

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2005**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, February 7, 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. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Marks reminded the audience and the Board that the Terra Nova Cat Tests for fifth grade students begins on February 8, 2005. She encouraged parents to make sure their children are rested and on time for school. Ms. Marks also announced that February was African-American month and there were many activities scheduled throughout the district. She encouraged community members to participate and attend various activities.

Carol Comeau noted that February was School Board recognition month and thanked each School Board member for giving their personal time and for being an advocate for public education. She presented each Board member with an ASD fleece vest and pin.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #195 – WordMasters Challenge Award Winner

The WordMasters Challenge is a national language arts competition entered by over 225,000 students annually. It is an

exercise in critical thinking which first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words, and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the Challenge analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically.

Scott Green, an 8th grade student at Mears Middle School, recently competed in the difficult Blue Division of the WordMasters Challenge, and earned a perfect score. Green was one of only nine eighth grade students in the entire country to earn perfect scores. He was coached in preparation for the Challenge by Mears language arts teacher Stacy Stimson.

It is requested that the School Board recognize Scott Green for his award winning performance and Ms. Stimson for her commitment to helping Scott obtain this outstanding achievement.

2. ASD Memorandum #200 – David Wilkinson’s Selection to the United States Senate Youth Program

Over 40 years ago the United States Senate voted to endorse a nationwide youth program that would bring high school students to Washington, D.C., for a brief on-site introduction to the functions of the federal government and the United States Senate.

Recently David Wilkinson, senior at Polaris K-12, was selected to attend the 43rd Annual William Randolph Hearst Foundation United States Senate Youth Program. He is one of 104 high school students nationwide who received the all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. later this month. He will also be awarded a \$5,000 college scholarship while at the week-long program.

Student selection for the program is based solely on the outstanding ability and demonstrated qualities of leadership as elected or selected high school student officers of the 2004-2005 school year.

It is requested that the School Board recognize David Wilkinson for his selection to the 43rd Annual United States Senate Youth Program.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS1. Student Advisory Representative

Lorett Nabong reported that the Student Advisory Board met on February 1, 2005 at Steller Secondary School. A majority of time was spent discussing the homework assignment previously given to them by Superintendent Carol Comeau. Discussion centered on the proposed changes to the school calendar, soda pop legislation, and the 2005-2006 financial plan. Mr. Nabong noted that the next meeting will include discussions on school violence, drop-outs, and vandalism. He thanked Debbie Bogart, Jan Christensen, and William Johnson for their participation in the Multi-Cultural Student Conference that was held the previous week. Mr. Nabong mentioned various activities that are occurring across the District in the high schools as well as noting the Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG) conference will be held in Barrow this year. He encouraged the School Board and the Superintendent to attend some of the school activities. The next SAB meeting will be held at South Anchorage High School on February 16 from 9 to 11 a.m.

Tim Steele noted that there is a School Board work session scheduled on February 10 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss obesity issues as well as vending machines. He invited students to attend this session.

Carol Comeau commented that the SAB members are taking their homework assignments very seriously. The students are going back to their respective schools with questions and then bringing their suggestions/responses back to the SAB meeting for further discussion. Ms. Comeau noted that she has enjoyed her time with the students and thanked them for their interest.

2. Military Delegate

LTC David Jones was absent.

3. MECC

William Johnson noted that the MECC will meet again on February 17 at 12 noon in Room 320 in the Administration Building and the public is invited to attend. Mr. Johnson commented that he thoroughly enjoyed the Multi-Cultural Student Conference and

commended Debbie Bogart for doing such a good job organizing the conference. He did comment on how disappointed he was to learn that Ms. Bogart would not be involved with the conference next year. Mr. Johnson emphasized how important this conference is and hopes the new person in charge will include her in the planning for next year; he noted that he will personally track this issue next year. Mr. Johnson wished the School Board much success with their planned meetings with legislators to discuss additional education funding.

Mr. Johnson stated that the subcommittee on discipline has seen some trends developing that need to be reviewed. He also commented that the full committee would like to have an open discussion with the community with a definite focus on minority education.

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

Shannon Kuhn commented that she attended Denali Elementary School as a child and remembers coming home with lice. She feels that the treatment recommended to remove the lice and nits exposed her to health issues and is concerned over the continued use. Ms. Kuhn stated that she and Matt Davis reviewed the policy and noted that parents are only given one course of action and that is treatment with a pediculicidal shampoo or pediculicidal conditioner.

Matt Davis stated that piperonyl butoxide (PBO) is a synergist used to increase the potency of insecticides like pyrethrins and pyrethroids. According to the U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA), PBO is one of the most commonly used ingredients in household pesticide products. PBO acts as a synergist by inhibiting the activity of a family of enzymes called P45s. These enzymes have many functions, including the breakdown of toxic chemicals and transformation of hormones. EPA classifies PBO as a possible human carcinogen because it caused liver tumors and cancers in laboratory tests. Mr. Davis is concerned with the continuing use of pesticide treatments for head lice; shampooing with pesticides has the potential to damage children.

