

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 29, 2008

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, May 29, 2008, 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, Jeff Friedman Presiding

Board Members Present: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy, Macon Roberts, Tim Steele, and Chris Tuck.

Board Members Excused: John Steiner

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Rhonda Gardner, Leslie Vandergaw, Patricia McRae, Enid Silverstein, Jerry Sjolander, Eric Tollefsen, Michele Egan, George Vakalis, Jose DelReal, Col. Sonny Luu, Ray Amsden, Marie Laule, Chad Stiteler, Ron Fuhrer, Johanna Lee, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Friedman noted that there was a Revised Agenda for the meeting.

The revised agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

C. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

ASD Memorandum # 314 - Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting

Mr. Pat Higgins read that Chief Financial Officer Janet Stokesbary and the staffs of the Anchorage School District Accounting, Budget and Payroll Departments received a significant honor in April from the Government Finance Officers Association, which serves 16,000 members in the United States and Canada. The association awarded its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the district for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The certificate is the highest recognition bestowed by the association in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. The association stated that the district's financial report met the highest standards and

criteria for the award and demonstrated a constructive “spirit of full disclosure.”

The Anchorage School Board congratulated CFO Janet Stokesbary and the Accounting, Budget and Payroll Departments on this exceptional recognition and for their excellent performance in financial reporting and accountability for the district.

Ms. Comeau noted the importance of recognizing this team. They are very conscientious that the district fully discloses all financial matters and funding issues. She appreciated the board’s public acknowledgment of their work.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Tuck announced that the next Audit Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on June 11 in Conference Room 150. He reported that they had recently completed an audit on the high school and middle school activities. He noted that there were significantly reduced numbers of human errors in the accounting procedures compared to last year. He applauded and congratulated Ms. Stokesbary and her team.

Ms. Kennedy announced that the Policy Subcommittee will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 2 in Conference Room 150.

Ms. Comeau also commended the high school and middle school administrators in light of the activity audits. There had been a lot of issues in the last couple of years. She was very pleased with the improvements in this year’s audit.

Ms. Comeau noted that there was a very successful staff development effort currently underway. Training and Staff Development in concert with the Instructional Team has put together a tremendous statewide training opportunity.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

Mr. Jose DelReal was unable to attend but had sent word that the SAB had not met since the last board meeting.

2. Military Delegate

Mr. Brian Griggs indicated that he had nothing to report.

3. M.E.C.A.C.

Ms. Dawnyale Bolds indicated that she had no report from the MECAC.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

H. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Special Meeting - January 31, 2008
- b. Special Meeting - February 7, 2008
- c. Special Meeting - May 5, 2008

2. ASD Memorandum # 278 - Approval of Superintendent Entering into Transitional Agreement with Four Valleys Community Schools, Incorporated

It is recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a three year extended Memorandum of Agreement from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011 with Four Valleys Community Schools, Inc. in order to transition the group to full payment of facility rental fees. It is further recommended that the group be billed at 50% of the non-profit youth rate for a two year period to facilitate this transition. It is further recommended that FVCSI be recognized as a community school and have priority only in scheduling as Category II.

3. ASD Memorandum # 312 - Adoption of Diversity Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the 2008 Anchorage School District Diversity Plan.

4. ASD Memorandum # 311 - Approval of School Board and Superintendent Out-of-State Travel for Fourth Quarter 2007-2008

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the 2008 Anchorage School District Diversity Plan.

5. ASD Memorandum # 303 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Willard L. Bowman Elementary School Tanglewood Park Boardwalk

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept this Challenge Grant award from the Anchorage Park Foundation for Willard L. Bowman Elementary School in the amount of \$27,500. The grant will support construction of a boardwalk/outdoor classroom in Tanglewood Park.

6. ASD Memorandum # 307 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Child in Transition/Homeless Family Literacy Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy in the amount of \$64,626 for a one-year project by ASD's Child in Transition/Homeless Program to provide family literacy services for preschool age children and their families.

