested in being trained. They have not issued any contracts yet, but know of several teachers who are interested and committed to the school.

Jeff Friedman expressed a concern that the District has mandated testing that seems to conflict with some of the personal beliefs of the Waldorf philosophy. He asked if it would be possible to modify their methods so third grade students will be able to read and write independently by the third grade. Melissa Janigo responded that they have aligned their curriculum to state standards and to the Anchorage School District. Ms. Janigo assured the School Board that their third grade students will do well on the benchmarks. Carol Comeau noted that their application speaks to how they will be accountable to the testing requirements.

Mr. Friedman suggested setting a term limit for their initial contract and stated he is leaning toward three years. Melissa Janigo responded that they would be agreeable to a three-year contract.

John Steiner commented that he researched the Waldorf concept on the internet and discovered that there may be trademark issues. He asked Ms. Janigo if she

had been in touch with them on the limitations on the use of the word Waldorf. Ms. Janigo responded that their group is aware of this and only used Waldorf to identify them; they do not plan to use the name for their school. She mentioned that they will contact the Association of Waldorf Schools of North American (AWSNA) to make sure they can use the terminology. Mr. Steiner expressed a concern with the fact that they are using the word "Waldorf" without permission throughout their literature and this could be an infringement. Connie Bensler stated that the three schools in California do not use the word "Waldorf" in their name, but advertise their school as being "Waldorf inspired." Carol Comeau commented that she is attending a Council of Great City Schools meeting in California in mid-January and will try to speak with the Superintendent of the L.A. Unified School District about the Waldorf charter school.

John Steiner commented that his understanding is that Waldorf is based on the concept of anthroposophy. Melissa Janigo assured Mr. Steiner that anthroposophy is not part of their program and would be more than willing to write a statement to that fact to include with the school literature.

Mr. Steiner asked Ms. Janigo to explain the meaning of anthroposophy. Ms. Janigo responded that it is just a philosophy or a way of looking at life. She assured him once again that this is not anything that they are about. Nancy Martin also stated that they have put forward a total curriculum package that does not include this terminology.

Macon Roberts asked if the school plans to use the outdoor area around the church. Ms. Janigo responded that the church is connected with the ski trails and children's parks; it is a wide open space with trees and nature. Ms. Janigo believes that the school, church, and the children want that access. She also assured Mr. Roberts that there is plenty of classroom space in the building as well as in the gymnasium.

Crystal Kennedy stated that she would find it difficult to support this school if the foundation and educational program was based on anthroposophy. She noted that she has learned that anthroposophy is considered a new age religion, but mentioned that it is basically a worship of nature. Ms. Kennedy stated that the program requires a teacher to commit to loop from K-8; she is concerned how they can do this contractually. Melissa Janigo responded that in the revised application, they do plan to loop in K-6, but it will depend on whether a teacher is qualified and if they feel they will be successful. She noted that they may drop the looping to only K-4 or 5-6. Ms. Janigo stated that they understand that not all teachers would be comfortable teaching all grades, kindergarten through grade six. She also noted that grades 7-8 are not part of this revised charter. Carol Comeau stated that she reviewed the video tape from the December 15, 2004

School Board work session and it was clear that they were willing to step back to K-6 and only loop for K-3 students, which is very common in our elementary schools. Ms. Comeau stated that many teachers change grade levels each year due to enrollment fluctuations. She mentioned that looping is becoming more common, but training is an essential part of the process.

Mary Marks asked at what grade level community service will begin. Ms. Janigo responded that it will start gradually and will be age appropriate; it will grow more complex with each grade level. Ms. Marks asked how many families are still interested in this program. Ms. Janigo responded that they still have approximately 100 families interested. Ms. Marks asked if the families are coming from home schooling or from the District. Ms. Janigo responded that many of the families are from home schools, some from private schools, and some from the District. It was also noted that there are many young families that currently have toddlers and young babies that are also interested.

Jeff Friedman asked if they have investigated alternate routes in and out of the school site due to high traffic patterns along Ingra. Ms. Janigo responded that there are two routes; one off of Ingra and one off of Karluk onto 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She mentioned that there was a large parking lot at the church as well. Mike Martin also mentioned that some families may use the trail system to get to school every day. Mr. Friedman asked about the philosophy of parent visits to the school. Ms. Janigo responded that they want the parents to be a part of the school and welcome their involvement.

John Steiner quoted the definition of anthroposophy from a 2001 Education Week article as: "critics, including people for legal and nonsectarian schools, contend that Waldorf education is closely connected to a spiritual movement known as anthroposophy which they view as a new age religion." Mr. Steiner asked if Shiloh Baptist Church was aware of the background on Waldorf methods. He is concerned if the Board approves the Waldorf concept, the church may become concerned at a later date. There may be controversy that could surround the school even though the founders have been clear that they will not be practicing anthroposophy. Melissa Janigo assured Mr. Steiner that they will not be including anthroposophy in their program.