Ms. Kuhn noted that children are more susceptible to pesticides than adults. She believes that to protect the children's health, non chemical products should be used. Both she and Mr. Davis revised the existing policy to better address the health needs of children and urged the Board

to make this change. They provided the Superintendent and the School Board members with the current policy and their recommended changes.

Tim Steele stated that the Board will review the suggested alternatives. John Steiner asked Ms. Kuhn and Mr. Davis if they researched organizations that gave specific recommendations on which shampoos should be banned. Ms. Kuhn responded that a report from the National Pediculosis Association has been included in the packet of information provided to the Board and the Superintendent; this information correlates with their research. She also commented that lice are becoming resistant to the shampoos.

Carol Comeau stated that she will be in touch with the students to set-up a meeting to discuss their recommended changes to the existing policy.

Theresa Obermeyer stated that she hopes that more kids will come before the School Board to talk about issues. She also mentioned that using "Google" on the internet is an excellent way of studying for young people. Ms. Obermeyer asked the Board to check into what the Permanent Fund Board is doing in this financial crisis. She noted that she will be on the Rick and Mark show on Tuesday, February 8 and is interested in having her own radio show. Ms. Obermeyer reminded the public that Friday, February 11 is the filing deadline for the upcoming Municipal election. She thanked the School Board members for volunteering for public office in our community.

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. Regular Meeting January 10, 2005 4:30 p.m.
- b. Special Meeting January 10, 2005 6:30 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #173 - Resolution in Support of Kroc Foundation Grant and Subsequent Sale of Three (3) Acres of ASD Land (Revised)

It is recommended that the Anchorage School Board approve School Board Resolution 2004-2005-9.

3. ASD Memorandum #172 - Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, February 16, 2005

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing Wednesday, February 16, 2005, as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

4. ASD Memorandum #177 - Resolution in Support of Increased Funding of the Alaska Public School Funding Formula

It is recommended that the School Board approve a resolution in support of increased State funding of the Alaska Public School Funding Program (Attachment A).

5. ASD Memorandum #160 - Revision of School Board Policy Section 333: Charter Schools (Second Reading) (Revised)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes as amended for School Board Policy Section 333: Charter Schools on Second Reading.

6. ASD Memorandum #199 - Approval of School Board Out-of-State Travel 2004-2005

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the attached School Board Out-of-State Travel Report.

7. ASD Memorandum #192 - Summer School Enrichment Proposal 2005 - Revised

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to expand the current summer school programs for middle schools and high schools to include enrichment courses for an additional cost of \$283,000.

8. ASD Memorandum #201 - Arab World Studies Notebook

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board disallow the Arab World Studies Notebook (AWSN) for use in Anchorage School District classrooms. It is further recommended that Dr. Enid Hunter, Executive Director of Curriculum and

Instructional Support, and Steve Ex, Social Studies Coordinator, convene an ad hoc high school social studies curriculum committee to identify supplementary materials and community speakers for ASD's high school Middle East elective course. Their recommendations are to be presented for Board approval no later than January 1, 2006.

9. ASD Memorandum #193 – Acceptance of Grant Awards: Best Buy TE@CH Grants

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept nineteen grant awards from the Best Buy Corporation, in the form of gift cards, with a total value of \$47,500.

10. ASD Memorandum #167 – Professional Service Selection: Electrical Upgrade Design at Eight Secondary Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve the selection of KMS Consulting Engineers, AMC Engineers, RSA Engineering, Inc., and Arctic Sun Engineering, LCC as the Architect/Engineer for the Districtwide Electrical Upgrades, and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with the firms for design services.

11. ASD Memorandum #171 – Approval of Budget for Consolidation of Support Staff to 5530 East Northern Lights

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer from under expended accounts in the amount of \$225,000 into various accounts for costs associated with relocating support staff into the Boniface Center, 5530 East Northern Lights Boulevard.

12. ASD Memorandum #170 – Sale of Surplus Property

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to dispose of the listed surplus property by sealed bid sale or public auction in accordance with Board policy 732.1. Prior to the sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

13. ASD Memorandum #169- Award of Contract: East High School - Full Stage Acoustical Shell

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for East High School Full Stage Acoustical Shell to Wenger Corporation, in the amount of \$120,607.

14. ASD Memorandum #168 - Award of Contract: Term Contract for Special Inspection Services

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award term contracts to Alaska Structural Inspections and R & M Consultants to perform special inspection services with an initial contract term of one year with options for three additional one-year extensions.

15. ASD Memorandum #174 - 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 # 173; #177; #160; #192; and #201.

ACTION:

<p>Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks</p>	<p>to approve Minutes from the Special Meeting of January 10, 2005; Minutes from the Regular meeting of January 10, 2005; Memorandum #172; Memorandum #199; Memorandum #193; Memorandum #167; Memorandum #171; Memorandum #170; Memorandum #169; Memorandum #168; and Memorandum #174.</p>
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VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #173 – Resolution in Support of Kroc Foundation
Grant and Subsequent Sale of Three (3) Acres of ASD Land

It is recommended that the Anchorage School Board approve School Board Resolution 2004-2005-9.

