

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 9, 2005**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, May 9, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Jeff Friedman presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

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

Board Members Excused: Jake Metcalfe

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

B. MUSICAL PRESENTATION

The Lake Hood Elementary School chorus, under direction of Barbie Snell, performed for the audience and the School Board.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

E. SUMMARY OF 2004-2005 YEAR, Tim Steele, Presiding

Tim Steele noted that it has become a tradition for the outgoing president to say a few words about the accomplishments and activities of the School Board during his/her term of office. He stated that the District is very good, has a hard working, dedicated staff, and an inspired leadership. Mr. Steele commented that the Anchorage School District is a diverse district with over 44 percent of the student population identified as being minority. In the Anchorage School District there are 95 different languages spoken; 20,000 students are transported daily; has over 6,000 staff members; breakfast and lunch are fed daily to students; and there is an operating budget of \$433 million dollars. Mr. Steele emphasized that

this is a big business. He commented that it has been a priority of the Board and the Administration to be open and inclusive and feels they have worked hard to open communication. The Mayor, Assembly, and Anchorage voters continue to support education needs. Recent surveys continue to show that there is positive support for the current School Board, Administration, and schools. Mr. Steele stated that the District is lucky to have a few years of continuity on the Board and in the Administration.

Mr. Steele commented that while the No Child Left Behind act should be embraced, it should also be corrected where it is wrong. Our Board goals focus on data measured student achievement and the Board believes that gap should be reduced. He believes that all students should be encouraged to achieve. Mr. Steele believes that high expectations will be gained by student achievement. Mr. Steele noted that the School Board goals are to increase student academic achievement using data to guide adoption of curriculum, methods, materials, and professional development, specifically designed to ensure that each group as designed by NCLB and the Quality Schools Initiative makes adequate yearly progress; establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment; and ensure public accountability. This Board also approved a Six-Year Instructional plan to chart a course to close the achievement gap. The plan approved is a result of multi-year work by all staff members and highlights department interactions and how they apply to Board goals. The Six-Year Instructional Plan has also been praised nationally.

Mr. Steele stated that using last year's data, the District has made good progress; 95 percent of our seniors with sufficient credits did pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. The drop-out rate has also declined by 23 percent. The Board closed one charter school and approved the opening of two additional ones; West High school started their highly acclaimed baccalaureate program; Service High School Seminar program was approved as an official school-within-a-school; state benchmark tests were piloted and implemented this year; a Russian Immersion program began at Turnagain Elementary; and a pilot summer enrichment program will begin during the summer of 2005. Voters have been supportive and the School District has been able to take advantage of low interest rates and a significant debt reimbursement program to improve and expand many of our schools. He noted that each year we approve between \$15 to \$20 million dollars in the operating budget for major maintenance of our schools; \$17 to \$22 million dollars are spent to maintain our schools for custodial services. The financial management

team was able to take advantage of favorable bonding programs which saved the taxpayers money. Last year the Anchorage voters approved the Muldoon area middle school to relieve overcrowding and with voter support, we continue to phase in renovations in our high schools. Mr. Steele suggested the School Board consider a November election again to avoid confusion. There were many major constructions projects; South High opened and Wendler was renovated as well as the consolidation of space in the Boniface Mall. By the efforts of many people, the school business partnerships have increased; the PLATO based study program was expanded in high schools and middle schools; there has been a coordinated effort with the Municipality and the Kroc Foundation to provide a community center near the Muldoon area middle school.

Mr. Steele commented that there have been many challenges this year. The District is dependent upon the Municipality, State, Federal, and grants for funds and to date, do not know what our base student allocation for 2005-2006 will be. Debt reimbursement is unknown; negative effects of AYP and NCLB compound each year; effects of the employee retirement system has been a huge discussion within the legislature; contract negotiations are not resolved. He emphasized that we need to know what our budget is before we can solve these many issues. ASD is recognized as one of the large urban school districts in the nation and the Anchorage School Board was selected by the Alaska Association of School Boards as the Alaska Board of the Year. Mr. Steele assured everyone that their children are safe and their investment is being protected. The confidence in the Administration and the School Board are well placed and parents and taxpayers should continue to be involved and have expectations of the Anchorage School District. Mr. Steele stated that he is proud to be a member of this Board and past president as well as a parent in this district.

Jeff Friedman stated that the entire community has benefited greatly from the leadership of Tim Steele and presented him with a gold pan award.

F. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #263 – Pioneers of Alaska Donation

Even with the growing dependence on computers, books remain an invaluable component in education. Our school libraries still rely on the written word in its traditional format to inform and enlighten students. So anytime the district receives a donation of quality books, it is accepted with sincere appreciation.