John Steiner asked what the impact may be if the Board were to not approve the school today. Marya Pillifant responded in order to be placed on the March docket for the State Department of Education and Early Development meeting, the materials need to be in Juneau by Friday, January 14, 2005. If the approval is not granted at this time, it will become a funding issue. Carol Comeau suggested that the Board take action tonight or hold a special meeting within the next few days so the school may move forward. She noted that for the school to open in

the fall of 2005, it needs to go before the State Board of Education and Early Development for approval in March 2005.

Mary Marks asked how the school would be assisting students who were not meeting the outcomes; she did not see where parents are involved in the team effort. Melissa Janigo responded that parents will be informed and apprised in all the decision making regarding their children. She explained that the parent is the first one they will work with, but wants the peers of teachers to get together to problem solve as well. She hopes they will glean ideas from each other.

Jeff Friedman asked if this charter school application meets state requirements. Carol Comeau responded that they may have to rewrite it to conform to the state template. The state will look to see if the curriculum aligns with the state standards and if the required assessments are being met. Ms. Comeau reminded the Board if they disapprove the charter school application, the state cannot approve it.

John Steiner asked for a clarification on community learning and teaching, working outside of the classroom, and seasonal festivals. He is concerned that this may be another example of spiritual learning. Mr. Steiner also asked if these planned festivals were similar to the fall or winter festivals that other schools are holding. Melissa Janigo responded yes, they were celebrations of fall, winter, etc. This would be a time when families can come together along with community leaders to support the school.

John Steiner emphasized that he hopes there will be extensive disclosure of the methods used in the school to all parents during the pre-application process. Melissa Janigo responded that they too feel it is very important that parents understand the program, review curriculum, and truly understand the program.

John Steiner stated that traditional Waldorf schools are completely independent and run by the staff; the ones that belong to the AWSNA are quite autonomous. He asked if this group has explored how that would work in a public setting and if they are aware of the relationship with the District and the extensive supervision that has caused problems with some of the other charter schools. He is concerned that the school will staff with Waldorf trained teachers who believe in the philosophy, and who may have problems with the extensive supervision by the District. Marya Pillifant responded that this is a public school and they will do all the required training for their teachers through the District.

Jake Metcalfe asked if they would have problems taking directions from the District. Melissa Janigo responded no.

Macon Roberts asked if the Board approves the three-year contract would they obtain a lease from Shiloh Baptist Church. Marya Pillipant responded that they are still exploring the cost of a sprinkler system and then will discuss the lease.

Mary Marks asked Rev. Brown what she saw in the Waldorf school that convinced her to become part of the team. Rev. Brown responded that the church is currently in the process of being certified for a pre-school, and this charter school has the same philosophy and similar curriculum. Rev. Brown also noted that having a school in the church has been a long-time dream of the pastor. They even explored starting a charter school, but could not drop the religious emphasis.

The School Board recessed at 8:25 p.m. and returned at 8:40 p.m.

AMENDMENT:

<p>Moved by Jeff Friedman                  Seconded by Jake Metcalfe</p>	<p>to amend the application to specify a three year contract term and a maximum enrollment of 180 students (FTE).</p>
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Macon Roberts thanked the Waldorf group for their presentation tonight. Mr. Roberts feels like they have a grasp on their plans and know where they are going. He is also pleased with their choice of facility, but is troubled with the association of the name Waldorf. Mr. Roberts stated that this group has made a favorable impression on him and he will favor approval of the Waldorf Public Charter School.

John Steiner finds this approval difficult and would rather have had more time to review the revised application that they received today. Mr. Steiner asked the District to contact other districts for information on how they handled the relationship and concerns. He is pleased that Ms. Comeau will be able to meet with the L.A. Unified Superintendent, but wishes the Administration would have been successful in reaching the other districts. Mr. Steiner wants reassurance that the school will not be teaching spiritual beliefs as part of a methodology. He remains concerned with the things he has read and if Waldorf trained teachers can be successful without these items. Mr. Steiner is concerned if they can operate with the name Waldorf in their name and literature. He is concerned that the District is the sponsor if there is litigation, especially where the methodology is comprised or diluted to meet the District requirements. Mr. Steiner noted that he is pleased that they have committed to not teaching anthroposophy, which does separate them from the Waldorf methodology. He feels that it may be difficult for parents to understand. Some parents may believe they are applying to a Waldorf methods school when they are not.