ACTION

Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve School Board Resolution 2004-2005-9.
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Peggy Robinson, a board member of the Northeast Community Council, commented that she would like a full fledged community center in this area. She noted that Chuck Barber will do a presentation at their next council meeting. She commented that it makes sense to sell the land, but has a concern that the education specifications are built for a middle school on 30 acres—not 22 acres. Ms. Robinson suggested using the money gained from the sale of the three acres to purchase additional land. She believes that east Anchorage has always been on the short end of the stick; Clark and Wendler middle schools are both located on small sites. Ms. Robinson wants to make sure the new middle school has adequate acreage.

John Steiner noted that it is his understanding the middle school will be given the opportunity to use the community center during the school day and this becomes an enhancement for the District property. Peggy Robinson responded she does not know what parts of the community center will be available and believes that not all of the eight acres of the center will be available for usage. Carol Comeau noted that the project will be in two parts: the school and the community center. A memorandum of agreement will be developed to maximize the use by the school district.

Jake Metcalfe asked if the Northeast Community Council passed a similar resolution. Peggy Robinson responded that they passed a one-liner that was very basic in support of the community center.

Rod McCoy stated that he has been very involved with the planning of this property for some time. He appreciates the way the MOA and ASD have reached out to the Kroc Foundation for support. He believes that this community center is a great thing for the Muldoon area and the site. Mr. McCoy stated that the middle school will be the center of the community and give more distinction to the community. He would also like to investigate the possibility of gaining additional acreage. Carol Comeau responded that she does not see a need to purchase additional acreage to make this community center a reality. She noted that the District is aware of the issues and feel the benefits are there for both the school and the community. Ms. Comeau strongly supports this resolution.

Mayor Mark Begich, Jeff Dillion, and Mary Jane Michael gave a brief presentation on the Kroc Foundation, which was set-up by McDonalds food chain to benefit the Salvation Army. He spoke about the trip in December to San Diego to see their facility. Mayor Begich noted it was a what a unique and impressive facility that they visited. He stated that they will know in June or July if it is moving forward, but feels we have an edge due to all of the elements involved. Mayor Begich feels that it will be a wonderful partnership with the Municipality, District, and the community.

George Vakalis stated that not every school site is the same, but believes that this is a very good site. He does not believe the creek or the fact that one lower portion is wet will be a major problem. Mr. Vakalis stated that the entire site will be used.

Jake Metcalfe asked Mayor Begich how optimistic he was regarding the proposal. Mayor Begich responded that he was very optimistic and wants it formally noted that two government agencies are working very well together on this project. He also stated that there are many challenges ahead in the competition with other states, but Anchorage is better organized and better equipped. He believes that Anchorage is in the 65 to 75 percent area for getting this grant.

Mary Jane Michael feels that the odds are better than average on getting this grant. There is a real science to the points awarded in association with this grant, which include site control, support from the Rasmussen Foundation, community involvement, etc. Mayor Begich commented that Anchorage is a community that truly wants this community center.

Jeff Friedman commented that it sounds like a cooperative partnership that the public has been demanding for years. Even though the Northeast Community Council is concerned with the size of the site, other areas may be somewhat envious of the wonderful community center. Mr. Friedman supports this project.

John Steiner agreed with Mr. Friedman and commented that most middle schools would readily give up three acres to have something similar to this project. He hopes that we will get fair market value for the property.

Macon Roberts concurred with both Mr. Friedman and Mr. Steiner. He likes the idea that the project will be located in the northeast area of town. Mr. Roberts applauded the Municipality, Rasmussen Foundation, Salvation Army, and the District for working through this project.

The School Board read the resolution into the record.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #177 - Resolution in Support of Increased Funding of the Alaska Public School Funding Formula (Revised)

It is recommended that the School Board approve a resolution in support of increased State funding of the Alaska Public School Funding Program (Attachment A).

ACTION

Moved by Crystal Kennedy Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve Memorandum #177. (Resolution #1)
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Carol Comeau stated that this resolution is our initial recommendation based on discussions in the past and most recently with the other four largest school districts in the state. Ms. Comeau wants to put it on the record as to what the needs are for the Anchorage School District. She applauded the governor and the legislature who support educational funding, but wants to note for the record that the governor's proposal is not adequate. Ms. Comeau stated that the Anchorage School District has a \$9.5 million dollar deficit for the 2005-2006 school year. She noted that

we must continue to educate our own employees and the public on how important education is to our community.

Crystal Kennedy stated that the legislative subcommittee met and discussed their concern that the figure in the resolution of \$4,995 actually is reflective of a number that came during discussions with a group of larger school districts in Alaska. She noted that it does not adequately cover the amount needed to maintain status quo for the Anchorage School District.