The Anchorage Pioneers of Alaska felt the newly published book, "Fond Memories of Anchorage Pioneers" Vol. II, would be an insightful and educational resource for Anchorage School District students, so they donated copies to all district elementary and secondary school libraries.

The book is a second volume to its popular "Fond Memories of Anchorage Pioneers" First Edition. Volume II, through approximately 300 pages and 400 black and white photographs, tells the story of Alaska's pioneer men and women.

It is requested that the School Board recognize the Anchorage Pioneers of Alaska Igloo 15, Auxiliary #4, for their generous book donation.

It was announced that the Anchorage Pioneers of Alaska Igloo is not an auxiliary.

2. ASD Memorandum #266 - Recognition of High School Career Resource Advisors

High school career resource advisors work with students individually, in the classroom and in small groups. They help students assess their talents, abilities, and skills. Career resource advisors assist students in exploring education and career options. They help students choose courses and provide information and advice on applying for college, financial aid, community resources, and transitioning from school to work.

The Anchorage School District's eight high school career resource advisors include Candi Dixon of Chugiak High, Wayne Elzy of South Anchorage High, Vonnie Gaither of East High, Elsie Graham of Bartlett High, Denise Martinez of West High, Lisa Merritt of King Career Center, and Shirley Reeves of Dimond High.

It is requested that the School Board recognize these dedicated professionals for helping students with their educational, career, social and personal development.

3. ASD Memorandum #285 – Northwest District Dance Educator of the Year

Melissa Carey, a dance instructor at Bartlett High School, was recently named Dance Educator of the Year by the Northwest District of the American Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Ms. Carey sets high expectations and standards for her students with the knowledge that they can be met in a creative and enjoyable environment. Her students are taught to acknowledge their strengths and weaknesses and are encouraged to work with others in achieving their own personal improvement goals. Ms. Carey believes that students need to be given the opportunity to perform, and in doing so, they build character, self-esteem and confidence. She also makes it a point to connect with each student to establish a strong teacher-student bond.

In the seven years that Ms. Carey has taught at Bartlett, the dance program has grown from one dance class of 25-30 students to two beginning dance classes of 35-40 students and a smaller but more comprehensive advance class.

It is requested that the School Board recognize Melissa Carey for her professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm that led to this award.

4. ASD Memorandum #286 – 2005 Alaska School Nurse of the Year

School nurses play a critical role at schools throughout the District and have a substantial impact on the lives of the students. They contribute to improving the health of students and demonstrate excellence in school nursing practices and leadership in school health.

Recently Goldenview Middle School nurse, Gail White, R.N., M.Ed., was named the 2005 Alaska School Nurse of the Year by the Alaska School Nurses Association. Ms. White has been with the Anchorage School District for 15 years, the last eight at Goldenview. She has a master's degree in education with a specialization in school nursing and has national certification. She is also a former president of the Alaska School Nurse Association.

White has a special interest in the care of students with severe allergies. Each year, she trains her fellow Goldenview staff to recognize the signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and shows them how to administer an auto-injector. She has also written an in-service training guide titled Training Program for School Staff in the Identification and Management of an Anaphylactic Reaction that is available to all school nurses for use in their schools.

It is requested that the School Board recognize this award winning professional who has demonstrated excellence in her role as school nurse.

5. Presentation: Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve 2004 Pro Patria Award

The Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve came forward to present the 2004 Pro Patria Award. This award recognizes the ASD as the most outstanding military employer in the State of Alaska 2004. In 2004 various Guard and Reserve members of the Anchorage School District recognized the District as going above and beyond in providing outstanding support. In today's active military environment, more and more employers are making significant sacrifices in supporting their Guard and Reserve employees. Employers have been called on more than ever to provide supportive employment policies and practices for their Guard and Reserve employees. The Anchorage School District was selected from over 100 nominations received from Alaska Guard and Reserve members for 2004.

The Anchorage School District employs over 5,000 people, more than 50 of whom are Guard/Reserve members or retired military still eligible for call up. Some notable examples are Mountain View principal Roger LeBlanc, Creek Side Park Elementary School physical education teacher Richard Hawkins, and Clark Middle School music teacher John Cleveland.

6. Presentation: Principal/Teacher Mentoring Program

Robb Boyer, Colleen Stevens, Kay Bennett, Sven Gustafson, and Richard Toymill came forward to give their presentation on the Principal/Teacher Mentoring Program.

Kay Bennett indicated the program began in 1996-1997 and has shown steady growth. Teachers have come into the program with many different backgrounds and experiences. Mentoring has been defined as a process of an integrated approach to advising, coaching and nurturing, focused on creating a viable relationship to enhance individual career/personal/professional growth and development. The focus of the mentoring relationship centers on three areas: problem solving, reflecting, and providing resources.