Jeff Friedman commented that Mr. Steiner's concerns are appropriate, but he feels comfortable that they have been addressed. He stated if the name has to be changed in the promotional materials, it can be done. Mr. Friedman reminded the Board that they need to remember we are looking at a charter school and under state law must give them flexibility as long as they provide a good program and are accountable in both their budget and academic success. The School Board needs to give them an opportunity to go forward if they can do so legally. The success is going to depend on close cooperation with the District. Mr. Friedman commented that it appears they have a close working relationship with Connie Bensler and nothing that has come up this evening should prevent them from moving forward. Mr. Friedman made a motion for a three-year contract and hopes that it is clear that it is just the initial term; he hopes that they will work with ASD to make it a successful program and gain an extended contract in the future.

Mary Marks stated that she wants to remain open to allow this opportunity to families and children. She appreciates the fact that they have done their homework and have worked closely with the Administration and Connie Bensler to make the needed adjustments. Ms. Marks noted that Rev. Brown is excited about this program and has allowed the school to occupy space in their church. Ms. Marks will support the recommendation to approve the school and hopes it will be a successful charter school.

Crystal Kennedy commended the founders for a wonderful job developing the proposal. They have answered all the questions that came up with another way of approaching the problem. Ms. Kennedy thanked them for this and noted that it is obvious they are committed to their program. Ms. Kennedy stated that she has too many concerns to be supportive of this charter school at this time. Concerns that Ms. Kennedy has are the underlying tone of anthroposophy; students making Adequate Yearly Progress; transiency among the lower grades; and the absence of technology education in the program. She commented that she reviewed a recent community survey and technology education for our students is very important to our voters. Ms. Kennedy commented that so much of what she has read is disconcerting. The bottom line is it just seems that there is too much focus on esoteric things in the educational system, and too much emphasis on creating the environment and not enough focus on academics. Ms. Kennedy stated that she does not believe the curriculum meets the mission statement of the District. She believes there is too much socializing and indoctrination, which is not appropriate for a public school. Ms. Kennedy understands that this type of school can be valuable to some parents, but in her role as a School Board member, she believes it would work better in the private sector where parents can make that choice.

Jake Metcalfe will support this amendment and the main motion. He is not completely in favor of charter schools, and feels that there must be oversight by the District in order for them to be successful. Mr. Metcalfe commented that he bases the success of a charter school on how well they can get along with the District. Mr. Metcalfe stated that the foundation for success is there if the charter school chooses to work with the District. He does feel that we need to be fair to charter schools. Mr. Metcalfe stated that parents want choices, and this will provide a choice for a very different kind of education. This program offers a liberal arts approach and Mr. Metcalfe feels we need more of these types of schools within our system. Mr. Metcalfe urged the Board to support the recommendation.

Tim Steele commented that our optional programs make this District strong. He stated that this group has demonstrated a willingness to work hard with the District and urged them to be flexible. They have the same goal as the Administration has and that is to educate children. Mr. Steele expressed a concern with the name, but feels it can be worked out. He is concerned whether the group understands the transiency that occurs within our District and whether it will affect their program. Mr. Steele does not believe that there will be trouble with the state and church issue. He reminded the Board and the Administration that even the Montessori program has some history of spiritual teachings, but everything was worked out. Mr. Steele believes if the charter school is agreeable to the concerns of the District and is willing to work them out with the Administration, he will give them a chance to succeed. He feels that a three-year contract is an adequate amount of time for them to work through their initial problems and provide a successful program for students.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

AMENDMENT:

<p>Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Crystal Kennedy</p>	<p>that this decision is subject to the administration's establishment of written parameters to ensure that both the school and the Waldorf trained teachers will not teach spiritual beliefs as part of the Waldorf method. That this decision is subject to the administration's determination that the</p>
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	holder of the "Waldorf" trademark will at least tolerate use of the term without legal action or that such legal action would have no merit.
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John Steiner stated that he would like to have his proposed amendment become a formal part of the Board action and also require it to be part of the charter. Mr. Steiner would like the Board approval to be conditional on this requirement.

Jake Metcalfe asked if we require this from other charter schools. Carol Comeau responded no, it is very clear that all charter schools are non-sectarian. She noted that the Administration struggled with Family Partnership in the beginning, but worked through the issues. Ms. Comeau asked the Waldorf proposers what they thought of the proposed amendments. Melissa Janigo responded that they are not interested in teaching spiritual beliefs and anthroposophy and agreed on the record that they will work cooperatively with the District. John Steiner stated that these amendments are critical to this school because their proposal states that all teachers must have the Waldorf training which deals with spiritual teachings. Jake Metcalfe stated that if they teach spirituality in the classroom, it will be a violation of state law, which is a violation of the charter agreement. Jeff Friedman agreed with Mr. Metcalfe. Macon Roberts is concerned that this may prevent the school from using some of the Waldorf methods in their instructional program, but does agree with Mr. Friedman and Mr. Metcalfe in terms of following the state law. Tim Steele believes that state law will be followed and this will be a non-sectarian program. He will not be supporting these amendments because of the term "spiritual beliefs."