AMENDMENT

<p>Moved by Crystal Kennedy Seconded by John Steiner</p>	<p>To amend ASDR 2004-2005-10: (7th paragraph) WHEREAS, on January 27, public school officials from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai and the Matanuska Susitna Borough teleconferenced on the issue of state education funding for FY 2005-2006; (9th paragraph) WHEREAS, after some discussion, the participants in the teleconference agreed that a base student allocation of <u>not less than \$4,995 in FY 2006 could be justified by</u> <u>is required</u> for local needs and state and federal educational requirements, plus past budget underfunding <u>and would continue a trend toward adequacy;</u> (12th paragraph) THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Anchorage School District <u>strongly supports the Governor's efforts to increase the base student allocation and requests that</u> the Governor and Legislature increase funding of the Alaska Public School Funding Program in the Governor's bill by an additional \$23 <u>\$29.7</u> million for a total increase of \$85 <u>\$91.7</u> million resulting in a base student allocation of \$4,995 <u>\$5,027</u> for 2006 for each student, to enable schools to</p>
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	increase student achievement and improve school performance in a sustained way.
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Jake Metcalfe called for a point of order. He suggested if there are major changes, which will change the substance of the motion, then this amendment should be a substitute for the original motion. Tim Steele responded that he prefers that they number the amendments. Crystal Kennedy withdrew her amendment and offered it as a substitute motion.

SUBSTITUTE TO THE MAIN MOTION (RESOLUTION #2)

<p>Moved by Crystal Kennedy Seconded by John Steiner</p>	<p>It is recommended that the School Board substitute resolution #2 for the original resolution in support of increased State funding of the Alaska Public School Funding Program: WHEREAS, the Governor recognizes the challenge of creating a quality educational system and desires to continue to improve education; and WHEREAS, the Governor said in the State of the State Address: "...increases in the retirement system costs and unforeseen energy expenses have put too great a burden on local governments in the short term," and he introduced a funding bill to increase the base student allocation of the Alaska Public School Funding Program by \$62 million resulting in a base student allocation of \$4,880; and WHEREAS, increasing student achievement and improving school performance (required by both the federal No Child Left Behind Act and Alaska statute, regulations, and standards) will require schools to go beyond status quo operations and institute new or improved programs over the long-term to address the specific unique needs of each student; and</p>
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	<p>WHEREAS, increasing student achievement and improving school performance require resources beyond those needed to simply address the increased costs of the retirement system and the unforeseen energy expenses; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Anchorage School District recognizes that improving student achievement will require a combination of the following strategies at a minimum: reducing class size; implementing the ASD Six-Year Instruction Plan in every department; restoring teaching supplies and equipment; purchasing technology for instructional and data-driven decision making; updating curriculum and textbooks; increasing the passage rate on the high school graduation qualifying exam; providing well maintained and secure facilities; and increasing opportunities for physical and health education in all grades;</p> <p>WHEREAS, on January 27, public school officials from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough teleconferenced on the issue of state education funding for FY 2005-2006; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, reaching a level of truly adequate funding of the Alaska Public School Funding Program that will increase student achievement and improve school performance will require a reasonable and dependable trend of funding increases over a number of years; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, based on the Anchorage School District FY 2005-2006 Proposed Financial Plan of February 2, 2005, the base student allocation in the Alaska</p>
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	<p>Public School Funding formula would need to be increased to \$5, 027 to avoid making the proposed cuts and using the fund balance as a revenue source; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, by our district requesting a higher level of funding increase for 2006 than currently proposed by the Governor, we recognize that the benefit would accrue not only to our students but also to all students in Alaska, both urban and rural; now</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage School District strongly supports the Governor's efforts to increase the base allocation and requests that the Governor and Legislature increase funding of the Alaska Public School Funding Program in the Governor's bill by an additional \$29.7 million for a total increase of \$91.7 million, resulting in a base allocation of \$5,027 for 2006 for each student, to enable schools to increase student achievement and improve school performance in a sustained way.</p>
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Crystal Kennedy stated that conversations were held with other school boards in the larger school districts within the state. There was an effort to come up with a figure that would be a starting point for increased funding that would eventually lead to a trend. Ms. Kennedy noted that this resolution reflects that they need \$5,027 per student to keep from using fund balance and to not make any cuts to their budgets. She stated that resolution #2 also reflects conversations with members from AASB and the specific needs of Anchorage.

Jeff Friedman commented that he likes the philosophy of the original resolution and recognizes the state has needs in other areas. Mr. Friedman stated that we need \$5,027, but our fund balance uses are legitimate one-time expenses. He is concerned that we are pushing the legislature further than they are willing to be pushed. Mr. Friedman is concerned that we may lose credibility.

John Steiner asked if the figure of \$5,027 will make up the \$6.5 million dollars that may have to come from the fund balance to balance the budget. Carol Comeau responded that it would make us whole. She agrees with Mr. Friedman that it is our intent to use fund balance for one-time items. Ms. Comeau likes the idea of putting the amount that we actually need in the resolution.

Tim Steele commented that this does not mean that we cannot use the \$6.5 million of fund balance, but the additional income will make us whole without the use of fund balance. Carol Comeau reminded the Board that if they choose to spend to the cap that has already been approved by the Assembly, we may have to go back through the budget process.

Jake Metcalfe stated that we are out of touch if we believe we are in a financial crisis in the State of Alaska; there are surplus funds available. He urged the community to send a message to the legislature telling them we are tired of under funding education. Mr. Metcalfe believes that asking for less than what we need is not acceptable; it will not allow for growth. It is a mistake to sit back and be status quo when we can do something for public education. He informed the Board that he has another resolution.

