

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2005

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, March 7, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, Tim Steele, presided.

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

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

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

B. MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Goldenview Middle School String Honors Ensemble and Director, Mary Alice Donaldson

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Friedman noted that there are a large number of musical events and art shows around town for Music in our Schools Month and encouraged everyone to attend the events.

Jake Metcalfe announced that the senate will take up education funding Wednesday at 9:00. The amount of money they plan on approving is not what the District asked for, nor enough to keep the District from increasing class size. Mr. Metcalfe encouraged everyone to contact the legislators by public opinion messages, e-mail or by testifying.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Jeff Friedman and seconded by Mary Marks that the Agenda be approved with an addendum to the Personnel Report.

The Agenda with addendum was unanimously approved.

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #203 - Wells Fargo Recognition

Many businesses and organizations believe it is their responsibility to make certain that they do everything they can to assist people of all ages obtain a quality education. At Wells Fargo, they have a company-wide Team Up for Schools campaign in support of Alaska's local schools. For each qualifying new checking account or related service opened during their campaign, Wells Fargo contributes \$10 to the customer's local school District. The 2004 campaign netted over \$31,000, including \$14,425 for the Anchorage School District.

Jan Christensen read the memorandum and Tim Steele presented the certificate to the representative from Wells Fargo.

2. ASD Memorandum #234 - Logo Design Recognition

An organization's logo is its identity. It's face. It gives individuals an easy way of remembering who you are, and what you do. Developing a quality logo is not a simple task. It requires communicating the name of your organization and what that organization does.

Carol Comeau read the memorandum while Tim Steele presented Mike Porcaro the certificate. Mr. Porcaro and Mr. Hume donated their services free of charge. Mr. Porcaro thanked the members of the District for allowing him and Mr. Hume to do this and look forward to doing more things with the District.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board
No Report

2. Military Delegate
Colonel David Jones announced that he would be leaving Wednesday night for the State Board of Education meeting in Juneau and to please send him any items or concerns within the next 24 hours.

3. M.E.C.C.

Mr. William Johnson announced that the next M.E.C.C. meeting will be held on March 17 at noon and the public is welcome.

G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Rich Kronberg, the President of the Anchorage Education Association, spoke to the Board about the AEA members' new purple buttons. They are their vision charts and they say "I am AEA, focused on the future." Mr. Kronberg stated that he hopes everyone will be focused on the future of this District, because that means we will be focused on making sure that all of our children have access to the quality professional educators they need and deserve. The two most important factors that impact a child's learning are parents and teachers. We can't do anything about the first factor but it's imperative that we do something about the second one. Our future as a high performing district depends on it. There are no workarounds to providing our children with quality teachers. Even Congress recognizes this and that's why NCLB talks only about highly qualified teachers. Attempts to make due without quality teachers are pretty much akin to acting like a mechanic who can't fix the brakes of your car and instead makes the horn louder. The real problem is not recruiting new teachers but keeping the good teachers we already have. Professor Richard Ingersol says four main reasons that quality teachers leave their jobs or teaching altogether are: lack of competitive compensation, lack of support from administrators, dealing with difficult parents and disruptive students and the inability to make the key decisions that impact their lives as professionals. Mr. Kronberg added that he hopes ASD works with the AEA to identify the factors that lead professional educators to leave this district and works collaboratively to address them.

Kathy Wright, librarian at Mt. Spurr, stated her concerns with regards to quality teachers. In the past 20 years salaries and benefits have eroded. Ms. Wright stated that she knows of teachers who have left the profession because of higher salaries in the private sector or have left the state to teach in other states. When we look to the future our district's success will continue to be our ability to attract and retain quality teachers for our children. We must make a commitment to create conditions that will help attract and retain the great teachers who will inspire future generations of Alaskans to be the best they can be.

Jessica Cook, a third grade teacher at Ptarmigan Elementary School stated that we need strong schools for a strong community to help build a diverse economy. Schools cultivate and grow good citizens and a skilled workforce. Quality educators prepare children for jobs in the 21st century and beyond. There are new demands placed on educators due to the No Child Left Behind law. Quality teachers are critical in helping schools and children meet the demands of this law. There is a shrinking pool of perspective teachers and a smaller pool of sub teachers. We are losing topnotch quality educators to other districts, states and professions that offer better pay, benefits and bonuses. Ms. Wright stated that we can attract and attain quality educators by offering competitive salaries and benefits. Anchorage teachers' salaries have not kept pace with other districts in Alaska. They also pay the highest percentage of health care premiums in the state at 31 percent. In general, teachers spend many hundreds of dollars out of their own pocket on teaching supplies. Ms. Wright stated that she feels we need quality educators to remain in this profession to ensure a quality future for all of our children and all of us.