Mary Marks stated that she will not support the amendment because she doesn't see the reason for it.

John Steiner agreed to separate his amendment into two different amendments.

AMENDMENT #1:

Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Crystal Kennedy	that this decision is subject to the administration's establishment of written parameters to ensure that both the school and the Waldorf trained teachers will not teach spiritual beliefs as part of the Waldorf method.
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VOTE ON AMENDMENT #1:

Ayes: Kennedy, Friedman, Steiner

Nays: Metcalfe, Marks, Steele, Roberts

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

AMENDMENT #2:

<p>Moved by John Steiner Seconded by</p>	<p>that this decision is subject to the administration's determination that the holder of the "Waldorf" trademark will at least tolerate use of the term without legal action or that such legal action would have no merit.</p>
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Amendment #2 died for the lack of a second.

John Steiner stated that he will be voting against the recommendation to approve the Waldorf Public Charter School.

Carol Comeau commented that this is really a liberal arts school. She noted that we have gotten away from the breadth of learning because accountability has taken our focus. Ms. Comeau commented that she believes that we must educate all students for success in life and it is much broader than just reading, writing, and math. In reviewing old records for a proposed school of the arts in 1991-1993, she likes this proposal better and knows that this group values public education. She recognizes that this group will be changing the name and doesn't believe there is an ounce of anthroposophy in the proposal. Ms. Comeau believes the children will thrive in this program because of the involved parents. She also reminded the Board that the Montessori program was very controversial when it was first approved. Ms. Comeau believes that a liberal arts education will sometimes hook a child into learning, and that they will thrive in a program like the Waldorf School.

Ms. Comeau asked Rev. Brown if she had any reservations about the discussion tonight. Rev. Brown responded that she is very excited about the program being in Shiloh Baptist Church. She feels that it will offer a wonderful opportunity for the children in this area of town and will allow for diversity within the program. Ms. Comeau remarked that Shiloh is a wonderful facility and has easy access to the parks, which will allow for a natural environment. She is comfortable with the proposal and feels the Administration can work through the issues discussed tonight. Ms. Comeau stated that she will support the three-year contract and believes the program will be successful.

VOTE:

Ayes: Metcalfe, Marks, Steele  
Friedman, Roberts

Nays: Kennedy, Steiner

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #147 - End-of-Month Membership Summary for November 30, 2004

The end-of-month membership report for November 30, 2004 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of November was 49,337. This enrollment represents a decrease of 117 students when compared to the September 30, 2004 total of 49,454. The membership totals are compared in the following table:

2. ASD Memorandum #148 - Facility Change Order Report and Completed Projects for the Month of November 2004

The monthly Facility Change Order Report for the month of November 2004 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

3. ASD Memorandum #149 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of December 1, 2004 through December 23, 2004.

4. ASD Memorandum #150 - Operating Budget Transfers November Monthly Report FY 2004-2005

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of November 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.

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of November 2004 and related information are available in the Budget

Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

5. ASD Memorandum #146 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: November 30, 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 November 30, 2004.

I. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Anchorage School District Treasurer's Report includes a summary of the total demand deposits and investments, which are on hand November 30, 2004, and a summary of the investment transactions completed November 1 through November 30, 2004.

The demand deposits in the General Fund as of November 30, 2004 were \$(646,739). The District's banking services contract includes the investment of the bank float that provides additional interest revenue to the District. The total amount of investments on hand at November 30, 2004 was \$197,822,938 and the combined total of these liquid assets consisting of the demand deposits and investments were \$197,176,199. A schedule of investments is presented on pages 2 and 3.

The District transacted 81 investments during the month of November. The specific investments purchased are presented commencing with page 4 of the Treasurer's Report. The anticipated earnings for these new investments are \$117,963.67, which will be recorded in the General, Capital Projects, Internal Service, and Debt Service Funds. The interest earnings on investments made by the District are recorded upon receipt of the actual interest earnings on the various dates of maturity. The interest earnings on investments made by the Municipality of Anchorage on behalf of the District are accrued on a monthly basis.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mary Marks suggested a work session be held on the subject of nutrition. Carol Comeau responded that she will put together a committee in February to explore this further. At the present time, the Administration is focusing on the budget,

but once that is completed, she will put together a task force that will include health officials and community members.

John Steiner asked how community members will let the District know that they may be interested in serving on this task force. Ms. Comeau responded that she will get the information out to the public through the February advertisement.

Tim Steele also noted that we need to schedule a work session on charter school housing.

John Steiner commented that the Board had a very good session on board development and relationships and how they can work together for a positive impact on the District. He hopes the Board can follow-up with their commitments.

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of January 10, 2005 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:30 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