Jeff Friedman noted that Mr. Metcalfe's comments made good sense and perhaps he misunderstood the legislative subcommittee's intent. He asked if we are going to just ask for what we can get by with or what we really deserve.

Tim Steele is concerned with resolution #1 because it mentions that we would support a student allocation of \$4,995 with the assumption that it would be an increasing trend in education which would lead to adequacy. He believes that Jake's point is well taken, but doesn't believe we will get support from the legislature for the higher number. Mr. Steele believes that we must ask for what makes us whole.

Macon Roberts agreed with both Jake Metcalfe and Tim Steele; he believes that we need to ask for what is needed. He does not believe that the School Board will lose credibility by asking for more funds for public education. Mr. Roberts stated that we appreciate what has been offered and the governor should be applauded for his support for education, but until we get a permanent solution such as an endowment, we must be clear that we need a certain amount to complete our job.

AMENDMENT TO THE SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Crystal Kennedy	to amend resolution #2.
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The School Board recessed at 8:15 p.m. and returned at 8:25 p.m.

After consulting with Janet Stokesbary, Mr. Steiner decided to withdraw his amendment.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION (RESOLUTION #1)

Ayes: Kennedy, Steele, Steiner, Roberts

Nays: Metcalfe, Marks, Friedman

SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

Jake Metcalfe urged the Board to send a resolution that addresses our needs and the needs of children statewide. He does not believe resolution #2 does this.

Macon Roberts stated that we have always advocated for the whole state and have received accolades for this. He likes resolution #2 because this is the amount that the District needs. Mr. Roberts believes that anything short of this is not meeting the needs of carrying out the mandates of educating our children.

John Steiner does not feel we need to ask the state for the student allocation of \$5,027; the \$4,995 per student would recover all of our cuts and provide some additional above that but would not replenish the fund balance. Mr. Steiner agrees that we are in a better financial situation as a state because of the oil prices. He mentioned that oil prices are unpredictable for long-term planning, and we are asking for an increase in long-term financial needs. Mr. Steiner believes that it is more realistic to ask for \$4,995. He does not support resolution #2 and believes that resolution #1 is more fiscally sound.

Jeff Friedman stated that when we talk with the legislature, they are going to ask what we need. He commented that we do not need a resolution to answer those questions. The resolution states what the proper level of funding should be. If we are going to pass a resolution that is proper, it will be higher than resolution #2. Mr. Friedman will not support either resolution #1 or resolution #2.

Mary Marks agreed with Mr. Friedman and will not support resolution #1 or #2. She wants to see the ASD move in an upward trend.

Crystal Kennedy will support resolution #2. She noted that we are trying to establish a trend line to establish funding for next year. She believes that resolution #2 more clearly delineates what the District needs today. She is not comfortable asking the legislature for too much.

Jake Metcalfe stated that it is the Board’s obligation to students to prepare them for success in life. We need the leadership to go to the legislature to ask what we need to prepare the students. We need to advocate for students and follow our mission statement. Mr. Metcalfe urged the Board to tell the legislature what we need to meet mandates and make our District the best in the country. He commented that the state has \$28 billion dollars in the bank and the local government must have the courage to go to Juneau and tell the legislature what we need. Mr. Metcalfe won’t support either resolution #1 or #2.

John Steiner agreed that we need to increase the student allocation to get to a conclusion. He will support resolution #2 as a compromise. He does not support Mr. Metcalfe’s proposed resolution.

SUBSTITUTE TO THE MAIN MOTION (RESOLUTION #3)

<p>Moved by Jake Metcalfe Seconded by Jeff Friedman</p>	<p>to substitute resolution #3: WHEREAS, state funding for public schools is essential to maintain an education system that meets the needs of the children of Alaska; and WHEREAS, Governor Frank Murkowski has recognized the importance of increasing public school funding by recommending that foundation formula funding for public schools be increased; and WHEREAS, public school students will require adequate education programs in order to meet student achievement requirements imposed under both state and federal law; and WHEREAS, adequate education programs will require a significant increase in state education funding to allow school districts to have the education resources to meet student needs; and</p>
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	<p>WHEREAS, school districts are experiencing increased fixed costs in their retirement systems and in other areas including fuel and electricity; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, improvements to the public school system require a combination of strategies including improving instructional quality, decreasing class sizes, providing safe and efficient transportation, and providing adequate employee compensation; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, providing increased education funding benefits all the public schools in the state and all residents of the state by developing our most precious natural resource—children, and providing a foundation for economic growth; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, in order to prevent program cuts, to assure a maintenance level of public school funding, and to make modest reduction in class sizes, public school funding will need to be increased by \$112 million dollars for the next fiscal year;</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage School District strongly supports increasing state support for public schools; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Anchorage School District requests the Governor and legislature to increase the base student allocation in the foundation formula to \$5,120, which would provide an additional \$112 million dollars in state support for public schools.</p>
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Jake Metcalfe noted that this resolution recognizes the Governor and the importance of increasing public school funding. He wants an increase of \$112 million, which will get us beyond the stage of just getting by. It will

also provide the opportunity for us to catch up and provides additional money to succeed with our children and provide a quality education. Mr. Metcalfe stressed the importance of going to Juneau to ask for what we need – not for what we can get by with.