7. ASD Memorandum # 313 - Prior Approval of Grant Award: Providence Heights, School for the Handicapped

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept the Department of Education contract for the instructional support component of the Providence Heights, School for the Handicapped in the amount of \$166,396.

8. ASD Memorandum # 292 - Revision to FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appropriate an additional \$29,966,319 to the General Fund. In addition, it is recommended that the appropriations to the Food Service Fund be reduced by \$338,278, the Debt Service Fund be reduced by \$450,000, and the Local/State/Federal Grants Fund be reduced by \$106,914 for a total revised budget of \$727,726,377. The District's FY 2007-2008 revised budget by individual fund will be in the following amounts: General Fund, \$576,128,830; Food Service Fund, \$15,983,722; Debt Service Fund, \$79,985,739; Local/

State/Federal Grants Fund, \$55,628,086 for a total of All Funds of \$727,726,377.

It is also the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to request the Anchorage Assembly to increase the upper limit of the Anchorage School District's FY 2007-2008 budget by \$29,071,127 since the overall budget, as revised, will exceed the approved upper limit of the budget. No additional taxes are being requested to support this increase.

9. ASD Memorandum # 308 - Budget and Fund Transfers - FY 2007-2008

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the following transfers to the Food Service and Equipment Replacement Funds in the amount of \$1,725,000; to increase the reserve for property insurance contingencies in the amount of \$1,000,000; to prepay fuel, heat and/or electricity in the amount of \$6,400,000; to transfer expenditures from FY 2008-2009 in the amount of \$4,459,000; and to approve one-time expenditures in the amount of \$3,970,833 with corresponding budget transfers as necessary. The details of the requests are outlined below.

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to process additional budget transfers in the amount of \$595,000 to provide adequate funds for accounts that are projected to require additional funding in excess of \$30,000 by year end.

10. ASD Memorandum # 291 - Award of Contract: Food Service Expendable Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America and Form Plastics Company to furnish Food Service Expendable Supplies in the estimated amounts of \$376,327 and \$194,660 respectively.

11. ASD Memorandum # 305 - Award of Contract: Food Staples

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Country Foods and Food Services of America to furnish Food Staples in the estimated amounts of \$276,796 and \$515,067 respectively.

12. ASD Memorandum # 306 - Frozen Food Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award contracts to Food Services of America, Mike's Quality Meats and Teddy's Tasty Meats to furnish Frozen Food Products in the estimated amounts of \$481,475, \$569,943 and \$628,579 respectively.

13. ASD Memorandum # 298 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Friedman requested that ASD Memorandum #278, Approval of Superintendent Entering into Transitional Agreement with Four Valleys Community School, Incorporated, be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Kennedy requested that ASD Memorandum #292, Revision to FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan, and ASD Memorandum #308, Budget and Fund Transfers - FY 2008-2009, be pulled for discussion.

Mr. Roberts requested that ASD Memorandum #312, Adoption of Diversity Plan, be pulled for discussion.

Ms. Comeau requested that ASD Memorandum #267, Profile of Performance Supplemental Report - Ninth Graders On-Track to Graduate, be pulled for a presentation.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele  
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To approve the Minutes of the Special Meetings of January 31, 2008, February 7, 2008, and May 5, 2008 and Memoranda #311, #303, #307, #313, #291, #305, #306 and #298.

VOTE:

Ayes: Friedman, Higgins,  
Kennedy, Roberts,  
Steele, Tuck

Nays: None

Excused: Steiner

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Comeau introduced Mr. Harlod Green, new principal at Stellar Secondary School, Regina Rollins, acting supervisor in Special Education, and Jane Berglund, new CIO. All of these individuals were approved on the Personal Report which was passed on the Consent Agenda.

