

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 11, 2005**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, April 11, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Tim Steele presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

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

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

B. MUSICAL PRESENTATION

Directed by Sam Strumpler, the Goldenview Middle School Choir performed for the School Board and the audience.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Comeau announced to the audience that the Board Room capacity is 150 people and everyone who is not sitting in a designated chair must move to the third floor. Television coverage has been set-up for the overflow on the third floor.

Jeff Friedman commented that the legislature is down to the last few weeks of business and has relayed to the School Board that they have not heard much from the community about school funding. He encouraged the audience to contact their legislator. Jake Metcalfe encouraged the members in the audience to write letters to the editor. Tim Steele mentioned that the legislators like to hear from teachers, parents, and staff on why the School District needs additional funding.

Tim Steele removed ASD Memorandum #213 - Controversial Issues Recommendation: The House of the Spirits from the agenda. This topic was dealt with correctly at the March 28, 2005 School Board meeting. Mr. Steele commented that after reviewing the Roberts Rules of Order, he

determined there was no voting irregularity at that meeting and the original vote will stand.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jeff Friedman noted that ASD Memorandum #219 and #227 have been revised. John Steiner also noted the removal of ASD Memorandum #213. The agenda was unanimously approved.

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #208 – Denali Award Recipients – Winter 2005

To Alaskans, Denali means "great one," and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service and dedication. Twice each year, a committee of Anchorage School District employees selects six co-workers and a team of colleagues that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to its mission of educating students for success in life.

The certificated Denali Award winners for Winter 2005 are Julie Bryant, Scenic Park Elementary teacher, James Spartz, King Career Center health occupations instructor, and Bonnie Vaughn, West High School technology teacher.

Julie Bryant has been employed with the District for 4 years, two of which have been at Scenic Park Elementary School. In a letter of recommendation, Scenic Park parent Rosemary Fish notes, "Ms. Bryant is a master at integrating instruction. She has groups of students conduct literature circles on informational books about a given subject. She plans age appropriate books for their discovery, which expands their vocabulary, contextual analysis and word consciousness." Ms. Fish goes on to say that Ms. Bryant "is in constant communication with parents of her students and always has ideas and/or suggestions to help her students. She is a fantastic teacher and a very positive part of our lives."

James Spartz is the health occupations teacher at King Career Center and is planning to retire this June after 31 years with the district. Mr. Spartz is described by one of his fellow co-workers as "the epitome of the exemplary teacher who has dedicated his life to serving students and helping them achieve the highest possible standards in their academic lives." KCC Principal Guy Okada says,

“Jim makes connections with every student by reaching into their lives and drawing them into his class and embracing an educational philosophy that is inclusive and personal.” Mr. Okada goes on to say, “Every student in Jim’s class says how challenging the course was and how much encouragement and support they received from him. He truly is an outstanding educator who deserves recognition for all that he has done for his students, school, district and community.”

Bonnie Vaughn is a career technology teacher at West High School. She has been with the district nearly five years, all of which have been at West High. Ms. Vaughn is the department chair for the Career/Technology Department and has helped unite the department in upgrading technology, addressing departmental needs and outlining reachable goals for the department. According to Colette Marshall, Curriculum Assistant Principal at WHS, “Bonnie’s leadership, positive outlook and concern for staff and students’ needs at our school are most definitely recognized and appreciated.”

The two classified/support staff members receiving Denali Awards are Jeanne Hackenberger of East High School and MaryAnn Lisenby of King Career Center.

Jeanne Hackenberger is the financial data control clerk at East High School and has 28 years with the Anchorage School District. East High School’s principal, Michael Graham, remarks that Ms. Hackenberger is “one of the most dedicated, hard working, and productive employees in the district.” He notes, “while Jeanne keeps East High operating smoothly in more ways than any one individual knows, her ability to do so is no secret. Other high school principals and administrators regularly come to her with questions and problems, and send their financial data control clerks to her for training as well.” She is “the best of the best”, Graham says.

MaryAnn Lisenby has been the administrative assistant at the King Career Center for nearly 14 years and will be retiring in June after 23 years with the district. She is considered the “CPU at KCC that keeps things humming along at the speed of light. KCC Principal Guy Okada notes, “MaryAnn is our office manager who keeps the office running efficiently and effectively. She creates and manages our master schedule, handles our student activity accounts, and

schedules all class activities." He goes on to say, "MaryAnn's name is synonymous with KCC as her responsibilities and connections within the district touch so many people.

The Denali Award for administration goes to Gail Opalinski, Executive Director, Middle School Education. Ms. Opalinski plans to retire this June after 33 years with the Anchorage School District.

"Gail Opalinski has been a tireless advocate for middle school students and programs in the district," writes one mid-level administrator. "She is a resource for every aspect of middle school education, sorting out options and leading us to find quality choices in the areas of curriculum, social emotional programs and extracurricular activities." Another mid-level administrator notes, "Gail has supported, encouraged, lead and challenged us to do what is truly best for our students. In 2003, she received the annual Safe and Drug Free Schools Youth Advocate Award for her dedication and hard work for students. " Another administrator says, "Gail maintains the highest standards of professional conduct and personal ethics, thus guiding others to emulate such standards, including excellence in instruction, academic achievement, communication with the public, and engagement in promoting ASD's mission and goals.