Jeff Friedman noted that resolution #2 provides a strategy and resolution - resolution #3 is what we aspire too, which is to provide the best educational system in the country. Mr. Friedman stated that there is no reason not to aspire to that. He feels if we don't ask the legislature for the funds, the answer will be no.

John Steiner disagreed with his colleagues. He feels it is wrong to ask for something when we do not know how it will be used and exceeds our needs. Mr. Steiner stated that he does not have an acceptable analysis to ask for this amount and is unsure where the numbers came from in resolution #3. He does not believe that it is fiscally responsible to ask for a higher number.

Crystal Kennedy stated that it is admirable to want to do more and have the best of everything. Reality is that we can do more realistically by understanding the bigger picture. Ms. Kennedy stated that it looks like we are asking for more than we have indicated our needs to be. She will not support resolution #3.

Tim Steele stated that the bigger number came from Juneau to help kids. He does not believe it is out of line or unreasonable of where we want to go for adequacy. Mr. Steele hopes that we will continue to push for an increase in education so all districts can make a plan for growth and have the best educational system in the nation. He commented that we know what our needs are for next year—we just need to make sustained continued growth towards adequacy.

Jake Metcalfe stated that "Alaska Kids count" from Juneau put this figure forward. They are a group active in trying to figure out what is needed to move the whole state along in public education. Mr. Metcalfe noted that the figures in past resolutions go as low as \$4,995 to \$5,120, which is only \$125 dollars difference.

Jeff Friedman supports resolution #3 and feels that the students and employees deserve this.

John Steiner prefers resolution #2 and expressed a concern on how the student allocation increase to \$5,120 will be funded in the future. He

believes it is more appropriate that increases come incrementally on the ability to fund by the state. Mr. Steiner agrees that public education is the most important thing government does.

Macon Roberts noted that \$5,120 adds another \$93 dollars per student. He does not consider this to be frivolous. Mr. Roberts would like to work on health related issues with students and hire additional physical education teachers. Resolution #3 has some good points, which may start the governor and legislature thinking about long-term funding such as an endowment plan. Mr. Roberts will support resolution #3.

Mary Marks noted that she wants to be an advocate for quality education and will be supporting resolution #3.

Crystal Kennedy mentioned that we did build our 2005-2006 financial plan on the governor's proposal and cautioned the Board to be cautious when we express our needs to the legislature. She feels the \$5,120 figure will shock people and that concerns her. Ms. Kennedy will not support resolution #3.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION (RESOLUTION #3):

Ayes: Metcalfe, Marks,

Friedman, Roberts

Nays: Kennedy, Steele, Steiner

SUBSTITUTE MOTION TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION

Ayes: Metcalfe, Marks, Steele

Friedman, Roberts

Nays: Kennedy, Steiner

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS SUBSTITUTED BY RESOLUTION #3

ASD Memorandum #160 – Revision of School Board Policy Section 333:
Charter Schools (Second Reading) (Revised)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes as amended for School Board Policy Section 333: Charter Schools on Second Reading.

ACTION

Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve Memorandum #160.
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Richard Hermosillo commented that it was a great experience to participate on the policy subcommittee with the School Board and he appreciates all the work that has been accomplished. He stated that he sent a letter as Chairman of the Village Charter School Academic Policy Committee on September 16, 2004 with respect to the following proposed changes: 1) to increase the window of time for an existing charter school to submit their reapplication materials to 18 months; and 2) implementation of a timeline for ASD to respond to requests for information. He feels it would be more effective for all concerned to have a fixed time for the Administration to respond to requests for information from charter schools.

Macon Roberts asked Mr. Hermosillo what the advantage and disadvantage would be to having a timeline in place. Mr. Hermosillo responded that it would allow an APC to expect a response within a certain time frame so they could have an answer to technical questions or an answer to a grievance. He feels that it is a matter of due process.

Mary Marks asked if Mr. Hermosillo was aware if this was a request from other APCs. Mr. Hermosillo responded it was voiced adamantly that there should be a timeline imposed, but some APCs feel the existing language is adequate. He commented that there has been a history of a volatile relationship between Village Charter School and the ASD Administration; he wants to bring about a positive change.

Macon Roberts suggested that five days seems to be a very fast turnaround and asked if a longer timeline would be a problem for charter schools. Mr. Hermosillo stated that there is already a provision under state law that dictates a ten day turnaround time. He feels an APC that doesn't have the knowledge or time to go through and research each item would benefit with a shorter timeline for Administrative responses.

Crystal Kennedy commented that she does not think a five-day turnaround seems unreasonable. She asked if the policy subcommittee discussed this issue.

Jeff Friedman noted his recollection is that no one on the committee proposed inserting a particular timeline. His view of the tone of the policy is that it is much more cooperative and a time limit was not needed in this instance. Mr. Friedman viewed it as building up an adversarial relationship that we are trying to get rid of.