Tara Bivins is a National Board Certified Teacher and assists many other gifted educators through the board certification process. Ms. Bivins stated that of 200,000 new U.S. teachers hired each year over 11 percent leave by the end of that year. More than 30 percent leave after three years and almost half leave after five years. In addition, approximately 40 percent of our nation's teaching workforce is considering retirement. When countless dollars are spent training new teachers and they leave because they do not feel supported or underpaid that money has been wasted. The speaker stated that the replacement cost for the district is over \$11,000 for each teacher who leaves. That is not including indirect costs such as lost investment, professional development dollars and site-specific knowledge. Ms. Bivins stated that little is done to keep veteran teachers in the classroom and it is rare that they are rewarded or compensated for their important skills and expertise. Experienced teachers who move into the district are often penalized with entry level wages. Veteran teachers have experienced frozen salaries and decreasing benefits. In order to advance teachers often leave the classroom for administration. We must keep the good teachers that we have. When teacher expertise is not rewarded, and learning and advancement opportunities dwindle, teachers leave and the quality of education decline. The students ultimately are the ones who suffer. The speaker urges the School Board and the Anchorage community to insist upon securing a quality teacher for every classroom. This does not mean offering more hours of training workshops and practice exam prep. This means creating a system that rewards quality teaching and thereby promotes student success. Ms. Bivins stated that over the past five years she has seen a significant change in the overall feel

of our district, and she is among many who feel supported by a strong superintendent with compassion for her staff and the students we teach. We are getting support from our legislature, little by little, and teacher prep programs in our local universities are producing high caliber educators. The district and teachers' association have a productive working relationship. It's time to take something good and make it outstanding. Let's put the Anchorage School District among the nation's best places for teaching and learning. This is the year to make it happen.

John Steiner commented that there has been some controversy in other communities over rewarding teachers who have shown themselves particularly sufficient and rewarding the highly qualified more. Mr. Steiner asked Ms. Bivins if she thought it was a good idea to reward the highly qualified teachers more. Ms. Bivins replied that she does not personally feel that it is a good idea because she feels that once a teacher is highly qualified people do the same amount of work. Ms. Bivins stated that she does not feel it is easy to say that one person has one skill over another skill and that skill is more important and someone should be paid or valued more because of it. Ms. Bivins added that in the sense of rewarding she means more along the lines of paying appropriately and when someone is able to use a skill that basically enhances the school district or the learning for the kids that particular skill should be compensated in some form. Usually cash is nice however there are many ways of doing that.

Macon Roberts asked the speaker what she thinks of Mr. Metcalfe suggesting that she and her colleagues contact the legislators, because when teachers talk the legislators listen. Ms. Bivins agreed that they all need to be contacting the legislators and there is no excuse in not doing that. Mr. Roberts stated that it makes a difference in the numbers and with the numbers in this room tonight and with the parents who are listening, it would make a big difference and perhaps the legislators would listen to them. Jake Metcalfe commented that the legislators obviously did not listen to the Board because they asked for \$5120 and they gave us \$4919 - \$200 less than what we need for status quo. Mr. Metcalfe commented that he does not think we retain quality teachers by staying status quo and not changing what we are doing. Mr. Metcalfe encouraged the speaker's members to contact the legislators and tell them the stories that the speakers have told tonight. They need to know from everyone that we are not going to settle for status quo and we need to have more. They need to invest in the future and they need to hear from the parents of their students as well.

Gerald Tenneson stated that he has thirty years of experience with the Anchorage School District. Mr. Tenneson stated that Alaska's teachers used to be some of the highest paid teachers in the country and when he was hired on he felt very privileged because he was told there were a thousand applicants for the job. Now, 30 years later, that is not true today because of many things that the District has no control of, such as NCLB. Because of NCLB, if schools do not make AYP you are a failing school, so the first thing they want to do is get rid of those teacher because they weren't making a difference. Also, the state's wanting to get into a tiered licensure system tells the teachers that their first set of licenses that they have isn't good enough and they have to jump through another hoop. The third item is the TRS (Teacher's Retirement System), which they are proposing a third tier. This makes it more difficult for teachers to teach because they will need to spend more time within the profession before they get the similar benefits that those in tier one have to go through. Mr. Tenneson further stated he understands that 60 percent of ASD teachers have been here less than five years. Mr. Tenneson feels very fortunate to be teaching here but how do we keep those teachers who have just spoken – the five or ten year range? We keep them by paying them a compensatory salary and benefit package to other school districts within the state and other professions that require the same amount of schooling and show they are supported by supplying them with proper textbooks. At one point and time ASD had a system of going through and getting new textbook adoptions every seven to ten years. The speaker has textbooks in his room that are 15 years old that he cannot get replacement textbooks for. When you walk into a classroom as a new teacher you have to compensate for what you don't have in the classroom and the district should be responsible for providing it, but because of finances they have to purchase new materials. Mr. Tenneson feels that the way to keep quality teachers is by offering a proper compensation package that is comparable to other staffs and districts within the country; having up-to-date textbooks, materials and supplies so that teachers do not have to take money out of their own pockets to purchases these things to make sure that their students are being taken care of.

Tim Steele commented to the speaker that his textbook story is one thing that the legislators need to hear. These are things that we are unable to purchases and it is those stories and the stories of the parents regarding class size that he is told when he goes to Juneau that are important for persuading them that we have a need.