The Service High School's Seminar School faculty are the recipients of the Denali Team Award.

Since 1992, the Seminar School has operated as an alternate learning option at Service and a model of success for the district. The Seminar School is a multidimensional program that combines a rigorous curriculum with civic responsibility and individual determination. When it comes to Service High's Seminar School, principal Lou Pondolfino acknowledges the 10 faculty members that make up the Seminar School believe strongly in what they do. They have an "equally deep interest in their subject areas and their students' well-being." There is a genuine concern the teachers have for each student in the program, and the fact ensures that everyone reach their maximum potential. The time they invest goes well beyond expectations. I am thoroughly impressed with their talents, dedication and vision and am honored to be working with them, commends Pondolfino.

It is recommended that the School Board recognize these Denali Award recipients, and all of the nominees, for the example of excellence that they set for the entire Anchorage School District community.

2. ASD Memorandum #255 - 2004 Student Library Bookmark Winners

Three years ago, Anchorage School librarians organized a publicity campaign for the District using the American Library Association's @your library™ national campaign. The campaign was created in conjunction with the adoption of the Library/Informational Literacy Standards by the Anchorage School Board in May 2002. The purpose of the campaign was to promote events held at local schools and to remind the public about the vital and unique role of the school library.

District librarians planned and implemented a public relations campaign during the 2004-2005 school year and decided upon "Explore @your library™" theme. In the fall of 2004, a third bookmark design contest was held for all students in grades K-12. The contest invited students to use their imagination and any ideas that relate to reading, literacy, the love of the library and the selected theme.

The winning designs for the bookmarks have been reproduced and will be distributed to District schools during National Library Week, April 10-16, 2005. Congratulations to the following students for being named this year's library bookmark winners:

- Simon Seetomona - Huffman Elementary School
- Mary Young - Northwood Elementary School
- Jamnah Morton - Central Middle School of Science
- Rachel Marquez - West High School

It is requested that the School Board recognize Simon, Mary, Jamnah and Rachel for their creative, award-winning talent.

3. ASD Memorandum #267 - Recognition for USKH Outstanding Design Award - Dimond High School

Dimond High School was originally constructed in 1967 as a combination high school and junior high. A district condition audit and a cost-benefit analysis of renovation versus replacement

conducted by USKH, Inc. concluded that the old building should be replaced with a new, modern one located on the same site.

During the summer of 1998 architects from USKH, Inc. and the national school design specialists Fanning/Howey met with district faculty, staff, students and parents of Dimond High School to develop a schematic design of the new building. In 1999 voters approved funding to construct a replacement school for Dimond.

The new Dimond High School, is a 268,000-square-foot two-story school designed for 1,600 students. It has four academic houses in two, two-story wings. There are 70 formal teaching stations, plus technology, computer aided design, large group instruction, and business classrooms.

One specific design challenge for USKH was building the new replacement school beside the existing high school and adjacent to an elementary school without disrupting both educational facilities. The new school was sited to require the demolition of three of the existing 12 buildings, allowing the high school to remain in session during the 30-month construction period.

USKH has been recognized by clients and peers for their commitment to quality design. Recently USKH, Inc. was selected by American School & University magazine for their American School & University Architectural Portfolio, which honored the Dimond High School replacement for education design excellence.

It is requested that the School Board recognize USKH, Inc. for its award-winning design.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Representative

Lorett Nabong was absent.

2. Military Delegate

LTC David Jones noted that he was in Juneau last month for the State Board of Education meeting. Discussion centered around three proposed regulations: assessment accountability and standards; practices toward assessment; and certification. LTC

Jones encouraged the Board and the audience to make comments. He also attended the JROTC Dining Out held on Friday, April 8 where over 800 were in attendance. Jake Metcalfe, Mary Marks, and Carol attended the event as well.

Carol Comeau stated the District always provides an administrative response to proposed regulations. She did note that she will compile a list of concerns with the testing problems and schedule a meeting with the commissioner.

3. MECC

William Johnson congratulated both Mary Marks and John Steiner on their reelection to the School Board. He thanked Angela Jimenez, who tendered her resignation to the MECC, for her service to the committee. The next MECC meeting is scheduled for April 21 in Room 320 at 12 noon. The public is always invited to attend. Mary Marks asked if there were any positions on the committee that were up for reelection. Mr. Johnson responded yes. Any positions will be publicly announced.

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

Speaker Megan Steeves stated that she is a new teacher to the Anchorage School District and a graduate from the University of Utah. She has been teaching special education for the past four years and considers herself to be highly qualified. She stated that she was amazed at the shortage of special education teachers in Anchorage and was placed immediately in a position. Ms. Steeves commented that she is here tonight to speak on salary and benefits. She compared the medical benefits from Utah at \$30 per month to Anchorage at \$260 per month. Her take home pay is less than her take home pay in Utah. Ms. Steeves was forced to get a second job waiting tables to make ends meet in Anchorage. She believes Anchorage salaries have not kept up with other districts. Ms. Steeves encouraged the School Board to vote to increase teachers' salaries. She stated that the Anchorage School District also must reduce health insurance premiums along with offering competitive salaries.