John Steiner commented that it would be hard to come up with a timeline that is reasonable. He expects that a simple yes or no to a definitive request would not be a problem and would be answered in a timely manner. Mr. Steiner asked if ten working days to answer a request for information would work. Richard Hermosillo responded that it usually takes ten days or more to obtain the requested information. He did admit that he has made a considerable amount of requests recently. Mr. Hermosillo believes that setting a shorter timeline would allow all charter schools to have an even playing field and have access to information.

Mary Marks commented that the current School Board policy is very clear for official requests for information. She does not feel that we need to add the number of days in the policy. Ms. Marks also commented that there is a charter school liaison that is available to answer questions.

Carol Comeau stated that many people expect an instant response to their requests for information. She noted that there is no one person assigned to just charter schools; Connie Bensler is the part-time key person regarding charter schools. Ms. Comeau commented that requests need to be legitimate and for people to expect everything in writing is inappropriate.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #192 - Summer School Enrichment Proposal 2005
(Revised)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to expand the current summer school programs for middle schools and high schools to include enrichment courses for an additional cost of \$283,000.

ACTION

Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Jeff Friedman	to approve Memorandum #192.
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Peggy Robinson gave a presentation on Fast ForWord, which is a internet-based training program that helps children rapidly build oral language comprehension and other critical skills necessary for learning to read or

becoming a better reader. The goal of the Fast ForWord program is to provide students with learning tools they need for success in and out of the classroom. The program attempts to accomplish these goals by training the brain to learn better and faster, building fundamental thinking, listening, language and reading skills.

Ms. Robinson asked the School Board to consider offering it as an enrichment program in the elementary schools. She also noted that it would be good for the ESL students (English as a second language). Ms. Robinson asked if the District charged students for enrichment classes; she knows that parents would be willing to pay for these services.

Carol Comeau commented that there is money in the budget for the enrichment component for the summer school program. This proposal before the School Board is based on that budget.

Mike Henry noted that Fast ForWord has been in the high schools for three years. He stated that it is not just a reading program, but is a program that trains the brain to be ready for a reading program. Mr. Henry stated that the District has already spent close to \$100,000 on this program and the students have had wonderful results. Approximately 2,000 students have received reading remediation and ESL students have been the perfect students to participate in such a program. He emphasized that all students can benefit from this program. Carol Comeau reported that when she visited East High School, the students were very engaged in what they were doing in the Fast ForWord lab.

Gail Opalinski reported similar results in five of the middle schools where it is part of their reading program. She noted that Clark Middle School has a very good program. Ms. Opalinski gave a brief description of how the summer school program at the middle school level would be structured with the Fast ForWord program.

Patricia McRae explained that the elementary division has Fast ForWord at Willow Crest, Tyson, and Mountain View Elementary Schools. The budget will allow it to be offered to more schools this year. Ms. McRae stated that even though there is not a huge amount of data available, students are making progress. She stated that non-verbal students do more talking in the classroom. Ms. McRae feels the program is very promising, but is also very expensive; she noted that training is the key to success.

John Steiner asked if we can do pre- and post-testing and if it can be tracked over a longer period of time. Carol Comeau responded yes and noted that we did get a report last June.

Mary Marks asked how a student attending this program will be affected if they should move or attend a charter school. Carol Comeau responded that if the school does not have the program, it will not be offered to students. Hopefully, the school will talk with the parent to make sure they make the right choice. She also noted that charter schools could offer the program as part of their budget.

Crystal Kennedy asked if the choice of classes in the high school summer school curriculum is proportionate to the demand. Carol Comeau responded that this is an enrichment proposal and we will still have our regular summer school schedule which deals with remediation. She reminded the Board and the audience that this proposal is to enrich the offerings. Mike Henry believes that enrichment and remediation classes should be offered at the same fee. He also noted that there has been some discussion with UAA regarding their fine arts program and a partnership with the District. This will also open up many opportunities with the additional funding in this proposal.

Crystal Kennedy asked if this would be a pilot to see how many students will respond, if we know the demand, and if we will be testing. Mike Henry responded that he believes we have the interested students. Carol Comeau commented that there have been people calling about other classes being available than what is offered in the summer school remediation classes. Ms. Comeau believes that this is a good opportunity for students to take some excellent courses.

Jeff Friedman asked if the cost figures take into account the tuition that will be charged. Mike Henry responded that our fee, by Board Policy, is \$50 to \$75 per student and there is a fee waiver process also in place. He stated that about 20 percent of the high school students are on a fee waiver. Mr. Henry stated that we want to encourage students to attend summer school even if they cannot afford it. Gail Opalinski stated there are about 35 to 45 middle school students on fee waivers.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSED

The School Board recessed at 10:20 p.m. and returned at 10:30 p.m.

ASD Memorandum #201 – Arab World Studies Notebook

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board disallow the Arab World Studies Notebook (AWSN) for use in Anchorage School District classrooms. It is further recommended that Dr. Enid Hunter, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instructional Support, and Steve Ex, Social Studies Coordinator, convene an ad hoc high school social studies curriculum committee to identify supplementary materials and community speakers for ASD's high school Middle East elective course. Their recommendations are to be presented for Board approval no later than January 1, 2006.