ASD Memorandum # 278 - Approval of Superintendent Entering into Transitional Agreement with Four Valleys Community Schools, Incorporated

It is recommended that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a three year extended Memorandum of Agreement from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011 with Four Valleys Community Schools, Inc. in order to transition the group to full payment of facility rental fees. It is further recommended that the group be billed at 50% of the non-profit youth rate for a two year period to facilitate this transition. It is further recommended that FVCSI be recognized as a community school and have priority only in scheduling as Category II.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy  
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to enter into a three year extended Memorandum of Agreement from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011 with Four Valleys Community Schools, Inc. in order to transition the group to full payment of facility rental fees. It is further recommended that the group be billed at 50% of the non-profit youth rate for a two year period to facilitate this transition. It is further recommended that FVCSI be recognized as a community school and have priority only in scheduling as Category II.

Ms. Rebecca Reischlin, the Four Valleys Community Schools Advisory Board chairman, indicated that her board had asked her to convey their gratitude for the recommendation to enter into this extended MOA. The whole community is appreciative of the district's support. Ms. Reischlin reviewed the many activities that are supported through FVCS. She explained how the FVCS fosters volunteerism in the community.

Mr. Steele commented that it had saddened him when the district had had to cut back on community schools. The FVCS is one of the remaining active community schools. He noted that the program was a great example of what community schools can contribute to the support of an entire community, not just a student population. He was pleased that the district would be able to help support the program for a couple of more years.

Ms. Comeau briefly explained the history of the program and the reasoning behind the transitional recommendation.

VOTE:

Ayes: Friedman, Higgins,  
Kennedy, Roberts,  
Steele, Tuck

Nays: None

Excused: Steiner

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 312 - Adoption of Diversity Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the 2008 Anchorage School District Diversity Plan.

ACTION:

Moved by: Macon Roberts                      To approve and adopt the 2008  
Seconded by: Chris Tuck                      Anchorage School District Diversity  
Plan.

Ms. Comeau noted that a great deal of time has been spent revising this plan. She explained that the student data was updated as of October 2007 and the employee data was updated as of February 2008.

Mr. Steele wondered how effective the early funding has been in terms of meeting the recruiting goals in the plan. Dr. Boyer explained that there is a difference between the Diversity Plan, which might even be called a Diversity Report, and the Recruitment Plan. A report on the Recruitment Plan will be brought forward in October. One of the components of the Recruitment Plan was to support the earlier staffing. He believed that it has been a huge success. The PE staffing was done in February, the Special Education staffing was done in March and the regular education staffing was done in early May.

Mr. Roberts commended the efforts of the recruitment team. He identified that the district is making extremely good progress in supporting the board's goal of a diverse work force. Dr. Boyer noted that, from a Recruitment Plan standpoint, there was a ten-point plan brought forward last year. Not all of that was focused specifically on diversity. It was focused on recruitment efforts in general. He reviewed a number of activities and ways that the district had followed that plan.

Ms. Val Wood explained that the Federal Ethnic Codes changed in the fall of 2007. Every staff member had to re-identify under the new categories. The greatest impact was seen in the multi-ethnic category. She anticipated that the multi-ethnic category will continue to increase in the future as the other ethnic categories decrease. She noted that this re-categorization has really established a new baseline for comparison.

Mr. Friedman believed that it was important for the public to recognize that this Diversity Plan is just one piece of the puzzle. It ties in with the Recruitment Plan, the Board Goals, and other plans and reports.

VOTE:

Ayes: Friedman, Higgins,  
Kennedy, Roberts,  
Steele, Tuck

Nays: None

Excused: Steiner

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 292 - Revision to FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board appropriate an additional \$29,966,319 to the General Fund. In addition, it is recommended that the appropriations to the Food Service Fund be reduced by \$338,278, the Debt Service Fund be reduced by \$450,000, and the Local/State/Federal Grants Fund be reduced by \$106,914 for a total revised budget of \$727,726,377. The District's FY 2007-2008 revised budget by individual fund will be in the following amounts: General Fund, \$576,128,830; Food Service Fund, \$15,983,722; Debt Service Fund, \$79,985,739; Local/ State/Federal Grants Fund, \$55,628,086 for a total of All Funds of \$727,726,377.