Speaker Rich Kronberg is the President of the Anchorage Education Association and sees teaching as a priority for the School Board. He emphasized that teachers need a substantial salary increase. Mr. Kronberg stated that all education reforms depend on quality teachers

and the bottom line is student achievement. In order to increase student achievement, one must keep and retain quality teachers. He is also concerned that the legislature is considering a change to the retirement system, which is similar to what is being done to the social security system. Mr. Kronberg is concerned that this will reduce our competitiveness in the state to attract quality teachers. He asked the School Board where they stand on the retirement issue. Mr. Kronberg stated that the percentage of the ASD budget used for teachers has decreased and that concerns him. He reminded the School Board that we all need to be accountable on things that we can control—teachers are held accountable each and every day. Mr. Kronberg asked the School Board to examine the priority of the District and focus on what matters most for students, which is attracting and retaining quality teachers.

Speaker Todd Smolden stated that he began teaching at East High School seven years ago and started the Japanese program. There are now about 100 students taking Japanese. Mr. Smolden informed the Board that he is the type of teacher that the District would like to have and retain, but is frustrated by the School Board and the Superintendent with what is happening at the bargaining table. ASD has proposed a 2-2-2 percent increase over the next few years and a minimal health increase. He feels this is not acceptable. Mr. Smolden stated that over the last few years, teachers have experienced a large increase in health care costs and inflation will be greater than the two percent raise offered over the next three years. Essentially, he believes they will be taking a pay cut, which is unacceptable. He has an economics degree and teaching is not his only option. Mr. Smolden commented that Anchorage is the lowest paid district in Alaska and there are many other opportunities available to teachers. He reminded the Board that they have the power to provide teachers with a salary to maintain their standard of living. Anything less than three percent is a reduction of salary and unacceptable.

Mary Marks commented that she appreciates the comments from the last three speakers. She feels their pain and anxiety in their hearts and souls. Ms. Marks stated that she is a former head start teacher and knows what goes on in the classroom. She recently reviewed the Alaska standards and the expectations are unreal. To have federal mandates along with state mandates, she can see the pain emerge from the teachers. She believes in continuity and consistency and our kids truly need to see quality teachers. Ms. Marks hopes that the School District can find the solution and do the right thing. She is accountable as a School Board member and assured the teachers that they will discuss this as a Board to find a solution.

John Steiner stated that our budget is based on state government and local taxpayers and we have been unable to get an inflation formula built into the state foundation formula. He commented that we need to encourage the state to work with school districts. Todd Smolden commented that he recognizes the District is experiencing inflation, but it is the Board's responsibility as elected officials to use the money they have to make public school education as productive and efficient as possible and is beneficial to the community. He reminded the Board that the percentage of funds going to the teachers has declined and it is necessary to offer competitive salaries to assure that quality teachers are in the classroom. Mr. Smolden suggested the Board increase the percentage of funds going to the teachers and perhaps cut somewhere else. He will not suggest what should be cut – that is the Board's decision and responsibility.

Tim Steele encouraged the teachers to contact the legislature because they know what the situation is and what our needs are. He believes that the legislature is not supporting districts across the state and funding education appropriately.

Jake Metcalfe stated that he resents the fact that the School Board has been put in a position to cut and prioritize when the cost of oil is at \$50 per barrel and expected to increase. Our revenues are going up and the legislature is refusing to increase funding. Mr. Metcalfe commented that the community should be outraged. He is concerned that we will not be able to attract quality teachers without being able to offer pensions. Mr. Metcalfe believes the State of Alaska has plenty of money to fund education.

#### H. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Special Meeting February 7, 2005 4:30 p.m.
  - b. Special Meeting February 7, 2005 6:30 p.m.
  - c. Special Meeting February 28, 2005 4:30 p.m.
  - d. Regular Meeting February 28, 2005 6:30 p.m.
  
2. ASD Memorandum #213 - Reconsideration of Voting Procedures for the Controversial Issues Recommendation: The House of the Spirits

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board allow The House of the Spirits to remain on the approved list as a choice in college preparatory classes, grades 11 and 12, with the option to offer students who object to reading the book, an alternative selection.

3. ASD Memorandum #219 - Resolution in Support of Administrative Professionals Day - April 23, 2005

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating April 23, 2005 as Administrative Professionals Day in the Anchorage School District.

4. ASD Memorandum #227 - Resolution Regarding Potential Changes to the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and Funding of K-12 Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a resolution regarding potential changes to the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and funding of K-12 education.

5. ASD Memorandum #240 - Prior Approval: Alaska State School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the Department of Education and Early development contract for the instructional support component of the Alaska State School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ASSDHH). This grant award in the amount of \$319,000 is for the instructional support component of the program.

6. ASD Memorandum #241 - Prior Approval: Title VI-B Individuals with Disabilities Education Entitlement and preschool Disabled Incentive

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the Title VI-B Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Entitlement Grant and the Preschool Disabled Incentive Grant for FY 2005-2006. The total amount for both grants combined is \$10,872,757, based on the attached budgets (Attachments A and B).