Sven Gustafson stated that he mentored his colleague, Suzanne Brown, Assistant Principal, at Mears Middle School. He feels the program benefited him as much as Ms. Brown. Mr. Gustafson has established many additional professional relationships and it has been nice to have a connection with another administrator to solve problems. Mr. Gustafson commented that he wishes he had a mentor three years ago when he became an administrator. He stated that this experience has been extremely rewarding and he appreciates the opportunity to participate.

Richard Toymill has been an educator for 26 years, 14 years as a principal. This is his first year in the Anchorage School District and there is nothing better than this type of program to understand new processes. He has felt supported and valued and the program has put him in monthly contact with a mentor. The tangible awards are the two-way collaboration and the support the mentee receives.

Robb Boyer announced the anticipated needs for 2005-2006: preservice mentees - 70; ASD/AEA teacher mentees - 250; state teacher mentees - 15; instructional coaches (AEA) - 25; new administrators - 20; and state 2<sup>nd</sup> year principal coach - 6. He stated that the mentor program goals include recruitment and retention. Research indicates the recruitment and retention of exemplary teachers and principals has a positive effect on student achievement. Mr. Boyer explained that the principal mentor oversight committee selects the mentors and matches them with new principals and evaluates the overall program and makes recommendations for improvement.

The purpose of the ASD Principal Mentor Program is to offer opportunities for leadership excellence through professional development; retain excellent veteran staff in a setting where their contributions are valued; to expedite the learning of a new job or skill; to reduce the stress of transition resulting from a new

assignment; to improve leadership performance through mentoring by outstanding principals; and to promote the socialization of the new principal into the District.

Colleen Stevens reminded the School Board to attend the Mentor/Mentor Program celebration on Thursday, May 12, 2005.

John Steiner commented that he has a daughter who spent two years as a brand new teacher in another district and did not have a good mentor/mentee connection. He strongly supports this program and their efforts.

Carol Comeau commented that she received information that the ASD/AEA Mentor Program is one of the six NEA-Saturn/UAW Partnership Award winners in the nation. Kay Bennett will receive the award.

G.. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Representative

The student representative was absent.

2. Military Delegate

LTC David Jones had had no report.

3. MECC

William Johnson thanked the School Board and the Administration for hosting the volunteer reception. He also thanked Marsha Haas for supporting the MECC this past year. At the last meeting on April 21, Rhonda Gardner reviewed the NCLB grant with them. Mr. Johnson noted that MECC has 11 members; there are currently seven members on the committee with six vacancies for the 2005-2006 school year. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19 at 12 noon in Room 320/Administration. Mr. Johnson took an opportunity to speak to the public and asked for community volunteers for the MECC. June 1 is the deadline for applications.

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

I. 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                           | March 7, 2005 | 4:30 p.m. |
| b. | Regular Meeting                           | March 7, 2005 | 6:30 p.m. |
| c. | Joint. School Board/<br>Planning & Zoning | April 7, 2005 | 5:30 p.m. |

2. ASD Memorandum #256 - Resolution Designating May 11, 2005 as National School Nurse's Day

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached resolution designating Wednesday, May 11, 2005 as National School Nurse's Day.

3. ASD Memorandum #269 - School Calendar 2006-2008

It is the administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached Districtwide calendar "Series C" for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years. These calendars call for an earlier start and earlier end to the school year. The recommended calendar changes are made in the best interest of the student's instructional and academic performance needs.

4. ASD Memorandum #264 - Adoption of Diversity Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the 2004 Diversity Plan.

5. ASD Memorandum #243 - Revision to School Board Policy: Section 450 - Student Rights and Responsibilities (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 450 -452, Appendix A, and Appendix A-1.

6. ASD Memorandum #300 – Seventh and Eighth Grade Social Studies Curriculum and Textbooks Adoption

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the revised curriculum and materials for seventh and eighth grade social studies.

7. ASD Memorandum #252 – Award of Contract: Tudor Elementary School Building Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract to Central Environmental, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$916,844, and to accept Alternates 1-3 in the amount of \$199,125 for a total award of \$1,115,969.

8. ASD Memorandum #251 – Award of Contract: West High School IMC Roof Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the West High School IMC Roof Upgrades project to Consolidated Enterprises, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$264,000 and Alternate A in the amount of \$15,000 for the total award amount of \$279,000.

9. ASD Memorandum #220 – Award of Contract: Four School HVAC Upgrades (Bear Valley, Klatt, Ravenwood, and Spring Hill)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the 2005 Four Schools HVAC Upgrades Project to Consolidated Contracting and Engineering for the Base Bid amount of \$522,222, plus the Base Bid Assignment of \$196,903, for a total award amount of \$719,125.

10. ASD Memorandum #268 – Award of Contract: Mountain View HVAC, Sprinkler and Electrical Upgrade

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for Mt. View HVAC Sprinkler and Electrical Upgrade to the low responsive bidder, Janssen Contracting Company, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$1,376,000, to accept Additive Alternates 1-3 in the

amount of \$110,900 and to accept Assignments A and B in the amount of \$192,476, for a total award of \$1,679,376.

11. ASD Memorandum #226 – Sale of Surplus Property

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

12. ASD Memorandum #261 – Personnel Report

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

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandums #269; #264; #243; and #300.

ACTION:

|                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Moved by Tim Steele<br>Seconded by Mary Marks | to approve Minutes from the Special Meeting of March 7, 2005; Regular Meeting of March 7, 2005; Joint School Board/Planning and Zoning Meeting of April 7, 2005;<br>Memorandum #256;<br>Memorandum #252;<br>Memorandum #251;<br>Memorandum #220;<br>Memorandum #268;<br>Memorandum #226; and<br>Memorandum #261. |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #269 – School Calendar 2006-2008

It is the administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the attached Districtwide calendar "Series C" for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years. These calendars call for an earlier start and earlier end to the school year. The recommended calendar changes are made in the best interest of the student's instructional and academic performance needs.

**ACTION:**

|                                               |                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Moved by Mary Marks<br>Seconded by Tim Steele | to approve Memorandum #269. |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Andrew Dougherty, Amanda Francis, Molly Solmonson, Rachel Markwood, Bryce Eckroth, and Caitlin Van Nostrand, students from Pam Collins class at Goldenvue Middle School, make a presentation on the Project Citizen "Proposed School Calendar" for the School Board. The students explained their purpose in studying this topic was to make a recommendation for the best calendar. They noted that our current calendar ends after the winter holiday break, which is bad; kids should be able to spend the time relaxing during the holiday break. The students also noted that a calendar change may increase student scores.

Rachel Markwood believes that calendar "C" is the best option. The advantages allow more time to be spent on direct student instruction for standardized testing. The first semester ends before winter break and the students are out of school during the better weather in the summer. The disadvantage is the loss of two weeks during the first summer. It could also be an inconvenience for bus drivers who work for tour companies during the summer months; there will be less time for hunting and fishing in the fall; and students will be attending school during the Alaska State Fair. She commented that the state fair in Fairbanks changed their dates and plan on speaking with the people who run the State Fair in Palmer to see if they would consider changing the dates for the Alaska State Fair. Calendar "C" is completely legal and covers 180 days in school for students. Miss Markwood noted that Kenai and Fairbanks use similar calendars. She noted that this calendar change will take effect for the 2006-2007 school year and the student group believes Calendar "C" to be the best choice.

Bryce Eckroth stated that this action group surveyed teachers, principals, and bus drivers to see if they liked the current calendar; if they thought students should have more time to study for the benchmarks; and would they like school to start and end two weeks earlier. The end results were

mostly positive. The group also does not think that sports would be affected. Robb Boyer and Jan Christensen noted that Fairbanks changed to Calendar "C" a few years ago. Two-thirds of ASD employees also support the calendar change. Mr. Eckroth did note that some people do not like Calendar "C" due to the shortness of the summer that first year. He stated that most unions say preplanning is good and the Mayor encouraged the School Board to act on it now so people will be able to plans for the change. Mr. Eckroth stated the group conclusion is that educationally, Calendar "C" is the best choice.

Tim Steele mentioned that he has heard some criticism for starting early due to the Labor Day weekend and asked if the group's research saw that as a problem. Rachel Markwood responded that Fairbanks North Star School District did not see this as a problem. Students who are planning to take off around the holiday will do so regardless of when school begins.

Crystal Kennedy commented that she appreciated the presentation by the students and asked if their findings showed the weather to be better in May than in August. Ms. Kennedy asked if they have documentation and what was their source of information. The emails that Ms. Kennedy has received from people think the reverse to be true. Rachel Markwood stated that they measured the rainfall and August showed to have the highest rate of precipitation and May the lowest. They also checked the weather along with the rainfall.

Macon Roberts relayed a concern of many people that the hunting and fishing and berry picking seasons will be affected as well as students working at the Alaska State Fair. Rachel Markwood responded that the student group found this to be on the disadvantage list.

Mary Marks asked if most of the students liked this calendar. Bryce Eckroth responded yes; the weather factor was the big issue for students. Ms. Marks noted that subsistence plays a big part for her family and is glad the group found a balance. She thanked the students for doing their homework on the calendar issue.

John Steiner stated that he was really glad they did the research on the weather and asked Rachel Markwood how it would affect her summer work at her family's lodge. Miss Markwood responded that it is recreational as well as hunting and fishing so it will work for her. She commented that although it may be a problem for her during Dall sheep season, but she will make the sacrifice. Mr. Steiner asked Miss Markwood

if she felt the sacrifice will be worth the educational benefits that students will receive with the calendar change. Rachel Markwood responded yes.

Macon Roberts told the students they did a great job with their research project, but remains concerned with students not enrolling until after Labor Day. Amanda Francis responded that this was not an issue in their research; the group found parents will take their students out for various reasons that have nothing to do with the calendar change.

John Steiner asked if there was any change in the standardized test scores in Fairbanks after they adjusted their calendar. Rachel Markwood responded that it was too early to tell and there was no information available. Carol Comeau commented that the Administration and parents in Fairbanks are very pleased with the first semester ending before the winter holiday break. This gives families a chance to have a real vacation. She also noted that the Student Advisory Board supported the calendar change.

Darrell Horton is a classroom music teacher at Mount Spurr and Klatt Elementary Schools. He noted that the two strongest reasons for the change are to end quarters before the winter break and to increase student scores. Mr. Horton has heard from teachers that they like the quarter ending after the winter break. This gives students two weeks to review materials. Mr. Horton feels that the calendar is unfair to those students who do not arrive for school until late fall due to subsistence issues. The calendar change will put these students even further behind. He would also like teachers to start the school year with a full week with students; this will give itinerate students a more balanced beginning.

Guy Okada, President of the Anchorage Principals' Association, supports the recommendation of the Superintendent. He has surveyed his association; 85 percent were in favor and four were neutral. Mr. Okada noted his appreciation for the time the District's spent discussing the proposed change. He believes the Superintendent is doing what is the very best for students and urged the Board to adopt the recommendation.

Troy Carlock commented that he was upset with the proposed changes to the calendar and came tonight to speak against the recommendation. He has an asphalt business during the summer months and was unsure on how it would affect him. After listening to the presentation by the students, Mr. Carlock changed his mind and will be supporting the proposed calendar change.

Carol Comeau thanked the huge number of employees, public, and students who weighed in on this issue. She stated that the public process worked and is glad they took a year to process the information. Ms. Comeau commended the Goldenview students who reflected the seriousness of the project. Ms. Comeau commented that we will not be able to please everyone, but most are happy with their students being released early in May. Currently in our District, there is never a day when parents are not taking students out of class for various reasons; many families take vacations when they can and they don't always jive with the school calendar. Activities will continue to start August 1. Ms. Comeau stated that every non-profit agency she spoke with as well as the University said they could work it out as long as they knew ahead of time.

Tim Steele commented that he is constantly amazed how the school calendar and boundary changes affect this community and upsets people. He applauds the Administration for taking this topic on early and dealing with it. Mr. Steele stated that some inconvenience will be incurred, but with the research the students completed, he feels the change is a good idea.

John Steiner noted that spring sports run into the snow and cold weather and is curious on whether this topic had been addressed. Carol Comeau responded that the biggest challenge with soccer and track and field is the lack of fields and the weather. She noted that as we expand and renovate our fields, we must look at various surface materials that allow early removal of snow from the field. Ms. Comeau also noted that we need more indoor sports facilities in the community. She does not believe the calendar change will alter the soccer schedule, and feels this is a community facility issue.

John Steiner asked if the calendar change will move the registration dates to late July and early August. Carol Comeau responded yes.

Carol Comeau stated that the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam was one of the driving forces for the calendar change. This will give students an extra few weeks of school before the exam. She believes that concentrated learning is more important for students. Ms. Comeau stated that there will be a serious amount of studying completed prior to the winter break that most likely will impact academic achievement.

John Steiner asked what the rationale was for scheduling an inservice day on Monday and not allowing a full week for teachers and students. Robb Boyer responded that it is easier to transition into school by not having

students attend for a full week at the beginning of the year. Crystal Kennedy commented if we were to look at this process as a valuable concept, would it make sense to use September 1 as an inservice day instead of October 30. She understands that new teachers are hired late, but suggested that this inservice date be changed. If this date was changed, it would give us four four-day weeks at the beginning of the year. Carol Comeau stated that Ms. Kennedy's suggestion is a good one and the Administration will return with modifications if the Board approves the recommendation tonight. John Steiner commented that he liked Ms. Kennedy's suggestion of moving the October 30 inservice to September 1. This would decrease a conflict with the state fair and those that want to go hunting and fishing. He would like to pass this change and asked for a response from the Administration. Robb Boyer responded that the committee did not look at moving it to September. They only looked at taking it out of November to avoid any further criticism regarding the number of days students are not in school. Carol Comeau stated if the change is made to the 2006-2007 calendar, it should also be changed on the 2007-2008 calendar. Her only issue is that if we hire teachers in September, we will not be able to complete mandated training without pulling them from the classroom; she believes it can be worked out.

Crystal Kennedy stated that she supports the recommended changes to the school calendar. She has found it interesting to read and listen to some of the comments regarding the impact the change will cause. Ms. Kennedy finds it interesting how increased daylight affects students and how hard it is for students to concentrate and get to bed early. Her son told her that there is more to gain in May than in August. Most students are ready to return to school in the fall.

Jeff Friedman asked if there will be a year's notice to the public for the changes. Carol Comeau responded yes; parent teacher conference dates will need to be reviewed, but testing dates are a state issue.

AMENDMENT:

|                                                 |                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Moved by John Steiner<br>Seconded by Tim Steele | to shift the October 30 inservice in 2006-2007 to September 1 and the October 29 inservice in 2007-2008 to August 31. |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

John Steiner supports this change because he believes it will affect student test results. Students will have more instructional time and will be better

equipped to pass exams. Mr. Steiner understands that change is difficult, but believes this is best for children and their education.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION PASSED

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

ASD Memorandum #264 – Adoption of Diversity Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the 2004 Diversity Plan.

ACTION:

|                                                    |                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Moved by John Steiner<br>Seconded by Macon Roberts | to approve Memorandum #264. |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Margo Bellamy reminded the Board that a draft Diversity Plan was brought forward to them in December 2004 for review. The data that was included in the document was from 2004. She noted a few of the changes that were made after the December meeting and stated the new plan includes more information on how they advertise positions, conduct investigations, and work with external agencies. Discussion groups were held on the plan and it was distributed to every department and various organizations. Most of the changes were grammatical or clarifying. Ms. Bellamy commented that the plan will need to be updated every two years.

John Steiner asked for a clarification of the date and if it would be inaccurate to call it the 2004-2005 Diversity Plan. Carol Comeau responded no, but there are a couple of things that need to be changed; i.e., School Board officers or anything else that is changed tonight; Student Rights and Responsibilities; mostly editorial changes.

Crystal Kennedy asked if there were any additional costs in implementing this plan and if there is going to be additional personnel hired to implement this plan. Margo Bellamy responded that the cost is in recruiting and funds have been allocated toward this and must be a continuing cost. She emphasized the way you network is important and we must do more of this to get the people that we need. Ms. Bellamy believes the costs will be ongoing so that the efforts can continue. Carol Comeau also responded that she does not anticipate hiring additional personnel to implement the plan.

Tim Steele asked if there was any type of stipend to assist educational training for Alaska Native teachers or to encourage people to go into this field. Margo Bellamy responded that one of the best projects we had in the state was the Cook Inlet Teaching and Training Program, which was a four-year federal grant designed to attract Alaska Native applicants. The Anchorage School District hired 50 out of the 100 participants. She mentioned the Bilingual Department had a similar grant that ends this year that helped tutors become teachers. Carol Comeau noted the CITC grant was very successful and provided mentors who worked with candidates to improve their interviewing skills. These leaders were former ASD employees who knew what was needed in the field of teaching. Unfortunately the funds ran out. Ms. Comeau commented that the ASD is not competitive with the Native corporations; they can offer larger salaries for those individuals right out of college.

Mary Marks would like the District to work with the PETA program in Juneau. Margo Bellamy commented that about 50 percent of the District in Alaska have to go out of state to recruit. Carol Comeau mentioned that not many teachers are coming out of the University; last year there were only four secondary teachers. Margo Bellamy stated that we need teachers with specific skills.

William Johnson commented that he heard the District needs a more diverse pool of educators and that the Superintendent believes we have that talent within our own community. He believes we need to encourage and nurture this in our community as well as identify students with career potential. Mr. Johnson believes that we need to put the teacher profession in a position of respect.

Crystal Kennedy asked if any funds are spent on helping those applicants who have not passed the ASD interview. Margo Bellamy responded that EEO will help these applicants prepare for the next time by going through a mock interview with them. They also offer help with their resumes.

Part of their outreach is to get applicants into the system. Carol Comeau commented that many candidates who have excellent credentials and paperwork are often nervous during the interview. She believes that these candidates should be given another opportunity to interview. It is a sign of their strength when a person asks what they can do to improve their status.

Macon Roberts asked about the prospect of upcoming administrative trainees moving up through the system. Margo Bellamy responded that she feels optimistic. In October, she sent out a letter to all teachers of color to participate in an administrative trainee program. She asks all principals on a yearly basis to give her names of those employees who show promise. It is a big challenge, but we must do everything we can do to encourage them. Carol Comeau commented that if you want to be an administrator, you must show some initiative.

John Steiner asked if a mock interview is available to all employees. Margo Bellamy responded yes, but their focus is on teachers.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MAIN MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #243 - Revision to School Board Policy: Section 450 - Student Rights and Responsibilities (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 450-452, Appendix A, and Appendix A-1.

ACTION:

|                                               |                             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Moved by Tim Steele<br>Seconded by Mary Marks | to approve Memorandum #243. |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Jan Christensen stated that the School Board Policy Subcommittee has spent several months working on this document and has much involvement from principals. The committee also circulated this revision to the School Resource Officers, MECC, and PTA. Ms. Christensen noted that one MECC member turned in her personal suggestions, which MECC

will address. MECC will bring forward, during second reading, any comments that they agree on.

Jeff Friedman commented for the public and the Board that one of the constraints regarding this document is getting it completed and printed for distribution in August. Mr. Friedman hopes if the Board has multiple changes that they are referred back to the policy subcommittee for discussion so a final recommendation can be made for second reading on May 27.

#### AMENDMENT:

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Moved by Tim Steele<br>Seconded by John Steiner | to insert the following language into the Statement of Rights & Responsibilities, Hearing and Appeal procedures, Section D(2)(e)(4), at page 22: <u>The Board may also Postpone Imposition of Discipline subject to the student fulfilling stated conditions. Where the student meets the required conditions, the suspension or expulsion will not be imposed. Where the student does not meet the required conditions, the Board may impose the postponed discipline without further hearing. It is Board policy to use this option rarely and only where special circumstances exist to justify postponement.</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Tim Steele explained the purpose of the document is to simplify some of the procedures we have been using. This amendment gives additional flexibility in the appeal process when a unique situation dictates a need. John Steiner proposed a friendly amendment and Tim Steele as the maker of the motion agreed to the following changes:

#### FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Moved by Tim Steele<br>Seconded by John Steiner | to insert the following language into the Stmt. of Rights & Resp. Hearing and Appeal procedures, Section D(2)(e)(4), at page 22: <u>The Board may also Postpone Imposition of Discipline subject to the student fulfilling stated</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <u>conditions. Where the student meets the required conditions, the suspension or expulsion will not be imposed. "The Board may direct" where the student does not meet the required conditions, the Board "Superintendent" may impose the postponed discipline without further hearing. It is Board policy to use this option rarely and only where special circumstances exist to justify postponement.</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Jeff Friedman stated that this amendment will need to be reviewed by our attorney to make sure we can do this. He mentioned that only the Board can expel a student. John Steiner called for a point of order and asked if it is the suggestion of the Board that the motion be placed on the table and referred back to the policy subcommittee. Jeff Friedman responded that he would like to vote to refer all suggested changes back to the subcommittee.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

Jeff Friedman asked if there was consensus among the Board that the changes by MECC or whomever will be considered by the policy subcommittee this week. The Board agreed and Mr. Steiner added the following amendment.

AMENDMENT:

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Moved by John Steiner<br>Seconded by Tim Steele | to approve on first reading; the Board will refer MECC recommendations to the policy subcommittee and request the policy subcommittee to return to the Board on second reading any changes to the committee recommendation. |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

VOTE ON AMENDMENT:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

There was discussion among Board members on the “three year look back.” Jan Christensen gave an example of an eighth grade student who used drugs/alcohol and then when in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade did something silly; the “three year look back” would not affect his/her status. He/she would be allowed to continue because his/her infraction happened more than three years ago. Jeff Freidman commented that the policy committee had an in-depth discussion and ultimately came up with this recommendation to allow a “three year look back.” They felt this decision is fair to all students.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MAIN MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED

ASD Memorandum #300 – Seventh and Eighth Grade Social Studies Curriculum and Textbooks Adoption

It is the Administration’s recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the revised curriculum and materials for seventh and eighth grade social studies.

ACTION:

|                                                    |                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Moved by John Steiner<br>Seconded by Macon Roberts | to approve Memorandum #300. |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Carol Comeau shared her excitement about this adoption and thanked the teachers for being at the Board meeting tonight and for all of their hard work. She did inform the Board that the social studies curriculum and materials will be returned to the School Board office on Tuesday, May 10.

John Steiner asked Steve Ex to explain how the committee arrived at their recommendation. Steve Ex responded that it is important to understand that they wanted to develop the curriculum that teachers want to teach

and have the adequate materials to do so. The committee decided that it was time to look at the materials in support of the curriculum; the screening was based on an agreed criteria. Presentations from the publisher on items occurred in mid-March and committee members spent a few weeks reviewing all of the materials. Mr. Ex stated there was actually a strong consensus for the core text in grades 7 and 8; most of the committee members identified one particular book as either their first or second choice.

John Steiner commented that he has heard over and over that you should not provide simpler materials when you want to increase student achievement. You must give students more rigorous materials. Mr. Steiner stated he is interested in the differences between the texts because the review showed that the most rigorous textbook was not the one that was chosen. Steve Ex responded that both texts offer quite a bit of information and cover a great deal of history and topics, but are very different. One presents a chronology and has tremendous amounts of supportive materials. The other series is a narrative style series. Mr. Ex believes the readability is higher in the core books than in the supplemental series.

Carol Comeau stated that it is important to get away from thinking the textbook is the only curriculum. Good teachers will deliver the curriculum by adapting this instruction with current events, what the students know and don't know, while meeting standards along the way. Ms. Comeau stated that we want one standard textbook and will add supplemental materials. She believes that this adoption will greatly improve the social studies instructional program in grades 7 and 8 and will prove to be a good basis for high school. Ms. Comeau assured the Board that we are not going to buy a book and have teachers start students on page one – this is a tool to help teach students.

Tim Steele asked if these textbooks are in our current budget. Steve Ex responded no, the funds are in the 2005-2006 budget. He stated that if the recommendation is passed tonight, they will complete their orders for implementation for the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Ex noted that he is offering classes in the summer academy and organizing credit classes similar to those offered for Alaska studies. There is also an inservice day before school begins that can be used for curriculum issues. Carol Comeau commented that she believes the vast majority of teachers will get trained.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Metcalfe

MAIN MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum # 272 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of April 1, 2005 through April 20, 2005.

2. ASD Memorandum #273 – Facility Change Order Report and Completed Projects for the Month of March 2005

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

3. ASD Memorandum #257 – Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Third 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.

Access for Alex, Access For All; to the University of Washington, for \$2,365 for a 15-month project. West High School: To provide appropriate assistive technology for a West High student with physical disabilities that will enable him to work more independently and to achieve at higher levels in his classes. The use of this technology will be a model for higher achievement for other disabled students.

PALS Literacy and Libraries Project Interlibrary Cooperation Grant; to the Alaska State Library, for \$48,325 for a 12-month project. Willow Crest Elementary: To promote literacy and library patronage among new immigrant families in Anchorage through the assistance of dual language volunteers and increasing the availability of minority language reading materials. The primary language communities targeted in this project are Spanish, Tagalog,

Samoan, Hmong, Korean, Yup'ik, Lao, Albanian, Tongan and Russian.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey; awarded by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, for \$16,000 for a three-month project. Safe and Drug Free Schools: To administer the 2005 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The administration of the 2005 YRBS will take place the week of April 18, 2005 and will be coordinated by Safe and Drug Free Schools. The funds will be used for addenda for coordinators in each participating high school and for incentives.

Enrichment Summer Camp for Alaska Native/American Indian Students; a donation from Cook Inlet Regional, Inc., for \$25,000 to fund an enrichment summer camp for approximately 200 Alaska Native/American Indian students in grades one through eight. The enrichment summer camp will operate for five weeks, four hours a day beginning in late July and ending in August. Classes will provide a positive, structured learning environment that focuses on achievement, wellness, and cultural awareness.

#### Mini-grants

Color Overlays to Improve Reading; to Delta Kappa Gamma, for \$250 for a two-month project. Mears Middle School: To implement the use of color overlays as a reading improvement/intervention tool for students and teachers. The grant will provide specific color overlay sets with assessments.

4. ASD Memorandum #260 - End-of-the-Month Membership Summary for March 2005

The end-of-month membership report for March 31, 2005 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of March was 48,787. This enrollment represents a decrease of 667 students when compared to the September 30, 2004 total of 49,454.

5. ASD Memorandum #258 - Out-of-District Travel - Third Quarter Report FY 2004-2005

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the third quarter of FY 2004-2005 for both in-state and out-of-state travel. This report

complies with the revised travel procedures established in the fall 2004 and in accordance with School Board Policy Sections 156, Board Member Travel, and 526, Staff Travel.

There were 160 District employees and School Board members who traveled during the third quarter of FY 2004-2005 on 185 trips for a total cost to the District of \$161,879.54.

6. ASD Memorandum #259 - Operating Budget Transfers - March Monthly Report FY 2004-2005

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of April 2005 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000 – Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000, which includes summarized justifications.

The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of April 2005 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

7. ASD Memorandum #262 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap March 2005

The attached report consists of three parts: the Graphic Overview, the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Graphic Overview is presented on a quarterly basis and 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 March 31, 2005.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of May 9, 2005 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:55 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