It is also the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to request the Anchorage Assembly to increase the upper limit of the Anchorage School District's FY 2007-2008

budget by \$29,071,127 since the overall budget, as revised, will exceed the approved upper limit of the budget. No additional taxes are being requested to support this increase.

ACTION:

Moved by: Crystal Kennedy  
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To appropriate an additional \$29,966,319 to the General Fund. In addition, it is recommended that the appropriations to the Food Service Fund be reduced by \$338,278, the Debt Service Fund be reduced by \$450,000, and the Local/State/Federal Grants Fund be reduced by \$106,914 for a total revised budget of \$727,726,377. The District's FY 2007-2008 revised budget by individual fund will be in the following amounts: General Fund, \$576,128,830; Food Service Fund, \$15,983,722; Debt Service Fund, \$79,985,739; Local/State/Federal Grants Fund, \$55,628,086 for a total of All Funds of \$727,726,377.

It is also moved to authorize the Superintendent to request the Anchorage Assembly to increase the upper limit of the Anchorage School District's FY 2007-2008 budget by \$29,071,127 since the overall budget, as revised, will exceed the approved upper limit of the budget. No additional taxes are being requested to support this increase.

Ms. Comeau explained that the district has to deal with this year's budget changes by June 30, 2008, including Assembly approval, in order to expend the revenues that the state legislature and the governor have signed off on.

Ms. Stokesbary explained that a majority of the requested increase is due to the PERS/TRS increase in supplemental funding that the State of

Alaska is providing. She also indicated that the governor has now signed SB 221 which includes supplemental energy relief funding. Overall, there is a net increase in the required spending limit of approximately \$20 million.

Ms. Stokesbary noted that the governor has vetoed some of the grants in SB 221 but, because there is some question whether the legislature will take action to override those vetoes, the recommendation is to leave the total amount in the authorization. Ms. Stokesbary explained that the Grant Fund amount is estimated every year so it would not be unusual to have some portion of the Grant Fund authorization remaining unused. Ms. Comeau reiterated the desire to have the upper limit spending capacity in case the legislature overrides the vetoes.

VOTE:

Ayes: Friedman, Higgins,  
Kennedy, Roberts,  
Steele, Tuck

Nays: None

Excused: Steiner

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum # 308 - Budget and Fund Transfers - FY 2007-2008

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the following transfers to the Food Service and Equipment Replacement Funds in the amount of \$1,725,000; to increase the reserve for property insurance contingencies in the amount of \$1,000,000; to prepay fuel, heat and/or electricity in the amount of \$6,400,000; to transfer expenditures from FY 2008-2009 in the amount of \$4,459,000; and to approve one-time expenditures in the amount of \$3,970,833 with corresponding budget transfers as necessary. The details of the requests are outlined below.

It is further recommended that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to process additional budget transfers in the amount of \$595,000 to provide adequate funds for accounts that are projected to require additional funding in excess of \$30,000 by year end.

ACTION:

Moved by: Chris Tuck

Seconded by: Macon Roberts

To approve and adopt the 2008 Anchorage School District Diversity Plan, approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the following transfers to the Food Service and Equipment Replacement Funds in the amount of \$1,725,000; to increase the reserve for property insurance contingencies in the amount of \$1,000,000; to prepay fuel, heat and/or electricity in the amount of \$6,400,000; to transfer expenditures from FY 2008-2009 in the amount of \$4,459,000; and to approve one-time expenditures in the amount of \$3,970,833 with corresponding budget transfers as necessary. The details of the requests are outlined below.

It is further moved to authorize the Superintendent to process additional budget transfers in the amount of \$595,000 to provide adequate funds for accounts that are projected to require additional funding in excess of \$30,000 by year end.

Ms. Comeau explained the process that the administration went through following the last board meeting. She noted that the executive directors and members of their staff looked very carefully at the enhancement lists. They looked at items that could be moved from next year's budget to this year's budget which would provide funding availability in the budget development process next year.