7. ASD Memorandum 231 - Approval of Pilot Course: Public Safety and Security

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to implement a pilot course, Public Safety and Security, as part of the Career and Technology Education program (C&TE) at the Martin Luther King Jr. Career Center. The pilot status enables in-depth curriculum development and assessment of course objectives in an authentic classroom setting. Upon successful completion of the pilot, the program will be presented to the School Board for adoption.

8. ASD Memorandum #265 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Fred Meyer Stores

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a cash grant from Fred Meyer Stores in the amount of \$10,882.

9. ASD Memorandum #138 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Department of Education and Early Development/Teaching and Learning Support for Web-Based IEP System

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 \$120,000. Funds will enable the Special Education Division to continue to develop a web-based electronic system for Individual Education Plans (IEP) and for IEP reporting.

10. ASD Memorandum #236 - Award of Contract: Miscellaneous Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Corporate Express to furnish miscellaneous school supplies in the amount of \$169,346.

11. ASD Memorandum #235 - Award of Contract: East Anchorage High School Renovation Project, Phase 4A South Academic Area and Library

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for East Anchorage High School Renovation Project, Phase 4A South Academic Area and Library to the lowest bidder Wolverine Supply, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$3,890,499 and to accept Alternates 1 and 2 in the amount of \$542,384 for a total contract amount of \$4,432,883.

12. ASD Memorandum #237 - Award of Contract: School Furniture

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to School Specialty to deliver, assemble, and install school furniture, to include disposing of all packing materials off-site, in an amount not to exceed \$181,769.

13. ASD Memorandum #232 - Award of Contract: Muldoon Area Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Muldoon Area Middle School to the lowest bidder, Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc. for the base bid amount of \$29,214,910 and to accept Alternates 1-4 in the amount of \$567,480, for a total contract amount of \$29,782,390.

14. ASD Memorandum #230 - Award of Contract: Playground Surface Material

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Playground Surface Material to National Sales and Supply in the amount of \$250,000.

15. ASD Memorandum #242 - Award of Contract: Elmendorf Schools Boiler Installations

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Elmendorf Schools Boiler Installations to Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$3,899,500 and an allowance assignment of \$242,643 for a total award of \$4,142,143.

16. ASD Memorandum #244 - Award of Contract: Purchase of Standby Generators

It is the Administration's recommendation the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a supply contract for the purchase of thirteen Standby Generators to Cummins Northwest, Inc. for the not-to-exceed amount of \$2,237,201.

17. ASD Memorandum #249 - Award of Contract: Airport Heights Elementary School Window and Siding Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Airport Heights Elementary School Window and Siding Upgrades project to Christensen Builders for the base bid, additive alternate 2, and additive alternate 3 in the amount of \$374,000.

18. ASD Memorandum #174 - Personnel Report

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

President Tim Steele called an at-ease at 7:20 p.m.; the School Board returned at 7:30 p.m.

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandums # 227; #231; #265; #232; and #230.

**ACTION:**

<p>Moved by Jeff Friedman Seconded by Mary Marks</p>	<p>to approve Minutes from the Special Meeting of February 7, 2005 - 4:30 p.m.; Special Meeting of February 7, 2005 - 6:30 p.m.; Special Meeting of February 28, 2005 - 4:30 p.m.; Regular Meeting of February 28, 2005 - 6:30 p.m.; Memorandum #219; Memorandum #240; Memorandum #241; Memorandum #138; Memorandum #236; Memorandum #235;</p>
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	Memorandum #237; Memorandum #242; Memorandum #244; Memorandum #249; and Memorandum #221.
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VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #227 - Resolution Regarding Potential Changes to the Public Employees retirement System (PERS) and the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and Funding of K-12 Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a resolution regarding potential changes to the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) and funding of K-12 education.

ACTION:

Moved by Jake Metcalfe Seconded by Jeff Friedman	to approve Memorandum #227.
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Carol Comeau stated that the School Board requested something be brought forward to stress the importance of the TRS/PERS issues. She emphasized that it is wrong and irresponsible for the legislature to hold this hostage against K-12 funding. Ms. Comeau commented that this is a separate issue and it would be better to hold this over in the interim and let it go around the state for input. She is concerned that this could cause a decrease of funds to our district. Crystal Kennedy noted that the legislative subcommittee spent a lot of time on this and came up with several points. She knows that there is a potential impact on the funding issue.

Jake Metcalfe commented that as presented by the legislature, this is very poor public policy. From a value standpoint, serious discussions must take place; this is the public employees' social security system and would completely eliminate the pension portion. Mr. Metcalfe stated that there appears to be a budget crisis in the state, but no one can explain it. He feels it is wrong to tie this discussion into education funding. It has the

potential to affect the retaining and attracting of new teachers. Mr. Metcalfe urged the Board to support and pass this resolution. He feels there should be a retirement for those who give their lives to public service.

John Steiner believes that it is poor public policy when no one has studied the impact on us as a district. This solves the problem on not having to contribute to the retirement system, but we may have higher training and retention costs. Ultimately, we would have a less experienced teaching staff as it would impact our employee pool. Mr. Steiner noted that he is a state employee and would not be affected by the change, but does know people have a tendency to stick with the career path due to the retirement benefits. Mr. Steiner emphasized again how important it is to note that we do not know the effect it will have on the District. He is very supportive of this resolution and pleased that the School Board is addressing this issue.