Theresa Obermeyer stated that she hopes the audience understands what she has been doing for at least the last 15 years. Ms. Obermeyer was a

teacher at McLaughlin. Ms. Obermeyer repeated Mr. Tenneson's statement that 60 percent of these teachers have been here for less than five years. Ms. Obermeyer commented that when you pay peanuts you get monkeys. At the last meeting there was a man that talked about bus problems. The bus drivers used to make more than teachers and now they make \$10.00 - \$11.00 an hour. We live in the wealthiest state in the United States. Ms. Obermeyer asked when Exxon will pay up. Exxon owns about 38 percent of Prudoe Bay. The oil is at \$54.00 a barrel today and then we want to say we can't even give people textbooks. The logic of all this is pathetic. These are our children and most important expenditure. In this country now, Ms. Obermeyer thinks we should have swimming pools in each school because they need exercise and she thinks it affects the teachers' jobs. When the students don't get exercise all day long the teachers can't teach them. There have been studies done as to how long a person can sit and really listen and absorb before they totally tune out. It makes the teachers' jobs difficult when the kids can't listen. This group can afford anything they can do and yet they give us no money. Ms. Obermeyer stated let's care about the children for a change.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Minutes of Special Meeting – January 27, 2005, 4:15 p.m.
2. ASD Memorandum #210 - School Board Policy Revision Section 725.131(j): Purchasing/Contracting – Exempt (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on First Reading the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy Section 725.131(j): Purchasing/Contracting – Exempt.

3. ASD Memorandum #180 – Award of Contract: Gladys Wood Elementary Fire Protection

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Gladys Wood Elementary School Fire Protection to Goertz Construction for the Base Bid in the amount of \$318,970.

4. ASD Memorandum #181 – Award of Contract: Eagle River Elementary Roof, Structural and Sprinkler Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a contract for Eagle River Elementary School Roof, Structural, and Sprinkler Upgrades to Janssen Contracting Company, Inc., for the Base Bid amount of \$467,000.

5. ASD Memorandum #194 – Award of Contract: Point of Sale Software

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a contract to provide a Student Nutrition Point of Sale (POS) Software system (Phase III) to PCS Revenue Control Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$365,775 and a three-year annual maintenance agreement with an option to renew for two additional one-year periods at \$19,950 per year for a total amount not to exceed \$465,525. Annual maintenance fees will be paid, starting in FY 2005-2006, on an annual basis after acceptance of the system.

It is further recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer to support the line item expenditure codes as outlined in the memorandum.

6. ASD Memorandum #189 – Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan Analysis and Recommendations: July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2011

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Anchorage School District Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan for July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2011.

7. ASD Memorandum #211 – Approval of Funding for Capital Projects Using Interest Earnings and Redirected Balances

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the use of Capital Projects Fund interest earnings and redirection of bond funds in a total amount of \$7,780,000 for the projects identified in this memorandum.

8. ASD Memorandum #229 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Department of Education & Early Development Set For Life Grant

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds

from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) for \$8,562. Funds will enable a team of seven from Dimond High School to attend the Transition Camp in Juneau, Alaska for the week of February 28 to March 4, 2005. The team will consist of one special education teacher, one special education paraprofessional, one-tenth grade special education student, two twelfth grade special education students, one twelfth grade general education student, and one administrator. The camp provides a week-long learning experience focused on skills and techniques that assist students in transitioning from school to work.

9. ASD Memorandum #188 – Personnel Report

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

The following memoranda were removed from the Agenda: Memorandum #210, 194, 189.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner
seconded by: Jeff Friedman

to approve the Minutes of Special Meeting of January 27, 2005, 4:15 p.m.; ASD Memorandum#180; Memorandum #181; Memorandum #229; and Memorandum #188.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #210 - School Board Policy Revision Section 725.131(j):
Purchasing/Contracting – Exempt (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt on First Reading the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy Section 725.131(j): Purchasing/Contracting – Exempt.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman to approve ASD Memorandum #210.
seconded by: Mary Marks

Carol Comeau stated that this would bring our policy in compliance with the change in state regulations regarding pupil transportation.

Jeff Friedman stated that the policy refers to a state law in regulations that no longer exists, so we don't need that policy.

John Steiner noted for the benefit of the public that the Board is not exempting student transportation from competitive procurement - we are doing the exact opposite. It used to be that state law had a competitive procurement policy, so the Board didn't need one - it just applied the state law. The state law eliminated it so the Board needed to go back and include it in Board policy to make sure that we do our procurement of transportation competitively and get the best price.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #194 – Award of Contract: Point of Sale Software

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a contract to provide a Student Nutrition Point of Sale (POS) Software system (Phase III) to PCS Revenue Control Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$365,775 and a three-year annual maintenance agreement with an option to renew for two additional one-year periods at \$19,950 per year for a total amount not to exceed \$465,525. Annual maintenance fees will be paid, starting in FY 2005-2006, on an annual basis after acceptance of the system.