ACTION

Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve Memorandum #201.
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John Steiner commented that he understands that the notebook in question has a mix of articles from different sources and is concerned that some are not well notated or the origin of some is unknown; he believes there may be an inconsistency in the level of quality, accuracy, etc. Mr. Steiner asked if it was correct that some of the articles were very good but some were full of inaccuracies. Steve Ex responded yes.

Carol Comeau stated that this issue was brought forward to her by a number of community residents in 2003. She spent a great deal of time with Steve Ex, Enid Hunter, and Mardell Kiesel to discuss what had happened and why it exploded in such a short period of time. Ms. Comeau sent an email out about what the rules were and the book could not be used by teachers without a full review due to the fact that there had been no internal discussion completed. She felt after reading all the information that a full review needed to be completed by the Controversial Issues Committee. Ms. Comeau stated that a review of materials and the development of a list of speakers to give perspectives on this middle east course needed to be done. She mentioned that some parts of the materials were good, but who is going to determine what is good or unacceptable. Ms. Comeau is very sensitive about this and will not allow this book to be used as a supplement until a list of approved materials are determined and brought back before the School Board for approval. Teachers must have accurate facts in order to have discussions

with their classes. Ms. Comeau remains concerned that parts of this notebook may be offensive to members of the community.

Jeff Friedman asked if articles in this notebook could be considered in the search for accurate supplemental materials. Enid Hunter responded yes, it is a possibility because some articles are excellent.

Carol Comeau asked for a thoughtful review of materials by the committee to determine what will be made available to teachers. Ms. Comeau made it very clear that she does not want to send a message to teachers that they cannot select supplemental materials for their classes. They just need to remember that some courses are more sensitive in nature and the selection of materials should be a very thorough process. Mr. Steiner asked if there is a process citing that it must be reviewed prior to using in the classroom. Ms. Comeau responded that teachers are usually very sensitive and should review the materials to protect themselves. They also need to justify to parents on why they are using the materials. John Steiner asked what would happen if there was an article used that is totally accurate, factually correct, and the parent still was offended by the material. Carol Comeau responded that the teacher must be able to defend the materials, and the age of the students must also be considered.

AMENDMENT

<p>Moved by John Steiner Seconded by Crystal Kennedy</p>	<p>To amend the first sentence in paragraph one: It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board disallow the Arab World Studies Notebook (AWSN) for use in Anchorage School District classrooms <u>except that the Superintendent may provide a process for permitted use of individual articles after review for factual accuracy.</u></p>
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John Steiner expressed his concern about the School Board blackballing materials for the classroom. He agrees that the notebook is not trustworthy and it is a mistake to use it, but some of the reviewers believe that some of the articles are not problematic. Mr. Steiner does not want the Board to say that the notebook cannot be used. He would like the Superintendent to develop a process for permitting the use of individual articles, after review for factual accuracy, to be used by teachers. Carol

Comeau stated that this is not needed, but she will work with the group to establish a process. Her goal is to find the best materials for this course.

Macon Roberts asked if there is a process in place at the school level that addresses potentially controversial issues, i.e., incident at West High with the play. His feeling is that if there was a process in place, the play would not have been cancelled. Carol Comeau responded that there is a process at the school level, but the school did not follow it.

Jake Metcalfe asked if the amendment on the floor further complicates the process. Carol responded no, we just need to develop the process.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

Ayes: Metcalfe, Kennedy, Steiner, Roberts

Nays: Marks, Steele, Friedman

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES

Enid Hunter stated that the amendment compliments the process. She noted that individuals on the committee do a lot of work in order to come to the table to speak on these issues in a very considerate and thoughtful way; it is often delicate and difficult, but is a valid process. Ms. Hunter feels that this is a good way to resolve the issues that come forward.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES AS AMENDED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 175 - Conflict of Interest - Second Quarter Report FY 2004-2005

The attached listing of employee Conflict of Interest Waiver and Disclosure actions is forwarded in accordance with School Board Policy Section 725.44. This information is provided as the second quarter report for the FY 2004-2005 school year.

Attachment A lists, by employee, Requests for Waivers approved between October 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004. Attachment B lists employees who submitted Disclosure Statements between October 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004. All Disclosure Statements and

Requests for Waivers for the year of 2003-2004 expired on June 30, 2004.

2. ASD Memorandum #176 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of January 12, 2005 through January 26, 2005.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Carol Comeau reminded the Board members of the Obesity Issues Work Session scheduled for February 10 at 5:30 p.m. She reviewed the agenda and asked direction on how they want to handle the discussion. Ms. Comeau stated that she had a meeting with the Municipal Health Department on Tuesday, February 8 to discuss these issues. She stated that there is legislative interest as well as interest from the Municipality to establish a task force to address obesity issues. Ms. Comeau suggested vending machines in our schools should be one of the topics for discussion. Mary Marks suggested more physical and health education. Jeff Friedman stated that there needs to be some discussion on whether the Board is willing to supplement activity funds if there is a drop in revenue due to the loss of vending machines. John Steiner expressed an interest in obtaining more detail on the nutritional quality of lunches at the middle and elementary schools.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of February 7, 2005 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:05 p.m.

Tim Steele, President

Jeff Friedman, Clerk

Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

Date