Jeff Friedman agrees with both Jake Metcalfe and John Steiner. He wishes more teachers were in the audience to hear this discussion. Mr. Friedman stated the lack of foresight in the current plan proposed by the Senate amazes him. He commented that they must not realize when you stop adding employees to the system, the current system will become more expensive. He does not believe it will help or how it will save money. Mr. Friedman further commented that either way, they are creating a major disruption and making the problem worse for no reason. He would support stronger language. His understanding is that it is the Senate doing this and not the House. Mr. Friedman will support this resolution.

Macon Roberts agrees with Mr. Metcalfe, Mr. Friedman, and Mr. Steiner; the change does not make sense.

Mary Marks will support this resolution and believes we could use stronger language as well. She believes that certain senators refuse to hear what we have to say. Ms. Marks is worried that children will suffer in the end. She urged the Board to support this recommendation.

Tim Steele agrees with the previous speakers. It is amazing to him that the legislature would take a complicated issue such as this and try to deal with it in 12 short weeks. He applauds them for talking about it, but agrees with Mr. Friedman that it is a very complicated discussion and does not solve the deficit problem. Mr. Steele would like them to take the time and have a credible public process.

Jake Metcalfe also mentioned that this does not address the issue of rising health care costs, which is a major concern. Currently, there are no regulations that would limit increases brought forward by the insurance companies. Mr. Metcalfe believes that the legislature needs to address this issue before addressing the TRS/PERS issues.

Crystal Kennedy appreciated all the comments and noted that this Board is very well aware of what is going on. She noted that we are not trying to solve the problem from the legislative subcommittee or the Board level, we just want to recognize the huge issues that need much discussion. Ms. Kennedy likes Mr. Metcalfe’s comments that the legislature needs to be careful when making such a major decision. She hopes that this topic will be on the top of their list to express concern about when they get to meet face to face with legislators in late April.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #231 - Approval of Pilot Course: Public Safety and Security

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to implement a pilot course, Public Safety and Security, as part of the Career and Technology Education program (C&TE) at the Martin Luther King Jr. Career Center. The pilot status enables in-depth curriculum development and assessment of course objectives in an authentic classroom setting. Upon successful completion of the pilot, the program will be presented to the School Board for adoption.

ACTION:

Moved by Mary Marks Seconded by Crystal Kennedy	to approve Memorandum #231.
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Carol Comeau expressed her excitement about this program coming forward. She noted that the School District needs to look at more career fields for students for the future. Law enforcement careers are being reviewed more closely due to the District working so closely with the School Resource Officer program. Ms. Comeau stated that it is our intention to do a pilot program in the second semester during the 2005-

2006 school year. An assessment will be completed, program will be refined, and then brought back to the School Board for final approval.

Mary Marks stated that she is excited about how this program is going to be presented and wants to make sure that the requirements meet Alaska standards.

Rick Rios stated that the development of this course has taken five years to complete and could not have happened without the support from the community and the principal at King Career Center, Guy Okada. Mr. Okada commented that he is very excited about this new course which will offer students great opportunities. He emphasized that this course is not going to be a police academy, but a career exploration class. Mr. Okada hopes that this course will help students understand the career path and how to get there. He noted that the staff is very excited about this new program.

Crystal Kennedy noted how pleased she is with the development of this course. She stated that she attended a Career Technology quarterly luncheon where Dawn Neer, School Resource Officer, spoke about her experiences; she found it very interesting. Ms. Kennedy thanked both Mr. Okada and Rick Rios for their efforts in the development of this course.

John Steiner stated that he is also very pleased with this proposal. He commented that this field has flourished. It doesn't take a college degree to fulfill this role, but a takes a good, honest person. Mr. Steiner commented that it will help focus students on keeping their records clean, maintain good character, etc. He asked if there are other fields that students may get into right out of high school until they can get more "life experiences." Rick Rios responded that they have tech prep agreements with various training facilities and secondary institutions to help students follow a career path to keep them in the system.

Jake Metcalfe commented that he likes the idea of the program, but there is no information on the cost. Rick Rios responded that it is economically feasible and sustainable; this course is more about classroom experience. Mr. Rios stated that this will be one of the less expensive course offerings. He hopes that at some point, this course will move into the comprehensive high schools. Carol Comeau agreed that it will be a minimum cost at the beginning. The Administration will determine the full cost of the adoption and return to the Board for final approval.

William Johnson commented that he hopes this program is successful and can be expanded to other areas of interest.

Macon Roberts noted that he attended the kick-off luncheon and was impressed with the enthusiasm of the many people in this field that are interested in coming into the classroom and working with students. He stated that students can talk with these individuals about their chosen career fields and develop excellent role models. Mr. Roberts expressed his appreciation to the Administration for the development of this course.

Crystal Kennedy asked if the Administration may want to draw more 9th grade students into this type of program. She is aware that King Career Center draws most of their students from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Carol Comeau responded that there may be a chance for 9<sup>th</sup> grade student involvement when it moves into the comprehensive high schools. She also noted that many of the high schools have special programs already planned for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Tim Steele commented that he is very excited about this program. It is the sign of times when safety and security has become such a booming business. He feels that this program will have tremendous success and applauded both Mr. Rios and Mr. Okada.

Mary Marks thanked Mr. Rios and Mr. Okada for their presentation. She commented that she just recently read in the newspaper about the police department not having enough minorities in their academy. Ms. Marks feels that this is a good way to draw more students into this field.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #265 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Fred Meyer Stores

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a cash grant from Fred Meyer Stores in the amount of \$10,882.

ACTION:

Moved by Crystal Kennedy Seconded by Jeff Friedman	to approve Memorandum #265.
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Crystal Kennedy asked how the money will be spent. Carol Comeau responded that it will be prorated to schools to allow them to purchase supplies.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #232 - Award of Contract: Muldoon Area Middle School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Muldoon Area Middle School to the lowest bidder, Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc. for the base bid amount of \$29,214,910 and to accept Alternates 1-4 in the amount of \$567,480, for a total contract amount of \$29,782,390.

ACTION:

Moved by Crystal Kennedy Seconded by Mary Marks	to approve Memorandum #232.
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Carol Comeau expressed her excitement about bringing this contract forward for Muldoon Area Middle School. She noted that this contract does not include the site work. Ms. Comeau stated that they are waiting on this portion of the contract until a decision is made by the Kroc Foundation. She also stated that she is glad that this bid was out prior to the passage of the bonds for the museum expansion and the convention center.

Ray Amsden stated that they have isolated the building from the site. Only the footprint around the building will be developed; this will not include the driveway, parking lots, grounds, etc. It will include water service. Crystal Kennedy asked for a guarantee that the cost of construction will not be impacted with the Kroc Foundation decision. Ray Amsden assured her that the District has isolated their needs and it will not impact this project. Another package will be developed to include site development. Crystal Kennedy is concerned that we are putting the cart before the horse by bidding the project this way. She remains concerned

that the project will cost more by doing it this way. Ray Amsden reassured her that the Administration believes that the way this is being developed is in the best interest of the public.

Tim Steele commented that when we purchased this property there were requirements for gravel. He asked if there is any anticipation when gravel removal would occur. George Vakalis responded that the District is currently working with the Municipality and the Salvation Army. He stated that depending on which way we go, the Municipality will make us whole on the gravel in conjunction with the Kroc Foundation. Part of the deal is that we would give up \$500,000 worth of gravel. In looking at the site plan to make this all work, the Municipality has acknowledged that they will need the gravel and have agreed to pay for it.

Jake Metcalfe asked when the decision will be made from the Kroc Foundation. Carol Comeau stated that we should know something by late June or early July. If Anchorage is on the shortlist, they will come up and review the site in early fall. Ms. Comeau stressed how important this project is and how it will benefit the community, but we must recognize our budget limitation.

Crystal Kennedy asked what we would lose by waiting on this project until the Kroc Foundation has made their decision. Carol Comeau responded that we would lose a good part of the construction season and the bid. It will cost more because we will be competing with other construction projects. Ms. Comeau stressed the importance of this school opening in the fall of 2007. George Vakalis noted that the contractor would have preferred to start this project two weeks ago. Ray Amsden commented that there is a lot of competition and feels this is a very competitive bid. He also commented that there will be advantages to the District when the bid goes out for the site work. A civil contractor will be utilized rather than a general contractor, which could benefit the District. John Steiner commented that the cost may increase by putting out the total package for bid. John Steiner asked for a clarification from Mr. Amsden that the estimate of \$32 million dollars does not include the site development. Ray Amsden responded that he was correct.

Jake Metcalfe asked if we give preference to bidders who have a high number of high school graduates or graduates of various training programs. Ray Amsden responded that this is not part of the bidding process.

Jeff Friedman reminded everyone to make sure that we do not refer to the new Muldoon Area Middle School as the new Muldoon Middle School. We need to make sure that we use the word "area" whenever we refer to the new school.

Crystal Kennedy stated that she will support this recommendation now that she understands there is an agreement with the Municipality. She just wanted to make sure that this process will not involve additional costs. Ms. Kennedy expressed her appreciation to the Municipality for making everything level for the District.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #230 - Award of Contract: Playground Surface Material

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Playground Surface Material to National Sales and Supply in the amount of \$250,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Crystal Kennedy Seconded by Jeff Friedman	to approve Memorandum #230.
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Carol Comeau stated that this recommendation comes before the Board after much research, thoughtful consideration, and numerous meetings. She believes this recommendation is for the best product for the playgrounds.

George Vakalis stated that he understands the concerns of the Board, but has spent over two months researching numerous products, both in-state and nationally, to find the best product available to protect kids. He stated that he believes this recommendation to be the best available product. Mr. Vakalis stated that pea gravel hurts, wood chips can burn or rot in place; they can also become infested with bugs. The ground preparation is very expensive when using the rubber matting square tiles. Water gets in between the tiles and when it freezes, the tiles lift which then creates a tripping hazard for students. Fairbanks School District used this product at one time, but no longer uses it due to the problems described above. Poured rubber matting is also very good, but is more than seven times as expensive as the shredded material. Mr. Vakalis reminded the Board that anything will burn if it is set on fire with a flammable liquid. He noted that a typical playground of 18,000 square feet will cost \$250,000 for shredded rubber compared to \$900,000 for a solid surface. Mr. Vakalis stated that the Administration would not be

making this recommendation unless they felt it was a prudent recommendation. He believes this is the best material for our money and the best protection for children.

Crystal Kennedy asked how often the rubberized material needs to be replaced. George Vakalis responded that it does not deteriorate and will last for years.

Crystal Kennedy asked if money was not an object, would Mr. Vakalis choose something else. George Vakalis responded that the shredded material can be laid down and replaced with no ground preparation. The solid surface material would require ground preparation and would need to be installed by experts. There is also a concern with toxic fumes during the installation process. All repairs must also be made by a professional, which is certainly a cost factor. Mr. Vakalis emphasized that he is looking at long-term and even though it is solid, harder to damage or steal, there would be significant costs for maintenance. He commented that he not trying to avoid the question, but feels that it would be too costly to maintain. Mr. Vakalis acknowledged that solid surface is the best product out there, but is too expensive.

John Steiner commented that he would like the public to review the costs for this product. He wants people to feel comfortable on why we made the decision that we are going to make. Carol Comeau responded that we took all the information we could obtain and reviewed it carefully along with information from other school districts and the fire department to make a professional decision. She believes that the Administration made the best recommendation they could with the information obtained.

Jake Metcalfe noted that the winning bidder is out of state and knows there are statewide distributors for this material. He asked if the District will use local people for the installation. George Vakalis responded that we are purchasing the material from a distributor, but the District will do the installation.

Tim Steele is impressed with the research and the work done that has been done. He thinks it is the best option, and also understands the risks.

Crystal Kennedy mentioned that during the recent joint meeting with the Assembly, it was suggested that we design our playgrounds in a way so the product does not have to be all inclusive in one area. It was suggested that we use peat gravel around certain areas, i.e. swings. Ms. Kennedy is concerned over the total area that is claimed. Mr. Vakalis will look into

this suggestion. Carol Comeau agreed that this is a good suggestion, but wants to make sure that our playgrounds are totally accessible.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 222 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of February 2005

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

2. ASD Memorandum #223 - End-of-Month Membership Summary for February 28, 2005

The end-of-month membership report for February 28, 2005 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of February was 49,063. This enrollment represents a decrease of 391 students when compared to the September 30, 2004 total of 49,454.

3. ASD Memorandum #224 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of March 14, 2005 through April 1, 2005.

4. ASD Memorandum #247 - Dimond High School - One Percent for Art

Chapter 7.40 of the Anchorage Municipal Code defines the process for selection and acquisition of art to be displayed in public places, including public school buildings. This code authorizes the Municipality to select the artist and the artwork, with a review of the proposed artwork by the School District only as to its safety and maintenance factors. The artwork has been reviewed and approved by the District's Risk Management, Operations, Maintenance and Facilities Departments and the Anchorage Fire

Department. The artist has agreed to their safety recommendations, which will be addressed in the artist's contract.

The Jury established for the Dimond High School Project has chosen an artist to create artwork for the school. The artwork consists of the following:

Dimond High School

Artist: Linda Smith; Anchorage, AK  
 Title: Flights of Imagination  
 Location: Administration Niche  
 Description: Sculptures will vary in size from 6" diameter with 4" depth, to 3 1/2" diameters with 3" depth. Materials consist of glass beads, monofilament and bead thread, and found objects including shells, coral, wood, stone and beach glass. The artwork will be behind glass in a case similar to a trophy case.  
 Budget: \$8,140  
 Account Code: 82032-5430

This selection was reviewed and discussed by the Anchorage School District Risk and Safety Manager, Mike Klawitter, on January 18, 2005. There were no safety and maintenance concerns. It was also reviewed by the Fire Inspector John Peck and his concerns will be incorporated into the artist's contract.

Dimond High School principal Cheryl Guyett serves on the jury along with the architect of the project Jim Huettl, USKH; Brian Davies, representing the Historical and Fine Arts Commission; Robin Smith, representing the Urban Design Commission artist and Public Art Committee representative Carol Bryner; Rebecca Voris, a community member and art educator at West High School; Les Matz, teacher and community member; Jim Tilly, PTA representative; and student representative Chelsea Ray.

In accordance with the 1% for Art ordinance, the School Board may file an objection to this selection with the Public Art Committee by April 13, 2005 based upon technical reasons of safety or maintenance.

5. ASD Memorandum #248 - Eagle River High School - One Percent for Art

Chapter 7.40 of the Anchorage Municipal Code defines the process for selection and acquisition of art to be displayed in public places, including public school buildings. This code authorizes the Municipality to select the artists and the artwork, with a review of the proposed artwork by the School District only as to its safety and maintenance factors. The artwork has been reviewed and approved by the District's Risk Management, Operations, Maintenance and Facilities Departments and the Anchorage Fire Department. The artists have agreed to their safety recommendations, which will be addressed in the artists' contracts.