The memorandum explained the recommendations and how they either fit into the Six-Year Plan, into the Board Goals, or why they are thought to be essential. There are also several examples of items where investing a little bit now will result in cost savings over time. The bulk of the recommendations are focused on student achievement.

Mr. Friedman voiced his appreciation for the items on the recommendation. He noticed that they closely follow the discussion from the prior meeting when the board had given direction on how to prioritize expenditures. He noted most of the recommendations are shifting expenditures from next year to this year such that the district is simply protecting itself from future contingencies. He believed that was a very conservative and wise way to go about it.

During discussion Ms. Stokesbary explained that part of the reason why the district has a healthy Fund Balance as of the end of June 2007 is because of the influx of revenue at the end of the year as well as additional revenues beyond what had been budgeted for. When the revenues exceed the expenditures the difference falls into the Fund Balance. For example, the district received more interest earnings than was anticipated. On the other side, expenditures were down as a result of lower enrollment.

Ms. Stokesbary indicated her understanding that the board's direction was to maintain a healthy Fund Balance. She explained that, should revenues not be as they are anticipated to be, the administration would limit the expenditures based on their priority such that a healthy Fund Balance would be maintained. She noted that any Fund Balance over 10 percent would have to be returned to the state.

Ms. Kennedy asked whether any thought had been given to retaining some of the PERS/TRS funding to offset PERS/TRS expenses in the following year. Ms. Stokesbary explained that the district has no choice regarding the PERS/TRS appropriation. The appropriation is actually more than was projected as needed for this year so it has, in effect, paid down the district's liability. Having a deposit being made into the system in a larger amount than required will benefit the district in the future. As far as accounting principles go, the district has to record both the revenue and the expenditure being made on behalf of the district this year.

Ms. Kennedy asked whether interest earnings could be used to decrease the district's capital indebtedness. Ms. Stokesbary explained that the interest earnings noted in the memorandum are on General Fund balances. There are other investments that are made when the district is investing bond proceeds. If there is excess interest earnings when the projects using bond proceeds are completely finished that money can be transferred to the debt service to help pay off the bonded indebtedness.

Mr. Steele requested an update on the potential pre-payment for energy funding that was discussed at the prior meeting.

Mr. Vakalis explained that he has been working with the various utility providers. He noted that the district has received a good offer from one that we will start negotiating next week. He anticipated an offer from a second one by the end of this week which will be reviewed and negotiated as well. He reported that he has a meeting set up with the fuel contractor for next week.

Mr. Steele asked whether any items had been identified that would make our schools and facilities more energy efficient. Mr. Vakalis explained that items have not been identified as the money would have to be obligated before June 30 and as we do not have all of the designs in place it would be impractical at this time. He noted that they will have designs completed in the upcoming year so that would be a viable option in the future.

Ms. Kennedy referenced the transfer of money to the Food Service Fund. She wondered if this fund has ever been subsidized in the past. Ms. Comeau reported that this would be the first time in a very long time that the board has been asked to subsidize this fund. She noted that this recommendation has been extensively discussed because of the increase in the price of food. Ms. Comeau clarified that the issue with Clark Middle School is due to the fact that Clark had been a Provision 3 school which meant that every student in the school received Free and Reduced Lunch. When those students were dispersed across other middle schools they had to qualify individually for that funding. Ms. Stokesbary pointed out that the amount indicated in the memorandum is actually for a two-year period, this year and next year.

Ms. Kennedy asked for clarification on the recommendation for computer replacement. Ms. Stokesbary explained that this recommendation would move the expenditures planned for next year to the current year. There was funding in the upper limit of next year's budget so this action will allow those funds to be available next year to spend on either the computer replacement or some other priority. So, in that sense, this action does not make any changes to the 2008-2009 Budget in regards to the computer replacement program.

VOTE:

Ayes: Friedman, Higgins,  
Kennedy, Roberts,  
Steele, Tuck

Nays: None

Excused: Steiner

MOTION PASSED

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #299 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of April 29, 2008 through May 12, 2008.