It is further recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to process a budget transfer to support the line item expenditure codes as outlined in the memorandum.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy to approve ASD Memorandum #194.
seconded by: Mary Marks

Carol Comeau stated that this is funded in the Student Nutrition fund and not the General Fund, which is self-supporting based on revenue fees and subsidies for meals. It will become a much more efficient system.

Crystal Kennedy asked if the District would have total control and ownership of this system. Dr. Rock replied that this is an unusual contract because the District will have total control. The total \$465,000 is for a total of five years, which includes an annual one-year maintenance agreement for the \$19,950 per year. They will install it for the remainder of this year and will begin maintenance next year. In the past we allowed them to come in and start paying for it before it was up and running. Until it is accepted we do not have to pay any money on the maintenance agreement. Ms. Kennedy asked if this requires any new personnel and if so is it included. Dr. Rock replied that it is a turnkey operation and they will send their personnel to train our people. They will return next fall to make sure everything is okay.

Macon Roberts asked Dr. Rock to explain the improvement once the new system is installed and up and running. Dr. Rock replied that we have three different systems now for point of sale. This will give us one single system. Our people have to learn and understand three different systems. This also provides an accounting system and gives a financial support system. We will just have to click a button for a reimbursement form every month. The accurate accountability is unbelievable. It also allows a cashless system. A student can put the money into an account. It also includes a web system for parents to pay by credit card through the web.

Tim Steele stated that it sounds like the Student Nutrition department is going to gain efficiencies and maybe save some money down the line. Dr. Rock responded that Mr. Steele is correct.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #189 – Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan Analysis and Recommendations: July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2011

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached Anchorage School District Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan for July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2011.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy

seconded by: Jeff Friedman to approve ASD Memorandum #189.

Louis Theiss, Girdwood resident, reported that staff of the Heritage Land Bank (HLB) encouraged him to be here tonight to speak regarding the Crow Creek Subdivision plan, which includes a thousand acres for a thousand families. The Mayor and the HLB is in support of this project. Robin Ward supports moving the Girdwood School higher up on the CIP list. The speaker suggested combining planning and design money in the next school bond to give enough lead time. There are 25 pre-sold units to be built this summer and 30 in the basin that are 1/3 completed. If the school is overcrowded there is no school close by for students to go to. Mr. Theiss added that he is asking for a placeholder for this. The plan calls for 400 units in 2007.

Superintendent, Carol Comeau mentioned that the facilities department staff can speak to this issue during the presentation.

The Board recessed at 7:30 p.m. and reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Carol Comeau stated that it is important to realize that this Capital Improvement Project Report is an annual event of a very extensive process. Ms. Comeau encouraged the Board members to ask as many questions as needed so they would know what goes in to building the six-year plan. The Planning and Zoning Commission also reviews this report tonight.

Ray Amsden began the presentation and announced that the Planning & Zoning Commission approved it but there was good discussion to share. During the PowerPoint presentation Mr. Amsden explained the process involved in developing the report. The CIP action plan is related to our capital needs. We look at classroom space for a growing population by area; educational needs; major systems like HVAC, etc. because they wear out and codes change; it is developed by looking at last year's CIP. We incorporate demographic information; we work to keep current with educational needs in terms of the ed specs and feedback from our schools; we solicit input from our maintenance department, and our facilities department staff does survey work to see what is needed as well. We rely on the Capital Request Advisory Committee (CRAC) to advise us as to

their view. The CRAC area representatives go out to every school in their high school attendance area. Also, the planning and zoning review is a requirement. Then, the CIP comes to the Board. The Assembly, by charter, must receive the report by April 1 and then it goes to the DEED.

Rick Barrier attended the Planning & Zoning meeting tonight and reported the commission's comments. One of the comments was in regards to the size of the schools and why we need to make them the same size. Mr. Barrier told them our policy for an elementary school was 26 classrooms. The commission also discussed school sites size and asked if all the land the District gets is needed. Mr. Barrier responded that the District could do with less without Title 21. One member said why the District buys sites noncompetitively and Mr. Barrier replied that because it's the law. Cathy Hammond is trying to find way to work it thru differently. Mr. Barrier stated that he made a plea for the city to get a demographer and the commission members replied that they had requested one last year and will ask for one again this year. Mr. Barrier also invited the commission members to the CRAC meetings. Tim Steele commented that he also invited the commission members to the CRAC. Carol Comeau added that anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. Mr. Barrier ended his report by stating that the commission did not make changes to the document.

Ophelia Dargan-Steed reported on school membership. This year's enrollment is 0.4 percent less than last year.

Carol Comeau added that at this time, the military has not been able to provide more information on demographics as far as specificity and how many family members are coming.

Jeff Friedman asked if the District has been at least within a couple of percentage points of its projections. Ms. Dargan-Steed replied that the District has been within one percent for the last 25 years in its overall projections.

Tim Steele commented that should a pipeline or gas line come, he would presume those workers would typically be of childbearing years. Ms. Comeau responded that it was not the case in the 1970's. The support industries brought the families with them. The trouble now is the affordable housing issue. That is why people are moving to the Mat-Su. Mr. Steele noted that the District still has 130 portables and perhaps Girdwood and Sand Lake area developments might add to the needs as well.

Continuing the presentation, Ray Amsden reported that the plan before the Board reflects the absence of 2006 bonds and what we show in that year is the projects likely to be funded through the EED grant process. Three tables show the projects. One table shows the projects by priority and the year of priority. The next table (2A) is a sort by high school attendance area. The third and new table is Table 2B, which is a sort by grade table. This table was very useful when presenting the projects to the Capital Request Advisory Committee and the staff has also found the document to be very useful and one that they will continue to work with.

Mr. Amsden reported that past practice has been followed in this document of pursuing phased funding. We propose the planning work, the design work, and lastly the construction work. The intent of that approach is to better define what the scope of the project is before we get into more major funding, such as design and construction, so that we can get good accurate cost estimates of the work so we can make better decisions as we move forward in design and construction. We continue to reflect the phased renewals of the high schools. We have broken all the high school renovation projects into what we believe to be the smallest component piece we can to accomplish the mission. We look at them from the perspective that they are constructible pieces that we can continue to operate a school function with that construction going on. The purpose of that is to provide more choice for voters and smaller monetary increments of funding needs. The downside is that these projects last a lot longer. This plan has three of the high schools that go outside of this six-year window. There is only one high school that will complete within the window that we identify in this report.

Bartlett High School is now nine phases with completion in 2012 if we follow this plan. Mr. Amsden added that this does not mean that there might not be opportunities to pull them forward. An example is Service High School this year. We were able to pull the Phase 2B forward a year and so were able to recapture the year that we lost as a result of waiting for South High School to open.

Chugiak High School will be in seven phases with completion in 2009. East High School is now shown as 14 phases with a completion date in 2013 and Service High School is now shown as 11 phases with a completion date in 2012. West High School is one that we are proposing funding for this year and the Board will be asked to approve the memorandum tonight. Mr. Amsden wanted to highlight that the reason that one is 14 phases and one is nine phases is not for the purpose of punishing anyone. If the nine phases could have been broken down into

14 that would have occurred. It was just the way that the work could be unfolded into a logical development/construction path.

Mr. Amsden reported that it is anticipated that the District will receive the major maintenance grant funding for the Chester Valley Elementary and Sand Lake Elementary renovation construction projects.

Mr. Amsden stated that in 2007 the most important project is the replacement of Clark Middle School at \$51 million. Next on the 2007 list is the matched funding for the Sand Lake Elementary renovation and Chester Valley Elementary renovation. Chester Valley ranked fourth on the EED major maintenance list and Sand Lake ranked 19th, so we anticipate funding and we are obviously going to have to generate our match. Next on the list are the high school phased projects.

Mr. Amsden noted the Girdwood K-8 planning project for \$100,000 and agreed that it is an important project that needs to move forward in an expeditious manner. Barring a bond this year, we show it in 2007 for funding. Mr. Amsden does not disagree with what has been said tonight. We have been working with the HLB as they unfold that plan. Ms. Dargan-Steed has been providing demographic information in support of it. Mr. Amsden commented that the Girdwood request for planning/design is risky at this time. Without adequate planning work Mr. Amsden cannot say what that design cost will be. The Girdwood community is unique as it relates to the other schools in the District because it is a one-school town with a lot of unique dynamics. The school is K-8. We have high school and middle schools issues as well as other challenges to discuss. It is not to say that they will be difficult to do but they will take time. Carol Comeau responded that in relation Mr. Theiss' and Mr. Amsden's comments, there will need to be discussions set up over the next few months. Ms. Comeau added that she hasn't heard any talk of people being interested in a high school. The District needs to commit to going there for a series of meetings and try to hook on to the other meetings that are going on regarding this issue. Ray Amsden noted that there is also the federal funding that recently came through for their library/community center. Ms. Comeau stated that we should proceed as is for now but if it looks like they are going to move along faster than we think right now, we would need to look at other sources and bring the next phase forward sooner to the Board. It might be a recommendation to use money from the fund balance to do that. The worse thing we could do is put something in there tonight without having any real numbers behind it and then come back to the Board again. Ms. Comeau's

recommendation is to work with the committee and city and then take a look at it.

Jeff Friedman commented that we do have the ability, when the bonds come up, to readjust for something that comes up over the next three or four months.

Ray Amsden continued his report stating that the 2007 list shows the planning for the Southwest Anchorage Elementary School. The list also contains \$350,000 for a facility assessment. We have been working off a study that was done a number of years ago and we believe it was a very useful tool, but it is believed that it has probably reached close to the end of its useful life. There are a few projects that are left that we need to remain committed to, such as Airport Heights Elementary. For the most part, what are left in the retrofit study are the newer schools. We believe we need to go back and reassess those schools with what we have current in terms of knowledge and educational needs so we can maybe develop a better, more accurate plan at this time. We do show continued funding for site acquisition. Also included are the typical kinds of districtwide projects with a district of our size, such as sprinklers (we are committed to the fire department to make all of our schools fully sprinkled and we are not there yet), we have roof needs, traffic/safety and security, and also \$825,000 for emergency communication systems, which is radio communications districtwide so we can maintain secure/safe sites.

Tim Steele asked if the traffic/safety includes Bartlett. Mr. Amsden responded that Bartlett is being handled as part of its renewal work currently. We are reviewing the VA's proposed road that will be coming into the area past the school's entrances. The city is also trying to identify funds from the federal government, which were apparently appropriated to put some infrastructure in for a traffic light. The VA's proposed road will probably take care of the issue. It proposes to come in with a traffic light on north Muldoon Rd and this new road and our west parking lot will then be revised to come into that road. It would exit and meet up to the traffic light.

Jeff Friedman commented on the term Minor Building Renewal. This really refers to various smaller projects but they are certainly not minor. It would be helpful to use a different term than Minor Building Renewal so the public would understand that these projects are not minor.

John Steiner asked if the Facility Assessment Study would be a bondable item. Ms. Comeau commented that it may not be bondable, but this is the

kind of thing that we need to get in our CIP to not lose track of but to where we actually define the source of the revenue when we get there is for more discussion and Board approval because if we are fortunate to get debt reimbursement back we need to be very careful as to what we take to the voters and stick to reimbursement and look to other sources such as fund balance. Ms. Comeau further stated that the Facility Assessment Study would be a very worthy thing to use the fund balance for because it is planning but is also use of our own general funds. We have to identify the things in here but not get hung up on the specificity of where the money is coming from. Some of them may have to be funded from other places. We are not approving that all of these things are being bonded in that year. Almost every year we've made some adjustments to the CIP than what we thought the year before just based on population shifts or something comes up that has to be fixed that we thought could wait a few years. It's an evolving, changing document every year. Mr. Amsden added that it is clearly a capital plan and not a fund source plan.

Mary Marks asked about the charter center code upgrade. Mr. Amsden replied that there have been several discussions in regards to the charter center. We have a housing problem, the facility lacks code issues, particular the fire sprinkler issues that we have not been able to address with the fire marshal because we haven't had a plan for that facility. We have taken a fairly extensive look at the facility and determined what the code issues that need to be addressed are. Mr. Amsden stated that he has a meeting with the AFD tomorrow to discuss the newest plan to accomplish the districtwide sprinkler deployment. We've done many schools and included them as a part of our renovation or have done them as a standalone. Our plan has been accepted by the fire marshal over the years where we have shown a funding stream, and a smart integration in renewals. The Charter Center has never been one that we have been able to say this is our plan. As a result of that they have taken a position that we will have to close the facility. We believe that that facility still has life in it and we need to invest the money. Carol Comeau responded that the Jan Christensen, Connie Bensler, and Larry Wiget have been meeting with Charter School representatives on the charter school facility issue. The Aquarian charter school people will have more students and want to keep this facility. They support this approach rather than trying to find another facility. There is a concern about equality for all the charter schools. Ms. Comeau reported that she intends to bring some recommendation forward to the Board when we try to do some budget adjustments in the spring. To give the Aquarian Charter School a facility without lease payments and requiring everyone else to pay leases is not equitable. The recommendation would probably something to help with some of the

lease costs for some of the other charter schools ad an offset or charging Aquarian a cost of leasing that facility. Ms. Comeau commented that she is waiting for a recommendation from the facility department after they talk with the fire marshal. We believe there is some real merit in keeping that facility going and doing some of the code upgrades and improvements to keep them in a facility in which they like and have invested a lot of their own time, energy and labor in and making it a very viable school. Jeff Friedman stated that he thought perhaps we could do a combination of both and charge Aquarian and use that money to help offset some of the other charter schools so that we are not actually taking our cash but redistributing it.

Mr. Amsden further reported that in the CIP projects for 2009 we show a bus facility construction for \$8 million. We have been working the AMATS process for a number of years, trying to accomplish funding through it and we believe it is coming closer to fruition. The \$8 million you see in this report is a 50 percent match to what AMATS will provide – so it will be a \$16,000,000 facility.

Mr. Amsden further reported that this plan includes identifying site selections for a Chugiak/Eagle River area elementary school; a new ABC elementary school site; and the Goldenview area elementary school site. Mr. Amsden reminded the Board that at one point and time we had property identified in the Goldenview area as a part of the Mental Lands Trust. They chose not to move forward with that and the site was then sold. We still feel that we should be identifying a school site.

Carol Comeau commented that the new ABC elementary school site has been on the list for a number of years and the district thought that it might try to do an ABC school Chester Valley but the community didn't want it. Ms. Comeau stated that the question is should we be looking at a for another ABC elementary school site with the expansion of charter schools. There is still a waiting list at Northern Lights. There is not much at Birchwood and the new Eagle Academy Charter School will reduce that need even more. Ms. Comeau feels the northeast Anchorage area is lacking in alternative schools. Ms. Comeau is concerned that we've designated a new ABC elementary school site and are not particularly sure that we would necessarily want to build it. Ms. Comeau questions the value of calling it an ABC elementary school site. The way the community is growing we will need the Goldenview elementary school site sooner than we need an ABC site and we definitely have to keep going with the southwest Anchorage school site. John Steiner responded that when you look at the districtwide elementary total space that we have

and total capacity that that space provides and the flat numbers that we have right now, and the fact that we have some charter schools that will be opening to absorb some of those figures, it is questionable that we should be planning for another ABC school. Mr. Steiner suggested looking at boundary adjustments to deal with existing capacity issues and whether that could open up a school that could be converted to an ABC school if it was determined that we needed one. Mr. Steiner does not see right now that we need to build one. It may be more realistic to acquire a districtwide site without designating it an ABC because we may need one in the future. A charter school center may be more realistic. Ms. Comeau commented that that is our dilemma. We are going to need to look at the boundaries for Bear Valley, O'Malley and Rabbit Creek, but they are pretty full. Bear Valley is full now. The growth is going south. Even though our capacity districtwide looks to be available, it's a classroom here and there. Ms. Comeau feels districtwide boundary changes is not something that will accomplish much, other than total turmoil. John Steiner recognized that's true and there would be a lot of difficult decisions to make with a lot of trauma and disjuncting that would happen to do that. It is difficult when looking at the numbers to justify building a new school. Ms. Comeau responded that that is why we need to do these studies. Ms. Comeau further stated that and as we are learning more from discussions with Gruening, Fort Richardson and Central, she is probably going to come forward with a recommendation to resist doing anything for a year until we do the boundaries for the Muldoon area middle school because we need to bring Mirror Lake into the discussion because we need to move some of the people from Gruening into Mirror Lake and move some of the other people around. It sounds so easy until it involves people's lives and traditions. We have to be able to show the community that it would be better to invest in a school that is closer in proximity and allow for future growth instead of bussing their children all over.

Jeff Friedman commented that it sounds to him that the places we need a new elementary school is not where we need a new ABC school. Mr. Friedman suggested we not keep it as a priority but keep it in mind when we need one in northeast Anchorage with the hope that it would mostly draw from those neighborhoods. Ms. Comeau commented that if you did choose a site for a new ABC school with the assumption that the first priority would be for those in the adjacent area first, that would be very different than what we did with Northern Lights. Those are policy discussions the Board would need to do right up front so people would know that that school would be ABC and priority would be given to the people (in that area). Mr. Friedman explained that his thought was more of a policy that we hope that because this was closer to these people in this

area they are likely to think about going there more than they are driving across town to Dowling and going to that school. It is a matter of distance. The practical matter is you are going to get people from that neighborhood relieving some of the overcrowding. Tim Steele commented that we would need to look at the list and see where most of those people on the waiting list are coming from. There may not be a large demand for it but it may make a good addition to the neighborhood programs. Superintendent Comeau asked the Board if they want to leave it as an ABC school site selection. The Board members unanimously decided to leave it as an ABC school site.

Ray Amsden reported on the future studies including: Southwest Anchorage boundary review; southeast Anchorage elementary boundary review; south Anchorage middle school; technology study – incorporate into the educational specs; Student Transportation facility site; and charter school housing study.

John Steiner wondered that as the south Anchorage community begins to become more comfortable with the South Anchorage High School and as it settles in, whether in terms of building a \$10 million dollar wing on Dimond, whether it would be appropriate to consider adjusting those boundaries to level things out again rather than building that wing. Carol Comeau responded that the new development in the gravel pit is going to be between 500 and 700 homes; Mears is already at 1300; Southport, near Bayshore, is infilling with new houses. Ms. Comeau reported that the reason she recommended what she did for the Dimond High School boundaries is that the Bayshore area is very attached to that school and she does not believe that will change. South Anchorage High School, with the growth that is going on in Southeast Anchorage, Bear Valley, and Goldenview, that school will be overcapacity very shortly. Service High School will have limited room to grow because that area is also growing. Ms. Comeau announced that she is getting ready, in the next year or so, to bring forward a recommendation to modify the ed specs to bring them back up to 2000, with the idea that, depending on the demographics, 1600 might work better. Ms. Comeau thinks we did not look far enough into the future with the growth in south Anchorage and we should have gone with a 2000 student Dimond High School. That is always going to be a very viable place for families to live and locate. It's much like what's going to happen in the Chugiak area. Mr. Steiner commented that as the high school population begins to decline we would have to ask the taxpayers to support a \$10 million wing on the high school when we have excess capacity in the high schools. Mr. Steiner feels we need to do a high school study before building the wing. Ms. Comeau responded that we needed to get the wing on the list. A high school study will be done

before it is recommended and it will be brought forward for public review.

John Steiner commented that he has concerns about some construction for new facilities based on current projections. We are required by charter to do a six-year plan. These are just placeholders for the future. We will see more growth from cargo development at the airport, and possibly some resource development from the gas line, etc. These are a few years out and by that time we will have a better idea for certain that these things will happen. Mr. Steiner added that even though he is not certain that will need all these things he does not have a problem with voting for this.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #211 – Approval of Funding for Capital Projects Using Interest Earnings and Redirected Balances

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the use of Capital Projects Fund interest earnings and redirection of bond funds in a total amount of \$7,780,000 for the projects identified in this memorandum.

ACTION:

Moved by: John Steiner

seconded by: Macon Roberts to approve ASD Memorandum #211.

Carol Comeau reported that the District had committed to the voters that we would not bring forth a bond this spring. However, that does not negate the need for some the projects listed on Page 2. We are asking the Board to approve the funding from interest earnings accounts and completed project balances.

John Steiner asked why these projects were not on the 2005/2006 CIP list and do they need to be on the list because the Assembly approves it. Carol Comeau responded that these are additional maintenance projects and we are not required to ask the Assembly for approval. Ray Amsden added that as far as the planning money, we would have to take that to the Assembly for approval of the plan. Ms. Comeau stated that the

Assembly thought it was a good idea to take the planning money out of the fund balance or interest earnings. John Steiner noted that the West High School planning money is very important and he is happy that the District can move forward with it and not put it behind another year.

Jeff Friedman commented that this is a one-time thing and we cannot do this every year. Mr. Friedman questioned the emergency preparedness multiple locations money. Ray Amsden responded that we have discussed with the Board in the past, the projects to upgrade the emergency preparedness at the student nutrition, facilities/maintenance building; the warehouse and pupil transportation. We put it out to bid and it came in over budget and we are going back now and re-scoping the project to allow us an opportunity to save money. We are soliciting using used generators, providing they are approved generators. We had envisioned using federal surplus generators since there was a large supply available. As the result of the war they have disappeared so that was an impact on the budget. It is the same project that was discussed.

John Steiner commented on the funds for the Clark Middle School roof and asked if this is the least we can spend to get us by until we get the school replaced. Ray Amsden responded yes – we spent about \$90,000 chasing leaks on the roof. We've looked at the minimal approach to satisfy the need. If we can cut back on that and still meet the mission of providing a safe, dry environment for the students, we will do that. We think this is the upper limit that we will require to accomplish that. Tim Steele also had the same concern and still has a concern that there will be structural damage in the roof that will increase this. We cannot have the leaking that has occurred, the chance of mildew, and have an effective job of educating the students in those conditions. Carol Comeau commented that we hope that our bonds will pass next year but if they don't we have to take care of it. Those students need the type of environment that Mr. Amsden described. Mary Marks commented that is it good for kids - yes it is. We need to educate the kids in a safe environment.

Crystal Kennedy commented that she is in support of the list and is excited to see the projects. It is a really effective use of the interest earnings. It is being used very wisely and was pleased to see Chester Valley on it.

Tim Steele commented that we did this for Denali when we had the overage. It is not something you can do every year because he is told that the project has to be completed, closed out, before you can re-task those funds and we've done that. It is a good use of funds. Crystal Kennedy

commented that the Board should give kudos to the District's financial department, Janet Stokesbary and her staff for keeping up with bond sales, making wise investments and finding better rates and taking advantage of those timely opportunities and saving money. Ms. Kennedy also gave kudos to the Facilities Department for their ability to target these projects that really need these efforts. Ray Amsden commented that one of the reasons this money is here because his staff does a good job of keeping cost under control. That is why we have accrued interest and have had very little need to go to that account. The Board members agreed.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #190 – Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants Second Quarter 2004-2005 School Year

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

ASD Memorandum #184 - End-of-Month Membership Summary for January 31, 2005

The end-of-month membership report for January 31, 2005 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of January was 49,223. This enrollment represents a decrease of 231 students when compared to the September 30, 2004 total of 49,454.

ASD Memorandum #186 – Facility Change Order Report and Completed Projects for the Month of January 2005

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of January 2005 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month. There are no completed projects for this month.

ASD Memorandum #187 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of January 26, 2005 through February 14, 2005.

ASD Memorandum #183 – Treasurer’s Report/Financial Recap: January 31, 2005

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer’s Report and the Financial Recap. The Treasurer’s Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis. The Treasurer’s Report and Financial Recap are year-to-date information as of January 31, 2005.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Mary Marks commented that she has heard in the community as to why we need to build the new facilities. Our six-year plan proves why we need the facilities and new school sites. We still have schools that are bursting out of their seams, even with our enrollment reducing. We have elementary schools over 120 percent capacity. This document is available for the community to look at. There is a whole lot of information as to why we need these projects. The capital improvement plan is open to the community to make comments and be a part of.

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Special Meeting of March 7, 2005, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:15p.m.

Jeff Friedman, President

John Steiner, Clerk

Robin Siegfried, Recording Secretary

Date Minutes Approved