The Jury established for the Eagle River High School Project has chosen artists to create artwork for the school. The artwork consists of the following:

Eagle River High School

Artist:	Susie Bevins-Ericsen; Anchorage, AK
Title:	Untitled at this time
Location:	Exterior Sculpture
Description:	Constructed of heavy aluminum plate rising from the plaza, 18' high and 24' wide. The piece echoes a mountain range, trees and a river.
Budget:	\$125,000
Account Code:	86506-5430
Artist:	Juan and Patricia Navarrete; Taos, NM
Title:	Untitled at this time
Location:	Suspended library sculpture
Description:	15' high, 30' wide and 30' deep aluminum and dichroic glass create a highly reflective surface that twists and turns.
Budget:	\$80,000
Account Code:	86506-5430
Artist:	Connie Engelbrecht; Eagle River, AK
Title:	Uplands and Riverbed
Location:	Commons wall artwork
Description:	Approximately 8' high and 48' wide ceramic tile mural echoes the natural environment of Eagle River. The piece echoes a mountain range, trees and a river. There have been discussions about skateboarding destruction and climbability concerns that will be

addressed in the contract. The piece will be mounted on fire treated plywood and attached to the wall in sections.

Budget: \$80,000  
Account Code: 86506-5430

These selections were reviewed and discussed by the Anchorage School District Risk and Safety Manager, Mike Klawitter, on January 14 and again on February 11, 2005 and by the Fire Inspector John Peck on February 25, 2005. Safety and maintenance concerns will be addressed in the artists' contracts.

Eagle River High School principal Natalie Burnett serves on the jury along with the architect of the project Howard Patch, USKH; Barbara Cash, representing the Arts Advisory Commission; Esther Cox, representing the Historical and Fine Arts Commission; Bill Puckett, representing the Urban Design Commission; Lucy Zercher, a community member and professional artist; Chris Standley, also a community member and professional artist; and Ingrid Eng, a student representative.

In accordance with the 1% for Art ordinance, the Board may file an objection to this selection with the Public Art Committee by April 13, 2005.

6. ASD Memorandum #233 - Conflict of Interest - Third 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 third quarter report for the FY 2004-2005 school year.

Attachment A lists, by employee, Requests for Waivers approved between January 1, 2005 and March 31, 2005. Attachment B lists employees who submitted Disclosure Statements between January 1, 2005 and March 31, 2005. All Disclosure Statements and Requests for Waivers for the year of 2004-2005 expired on June 30, 2005.

7. ASD Memorandum #225 - Assessment Calendar for 2005-2006 School Year

The Districtwide group assessments scheduled for the 2005-2006 school-year includes the following test and surveys.

Dates for the SBA and HSGQE are set by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. The testing window for the Terra Nova is set by the test publisher.

Completion dates for surveys are when materials are to be returned to Assessment and Evaluation.

This schedule is subject to revision throughout the year. Teachers, schools and programs may require additional assessments or surveys to measure classroom or school goals or to meet grant or program requirements.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Jocelyn Young, One Percent for Art, was in the audience to review the art for Dimond and Eagle River High Schools. Crystal Kennedy noted a discrepancy in the memorandum about skateboarding destruction. Ms. Young commented that this art work is mounted high on the wall and won't be a problem. She mentioned that the concern with skateboarding destruction was for the other piece of art at Eagle River High School. Ms. Young is working with the project manager to make sure the skateboarders don't ruin the art work.

Carol Comeau reminded the Board members that there is a student hearing scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2005 right before the work session on obesity issues. There is also a special Board meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 21 at 12 noon to reorganize. According to state law, a school board must reorganize within seven days after certification of the Municipal election.

Tim Steele suggested a meeting be held where Board members can discuss how they want to handle the reorganization. Crystal Kennedy commented that she does not necessarily need for it to be a regular meeting, but just a get together to decide how to handle this topic. Jeff Friedman thinks it would be beneficial to stay with the way it has been done in the past. John Steiner asked since this would not subject to the open meetings act, does the discussion have to be announced as a closed session of the Board or can the Board meet informally and have this discussion. Jeff Friedman stated that municipal code requires us to have a

noticed meeting even though state law allows it. Jake Metcalfe stated that it may need to be a policy change and we don't have time to change policy prior to reorganizing. He would like to keep the reorganization the same way that has been done in the past. John Steiner proposed an executive session be held after the work session April 13. Mary Marks announced that she will not be here on Wednesday and would like to be included in the discussion. She prefers to keep the process the same as in the past. Carol Comeau suggested to the Board members to speak up if they are interested in a specific position on the Board. Macon has no problem with keeping the process the same way and indicated that he would like to continue as treasure. Tim Steele stated he would like to continue as president if the Board desires; Mary Marks would like to be considered for president; John Steiner would like to be vice president; and Crystal Kennedy is interested in the clerk's position. Mr. Roberts also stated that he would like to see a reassignment of the Board seats at the meetings.

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of April 11, 2005 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:55 p.m.

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Jeff Friedman, President

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John Steiner, Clerk

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Mary Kay Sambo, Recording Secretary

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Date