2. ASD Memorandum # 294 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Complete Projects for the Month of April 2008

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of April 2008 is attached. There are no exceptions to report this month.

3. ASD Memorandum #267 - Profile of Performance Supplemental Report - Ninth Graders On-Track to Graduate

Assessment and Evaluation completed the analysis by district and by school. Using the defined on-track indicator as a predictor of high school graduation, A&E found that 75.8 percent of grade nine students were on-track to graduate. This establishes the baseline for the board's reporting direction. The students on-track by ethnic subgroup ranged from a low of 55.32 percent for Alaska Native/American Indian students to a high of 82.16 percent for white students.

Ms. Comeau felt that it was important to highlight this information. She noted that this is a supplemental report because of the difficulty experienced in gather the data. In the future this information will be part of the regular on-going Profile of Performance report.

Ms. Vorachek explained that the dropouts and the graduation rates are routinely reported in the Profile of Performance. In the area of accountability there is so much focus on test scores that the course performance sometimes gets overlooked. The Instructional Division began looking for some type of measure that could be used over time to help identify students earlier in their academic career who are not on track to graduate.

Ms. Vorachek explained that she had done some research and discussed the idea of developing an on-track indicator with other research professionals. With that information and through on-going discussion with the instructional team an on-track indicator was developed for the district. The indicator that was established is having no more than one semester "F" in a core course and earning at least 5.5

credits. Ms. Vorachek further explained that dropouts are excluded because, to use this indicator as a predictor of graduation, the students need to be enrolled at the end of ninth grade and have earned credits in both semesters.

Ms. Vorachek explained that one of the reasons for the difficulty in gathering the information is that it is dependent upon consistency of reporting grades on transcripts across the district. She noted that a great deal of effort has been made working with the registrars to review the transcript of every student currently enrolled to make sure that summer school grades are reported on the previous year's transcript.

One area of discussion that took place while working on this goal was whether to include summer school because there is such an emphasis on summer school and such an increase in summer school participation has been identified. Mr. Henry was a strong advocate for including summer school grades into the student's ninth grade totals. As a result, the number of credits in the district is a little higher proportionally than other districts that do not include summer school credits.

The report shows the establishment of the baseline for this reporting direction. The goal is to get this report done very early in the fall in order to get the data to the schools, by student name, so that they can begin working with those sophomores immediately to show them the importance of getting back on track.

Mr. Steele hoped that the district would be making extra efforts to get any dropouts that are identified back in school and back up to speed. He understood the reasoning behind not including dropouts in this reporting direction but emphasized the importance of continuing to track those dropouts.

Ms. Comeau explained that the intention is to continue to expect the schools to make every effort to locate students who have dropped out and to have someone from the staff have a conversation with the student to try to bring them back into school. The difficulty is that, in this community, many dropouts literally disappear.

Mr. Higgins indicated his appreciation for the data being presented in such a way that allows a comparison between schools. Ms. Vorachek noted that the board goal only addressing the district but indicated

that the school level data could be added to future, routine reporting. Mr. Friedman also thought that it would be interesting to compare these numbers to the dropout rates at the school level. Ms. Vorachek noted that it is also interesting to compare this school level data with graduation rates.

4. ASD Memorandum #295 - Third Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report 2007-2008

The School Board and the Administration have long supported and encouraged opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss student progress at various times during the school year. In many cases, students have been encouraged to be active participants in these conferences.

5. ASD Memorandum #296 - Operating Budget Transfers - April Monthly Report FY 2007-2008

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of April 2008 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 2008 and related information are available in the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public

6. ASD Memorandum #297 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap April 30, 2008

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis. The Treasurer's report and Financial Recap are year-to-date information as of April 30, 2008.

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 29, 2008, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:00 p.m.

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Jeff Friedman, President

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Crystal Kennedy, Clerk

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Johanna Lee, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved