

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2009

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, June 22, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President, John Steiner, presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE, John Steiner Presiding

Board Members Present: John Steiner, Jeff Friedman, Crystal Kennedy, Pat Higgins, Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett and Tim Steele

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Rhonda Gardner, Ed Graff, Leslie Vandergaw, Mike Henry, Enid Silverstein, Jerry Sjolander, Jane Berglund, Eric Tollefsen, Heather Sawyer, Janet Stokesbary, George Vakalis, Connie Bensler, Ray Amsden, Marie Laule, Pam Chenier, Brian Griggs, Lt. Col. Michael Strunk, Ellsworth James, Linda Carlson, Johanna Lee, Vanessa Blake, the press, and other interested people.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Steiner noted that there was an addendum to the Personnel Report.

The revised agenda with the noted addendum was approved by unanimous consent.

C. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Steele noted that next regular meeting of the school board would be Monday, August 10, 2009.

Ms. Comeau announced that the district offices would be closed June 29 – July 3, 2009. Staff would not be working that week.

Mr. Steiner welcomed Vanessa Blake, the incoming board secretary. He also noted that this was the last meeting for a few of the staff. One of the staff leaving was Johanna Lee, the outgoing board secretary. Mr. Steiner thanked Ms. Lee for her years of service.

Ms. Comeau commented that it was a very sad night for a lot of the staff as two key members were leaving the district. Rhonda Gardner, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction had retired. Ms. Gardner did an extraordinary job as the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. Ed Graff moved in to that position. Assistant Superintendent of Support Services, George Vakalis moved to the municipality as the new City Manager. Mike Abbott who was the current City Manager replaced Mr. Vakalis. She acknowledged that the district was well suited to move forward in a very positive way.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory Board

The student advisor was not present.

2. Military Delegate

Ms. Comeau reported that Col. Shutt left Fort Richardson and was on his way to Iraq. Lt. Col. Michael Strunk, the 3rd Mission Support Group Deputy Commander at Elmendorf Air Force base was introduced.

Lt. Col. Strunk explained that he would be one of full time members on the board. He and a delegate from the Army would alternate the position throughout the year. Lt. Col. Strunk noted that he had been in Anchorage two years and he looked forward to his service.

Mr. Steiner welcomed Lt. Col. Strunk.

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

Dr. James said he hoped that the board had enjoyed the reports by different members of M.E.C.A.C. Dr. James explained that the mission of their group was to pinpoint multicultural concerns, provide advisory to the board and to serve as a voice for multicultural students. They helped them overcome the challenges associated with lower socioeconomic status and ethnic and cultural diversity. Dr. James also noted that the committee had enjoyed a wonderful year and had tuned and defined their mission. They had built their membership to the maximum capacity allowed by the board. At the last meeting of M.E.C.A.C there was a presentation by

Ms. Ruth Mount on a K-8 supplemental math program that was both culturally competent and offered multiple modalities for learning. It identified challenges early without removing student from their peer group. M.E.C.A.C hoped to continue to work with and support the board school the next year.

Mr. Steiner verified that M.E.C.A.C received a copy of the school board packet for each meeting. He encouraged the representative to comment on items on the agenda.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

G. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Higgins reported that the Audit committee had met. They are focused on the language in the exempt process contracts. They plan to come back with specific recommendations and work with the policy committee. Mr. Higgins thanked the contracts department for their cooperation and help.

Mr. Friedman stated that the policy committee had met but had nothing specific to report. They continue to go through the instructional sections of the policies.

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. Regular Meeting - March 23, 2009 - Amended
- b. Regular Meeting - April 13, 2009
- c. Regular Meeting - April 27, 2009
- d. Regular Meeting - May 28, 2009
- e. Special Meeting - June 8, 2009
- f. Special Meeting - June 13, 2009

2. ASD Memorandum #362 - Adoption of Tentative One-Year Extension: Anchorage Principal's Association Agreement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the Tentative One-Year Extension of the Agreement between the District and the Anchorage Principal's Association which will establish terms and conditions of employment for individuals in this unit through June 30, 2011.

3. ASD Memorandum #370 - Approval of District Application: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Department of Education and Early Development the District's application for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Fiscal Stabilization Fund totaling \$51,751,579.

4. ASD Memorandum #356 - No Child Left Behind Federal Programs Consolidated Project Application for 2009-2010

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit the FY 2009-2010 No Child Left Behind Federal Programs Consolidated Project Application to the State Department of Education and Early Development. This application includes Titles I, II, III and IV in the amount of \$33,124,089. This total includes Title I, Part A and Title II, Part D stimulus funds available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in the amounts of \$10,895,034 and \$598,005, respectively.

5. ASD Memorandum #375 - Acceptance of Grant Award: IDEA Stimulus Funds

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Department of Education and Early Development the requested budget and budget narrative for the district's FY2010 ARRA-Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) funding indicated in the following award amounts: ARRA Title VI, Part B, Special Education Services - \$12,213,236; ARRA Section 619, Preschool Disabled Services Programs - \$495,359. The total amount for both grants combined is \$12,708,595 based on the attached budgets (Attachments A and B).

6. ASD Memorandum #378 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Project (AP3)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$167,684 for the first year of a two-year project to provide preschools at Creekside Park and Willow Crest Elementary Schools.

7. ASD Memorandum #357 - Budget Revision for FY 2009-2010

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the following budget revision to the FY 2009-2010 Financial Plan; to appropriate \$84,515,160 to the Local/State/Federal Grants Fund and \$569,000 to the Food Service Fund. It is also recommended that the School Board authorize an increase of \$.25 per paid meal and increase elementary, middle and high school adult lunches to \$4.25. The district's FY 2009-2010 revised budget by individual fund will be in the following amounts: General Fund, \$598,467,232; Food Service Fund, \$16,828,000; Debt Service Fund, \$85,907,658; Local/State/Federal Grants Fund, \$146,715,160 for a total of all funds of \$847,918,050.

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 2009-2010 budget by \$85,084,160 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.**

8. ASD Memorandum #379 - Adoption of New Math Textbooks and Materials for Middle School Math Support

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board adopt the following math textbooks and instructional software for Middle School Math Support. Mathematics Navigator. America's Choice. 2006. and SuccessMaker Math. Pearson Digital Learning. Pearson Education.

9. ASD Memorandum #360 - FY 2009-2010 Budget Adjustment for Alaska Native Cultural Charter School

It is the Administration's recommendation that Alaska Native Cultural Charter School be allowed to continue operations for the 2009-2010 school year if at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year the school reimburses the District for the final amount the school is in arrears in its operating budget for 2008-2009 school year.

10. ASD Memorandum #377 - Approval of Aquarian Charter School Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to proceed with the Aquarian Charter School Fire Sprinkler and Alarm project.

11. ASD Memorandum #349 - Award of Contract: Chugiak High School Visitor Bleachers

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Chugiak High School Visitor Bleachers to the lowest bidder, Watson & Sons General Construction, Inc. for the total award amount of \$120,038.

12. ASD Memorandum #365 - Award of Contract: Hanshew Middle School Energy Conservation Measures

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Hanshew Middle School - Energy Conservation Measures, to the lowest bidder, M and M Electric, Inc. for the Base Bid amount of \$166,822, and Alternate #2 in the amount of \$10,000, for a total contract award amount of \$176,822.

13. ASD Memorandum #372 - Award of Contract: Bartlett High School HVAC Variable Speed Drive

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, and authorize the Superintendent to award a contract for the Bartlett High School HVAC Variable Speed Drive Upgrade to the low bidder, Consolidated Contracting & Engineering, for the Base Bid amount of \$62,222, alternates #1 & 2 in the amount of \$33,777 and assignments (Base Bid, Alt #1 and Alt #2) in the amount of \$30,550 for a total award price of \$126,549.

14. ASD Memorandum #373 - Award of Contract: Goldenview Middle School Interactive White Boards, Intercom, Power and Data Upgrades

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve, and authorize the Superintendent to award, a contract for the Goldenview Middle School Interactive White Boards, Intercom, Power and Data Upgrades, to the lowest responsive bidder, Consolidated Contracting & Engineering, for the base bid of \$232,222

and additive alternate bid items 1-8 in the amount of \$189,017 for a total award price of \$421,239 as itemized in Attachment B.

15. ASD Memorandum #376 - Extension of Lease for Crossroads Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to extend the lease with United Way of Anchorage, Inc. in the amount of \$80,745 per year for an additional three-year term with an option to renew for an additional three-year period.

16. ASD Memorandum #374 - 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.

17. ASD Memorandum #343 - School Board Policy Revision: Sections 343.3, 343.31, 343.32, 343.33, 343.34, 343.36, 343.38, 343.39, Student Records (Second Reading)

It is the Policy Committee's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve on Second Reading revisions to School Board Policies 343.3, 343.31, 343.32, 343.33, 343.36, 343.38, and 343.39 related to student records as shown on Attachment C.

18. ASD Memorandum # 351 - Personnel Report

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

Mr. Steiner requested that ASD Memorandum #370, Approval of District Application: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Fiscal Stabilization Fund be pulled for discussion.

ACTION:

Moved by: Jeff Friedman  
Seconded by: Tim Steele

To approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of March 23, 2009 as Amended, April 13, 2009, April 27, 2009, May 28, 2009, Special Meetings of June 8, 2009, June 13, 2009 and Memoranda #362, #356, #375, #378, #357, #379, #360, #377, #349, #365, #372, #373, #376, 3374, #343 and #351 with addendum.

The motion to approve the listed items on the Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

ASD Memorandum #370 - Approval of District Application: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Department of Education and Early Development the District's application for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Fiscal Stabilization Fund totaling \$51,751,579.

ACTION:

Moved by: Tim Steele  
Seconded by: Crystal Kennedy

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Department of Education and Early Development the District's application for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 State Fiscal Stabilization Fund totaling \$51,751,579

Mr. Steiner introduced two members from AFACT, Renee Nicholson and Pastor Karen Sonray to give public testimony.

Ms. Nicholson stated that she represented the Alaska Native Organization Ministry of AFACT. The board had been given copies of their proposal. She stressed three points.

1. The home visits should be for all children K-3 at all four pilot schools.

2. Asked that the pilot schools be those Title I schools with the largest native populations.
3. Would like for no decisions to be made by teachers or principals regarding home visits until they are trained by the organization from Sacramento, California.

Pastor Sonray added that the proposal was a culmination of several years work and was based on over a hundred visits that their organization had made with families who were very concerned about drop out rate, particularly the Alaska Native families. The program would help outreach to parents of every culture in the four Title I schools that had pre-schools already. Through their study, they discovered that parents did not feeling involved and welcomed in the schools. This program would be an attempt to build relationships and train teachers to make the home visits. This had been a successful program for 10 years in Sacramento District, a large multicultural district in California. It had been approved by NEA. They urged the board to approve the proposal because it would really benefit families.

Ms Comeau commented that the complexity of the state stabilization legislation had given the district the opportunity to pull together a lot of the discussions that they've had for years. They had looked at the data and dreamt about the things they'd really like to do. Plus the district could really address some of the infrastructure needs in IT and some of the school modernizations. This was an opportunity to focus their efforts. She commended Rhonda and her team and all the staff that had spent hours and hours putting the recommendation together.

Ms. Comeau stated that what they recommended to the board really fit within the two year package of funding. It was very clear that the stimulus funds were one-time money only. The public and the staff would be told very specifically what the district was doing with the funding. Information would be readily available on the ASD website. The intent of the monthly reporting was for full transparency. Audits would be done, as they were done on all federal grants with very close scrutiny.

Ms. Comeau relayed that she was most excited by the intentional focus on career and college ready, an encompassing umbrella of programs. She hoped that the board would be pleased that they would be moving forward on the Technology initiatives and would address a lot of the things that the board has been interested in, as well as, significant professional development for teachers, support staff, and principals and

other administrators. There was a good opportunity with the one time funds for Curriculum and the library patron's system project, which had not been upgraded for some time. Finally, the building system renewals item included a list of projects that had needed to be done. There was a need to have a full time person to coordinate and manage these projects, as well as, hiring another accountant to monitor the fund.

Ms. Comeau explained that Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Rhonda Gardner would go over the highlights in more depth and then other staff would be ready to answer questions from the board.

Ms. Gardner sincerely thanked all the district staff. She spoke very highly of the incredible collaborative effort that created the projects. Everyone worked together and at a very high level to put together the presentation.

Ms Gardner indicated that this was a perfect storm in a good way, bringing together a lot of things the district had been working on for some time. All of those discussions came together at an incredible time when the district had stimulus funds.

Ms Gardner summarized the 11 projects to be funded with stimulus funds.

1. Anchorage School District College and Career Ready Project

This comprehensive project will prepare students in the Anchorage School District for postsecondary education, training, and careers to help meet Alaska's workforce needs.

2. Response to Intervention Comprehensive Readiness Project (co-funded by SFSF, IDEA, and Title I stimulus dollars)

The District is heavily engaged in its efforts to systematize RTI. This project brings up to date the curriculum renewal cycle that has been lagging.

3. Online Learning Project

Flexibility for different learning styles and providing students with various ways to access curriculum is essential in meeting student needs. This project provides funding to expand efforts in the area of online learning.

4. Enhancing Leadership Capacity Project

The District has a need for a comprehensive professional development program to assist the administrative leadership team in supporting and

guiding staff in collective efforts to meet School Board Goals and individual student needs. Funds would provide for that planning process to occur with the result being a comprehensive leadership professional development plan.

5. Curriculum Refresh Project

Education Stimulus Funds will allow us to bring the curriculum renewal cycle up-to-date as well for those curricular areas not directly under the RTI project umbrella. Funds will allow for the purchase of texts and technology-based curriculum as well as professional development for instructional staff on those curricula.

6. IT/ED Tech Restructure Completion Project

Stimulus funding gives the district an opportunity to continue the reorganization effort begun three years ago and use appropriate positions to support client machines as well as support teachers.

7. IT Network Refurbishment Project

This project allows the District to complete efforts to install robust wireless throughout the schools. Stimulus dollars also provide a dynamic opportunity to strengthen the District's network to meet the ever-increasing demand for connectivity.

8. Server Replacement Project

The server replacement project is wide-ranging and essential. The servers requested through this project are necessary to keep the district functioning while the network upgrade is put in place.

9. Library Patron System Project

A Patron Interface Committee was formed to gather information on library, patron and librarians' needs in a new system with the purpose of creating a proposal to clearly outline the District's objectives for a new Online Public Access Catalog and Library Management System for the ASD Libraries.

10. Building System Renewals

Support Services has prioritized a list of building system renewals that would be allowable projects under the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds.

11. General Oversight and Accountability

Indirect funds will be used for a Compliance Coordinator and an additional accountant. SFSF funds will provide for an additional Program Evaluator in Assessment and Evaluation to ensure all compliance

requirements are met and projects are appropriately evaluated for consideration in the 2011-2012 budget development process.

Ms. Gardner asked if board members had questions for her or other district staff.

Ms. Kennedy wondered if the RTI project and the component involving Parent outreach and education were meant to address the concerns of parents, particularly pertaining to the proposal made by AFACT. And how did the district see that working? Ms. Gardner responded that the RTI project and others that were previously approved on the consent agenda were meant to do that. Home visits could be funded with Title I monies as well as, the \$400,000 that had been earmarked for Parent Outreach programs. The exact plan had not been set yet. It was intended that the funds would be able to meet some of the needs voiced by AFACT.

Mr. Higgins asked what was included in the umbrella of the Parent Outreach funding. Would the AFACT proposal be included even though they are asking for K- 3 home visits? He voiced his strong support for the AFACT proposal. Ms. Gardner reiterated that there were funds in the amount of \$400,000 for parent outreach and that the level of detail on how those funds would be spent had not been decided yet. Ms. Comeau commented that what she had said in the past may have been misunderstood. What she had said was the preschool programs would have a built in a mandatory home visit component. The district was very committed in bring the person up from Sacramento, California. However they wanted to try different approaches for different schools. They did not think that all 94 schools in Anchorage would need to approach home visits or parent outreach the same. They were absolutely committed to doing the parent outreach training but were still working through all the details. They had clearly heard from AFACT and other groups regarding their wishes for the parent outreach programs. However, they had also heard from parents who didn't want home visits but they would be willing to come to school and they would be willing to meet staff at other locations. The district would like to empower the schools to come up with a plan that would be best for that particular school.

Ms. Plunkett agreed that it would take time and to work out the details to get the Parent Outreach Programs moving forward but thought that it was a win-win situation. The nine schools that would have preschools are probably among the ones that had a higher population of Native Alaskan families that would like to see home visits.

Mr. Steele believed that the timing was perfect for these projects. There was legislation at the state level with regards to parents as teachers and how they can give some families the assistance that they need whether it was done at home or not. It also meshed with AASB goals in terms of early learning and gave parents some assistance in terms of comfort level visiting the schools. By touching base with a family that has preschool school children, the schools had the opportunity to impact their other school aged children.

Ms. Comeau added that Gladyswood Elementary School was a collaborative model where they used the Head Start Program. There was a strong belief that the parents were very much partners with the school staff. There was a great opportunity with the Title I schools and the Indian Education schools to do more collaboration and maximize the number of outreach opportunities.

Ms. Gardner noted that another memorandum that had passed in the consent agenda regarding Title I and the NCLB had partial funding for the Language and Cultural Liaisons. That was yet another parent outreach program that would be funded.

Mr. Steiner commented that he was really glad that they'd gotten some funds in the budget for a project along the lines of what AFACT presented. It was very important that the board hear from the community. He supported the plan to bring up someone to do training. He hoped that they could use that person as a consultant, as well as a trainer. He would like to take advantage of the Sacramento districts experiences.

Ms. Comeau responded that the trainer from Sacramento would be willing to help. And it would be an absolute possibility. They had so much diversity in the community that they needed to make sure that they embraced all factions of the community, not just some of them. That was really important to everyone.

Mr. Higgins voiced his concern over whether additional funding needed to be requested to implement the proposal brought forth by AFACT.

Ms. Gardner noted that AFACT's proposal is for \$178,000 and a total of \$400,000 was earmarked for the Parent Outreach program. Ms. Comeau added that they could accommodate the things in AFACT's request and do a lot more. The intent of the district was to try different options at different schools depending on their needs. Ms Gardner mentioned that

the district would be working closely with their Assessment and Evaluation staff to ensure that what they were doing was working.

Mr. Steele voiced his concern regarding the ability to do all of the proposed projects. He felt that it was a huge undertaking and wanted to get the biggest bang for the buck. He noted the district was doing amazing things. The drop out rate had gone down a third in the last four years. The district was doing a great job at trying new programs i.e. online learning, summer school, and credit recovery.

Mr. Steele indicated that he had questions. He wondered about transportation for preschool. He favored the project for system renewal. Projects they were approving were needed and had been on the list for quite some time. Mr. Steele mentioned that they were spending the community's money well, whether it was bond money or money from the stimulus fund. The projects were great and some would save the district money in the long run. He wanted to be sure the accountability of the projects was well advertised to the public.

Ms. Comeau voiced that keeping the community informed was a requirement by the legislation. There were very specific requirements for posting progress. On the building renewal projects, Communications would work with Facilities and Maintenance to make sure reports were posted. There was a huge level of detail required in the accountability. It would assure the public that the funds were being spent how it was agreed that they would be spent.

Ms. Plunkett commented that Parent Outreach Education would positively impact the native population but it would also help all of the population. She asked if the additional jobs created with the IT/Ed project would be specifically two year jobs or if they would end up being permanent. Ms. Gardner answered that it would be a continuation of a project that was already started. Some of the jobs would ideally be continued if that was something the board would choose to do after two years. There would still be a cost after two years but it would not be a hugely significant cost. The hope would be to have micro-specialists in the schools taking care of the computer issues instead of the Certificated Educational Techs in those positions.

Ms. Berglund addressed the restructuring the IT/Ed Tech departments. The Tech teachers were initially hired to train teachers on how to use technology in their curriculum. They hadn't been able to do that because there were up to a thousand computers in a high school. That was a lot of

computers to support and they were the onsite support person. They spent all of their time making sure the computers were working and they didn't have time to do what they were hired to do. The district would like to move them away from the hardware support jobs, leave that to the IT department and have the teachers teach.

Dr. James commented that the home visits were a great program. However he reminded that Anchorage was not Sacramento. Teachers in homes offered a great opportunity for resources and connections but it could presents issues. Teachers were mandatory reporters. Before they went in to homes they needed to be familiar with how those communities lived. They needed to go in to the homes being completely fair and balanced. The district doesn't need this to become an OCS issue. He fully agreed that this was a wonderful thing and it did work in Sacramento. The teachers needed to be trained to be a help and not a hindrance.

Ms. Comeau appreciated Dr. James comments. The concerns were valid. It was not a barrier but simply the reality. They needed to figure out what was going to work, that the training was so critical. Not only when they brought the trainer from Sacramento but they needed to bring in the folks from the different cultural groups to talk about their traditions and their family structures because they weren't all the same. They didn't want the parents to feel like the teachers were spies. They needed to build cultural sensitivity in to the training.

Mr. Friedman expounded that the district was presented with a terrific opportunity and applauded the different projects. It was an exciting time to be in a school district. For the board, he supported the AFACT proposal and he hoped that they could work something of that type in. He cautioned that while they raised issues not to get bogged down and to let the district do their job.

Ms. Kennedy stated that it was refreshing to see the culmination of so many things that they had talked about for so many years come together. They'd felt that for many years they had been treading water. This was their opportunity to really show what they could do to improve academic achievement. She hoped that the public understood that they were looking at a huge jump in funds. But there was a scripted program of how to use those funds. Some of the programs would have long range benefits. She thanked the district staff that had put so much time in to the process.

Ms. Comeau appreciated Ms. Kennedy's comments. These were huge initiatives that were very important and they wanted to do them well. She noted to the board that the district had a lot on their plate. She would counsel the board against adding more initiatives. It was really important that they do this well so they could show people that when given the right resources that they could do really good things. They would have to really work together. This was a wonderful, wonderful opportunity to do great things for kids.

Ms. Kennedy explained that over the last few years there are three main things the board had been discussing; college and career ready programs, the Technology portion and the whole idea of the impact of education from an early childhood standpoint. She added that for a big picture perspective the stimulus funds brought so many things together.

Ms. Steele added that transitions were also important to the board. So many children were lost when they go from elementary school to middle school or middle school to high school or when they graduated high school. Smoothing out those transitions and providing those students with opportunities and guidance was huge in the proposal.

Mr. Friedman commented that another area that the board had really been concerned with was 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and that all of the projects that fit under that umbrella would bring them in to the current century. These are all things they had been talking about for months, even years and this was the opportunity to put their money where their mouth was.

Ms. Mackie commended Ms. Gardner and the rest of the staff that worked on the project. This was a lot of money to put their arms around. She noted that there were a lot of questions that had to be asked and answered before deciding what to do with it. She also stated that with this large amount of money came large responsibility on the part of the district. She reiterated to the public that in two years they would not come to the public to ask for more money.

Ms. Plunkett thanked Ms. Gardner and the staff.

Mr. Steiner commented one of the real challenges when they received the stimulus all at one time was how to use it in a way that was efficient that would have long term results and that didn't overwhelm the district. One of the ways to do that was to parcel it out among different responsibilities. He appreciated that it was targeted to different programs. There would be a program evaluator that would help determine how effective they

were because they wanted to be driven by data. Mr. Steele wondered how many people were to be hired and how much work would be loaded on existing staff. There were close to 120 new positions. That was a lot of new staff. Many of those were credentialed teachers but not all. There was a certain amount of turnover every year. In the course of two years, many of those people could be transitioned in to positions that had opened up. It was hard to know if they had struck the perfect balance but Mr. Steiner thought the administration had done a good job of putting together the package and it was a great opportunity for the district.

Mr. Higgins appreciated the work that was done. He agreed with Mr. Steiner that there was a good balance. He also stated that he believed this package to be an excellent investment in education.

Ms. Comeau added that district would not wait until the two years were up to assess the programs. They would assess them as they go. Some of the training that was planned would help staff learn how to assess more regularly on an ongoing basis as part of the instructional program and then make adjustments as they went along. Mid-course adjustments could and would be made. If something wasn't working they would redirect. The staff was really committed to doing that. A lot of the training that Ms. Silverstein had been doing with the Curriculum initiative would allow her staff to finally bring new materials to the staff would bring those areas up to speed and into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Ms. Silverstein stated that they had looked at different ways that training could be offered to teachers such as ASD Tube and breaking things down into modules and offering them after school instead of whole day sessions. It had forced them to look at ways to work smarter and more efficiently in terms of the things they had to do ensure the success of the initiatives.

Mr. Steiner asked how many staff the district currently employed.

Ms. Comeau answered that there were about 3600 teachers plus support staff and principals. Ms. Gardner added that they hired 250-350 teachers a year. There was a steady turnover every year. Ms. Comeau stated that she did not anticipate massive layoffs in two years.

Mr. Steiner called for a vote on ASD Memorandum #370, Approval of District Application: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Fiscal Stabilization Fund

VOTE

Ayes: Jeff Friedman, Pat Higgins, Crystal Kennedy,  
Jeannie Mackie, Kathleen Plunkett, Tim Steele,  
John Steiner

Nays: None

MOTION PASSES

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #346 - Project Status Report

This was a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of May 2, 2009 through June 9, 2009.

2. ASD Memorandum #358 - Monthly Update Student Information System - Zangle

The project timeline indicated that all major benchmarks are on schedule

3. ASD Memorandum #354 - End of the Year Membership Summary for 2008-2009

The total active enrollment at the end of the 2008-2009 school year was 48,226. This enrollment represented a decrease of 214 students when compared to the September 28, 2008 total of 48,440. The membership totals are compared in Table 1. Membership declined by 851 students for the same time period for the 2007-2008 school year.

4. ASD Memorandum #355 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of May 2009

The monthly Facility Contract Modification Report for the month of May 2009 is attached. There were no exceptions to the report this month.

5. ASD Memorandum #350 - Operating Budget Transfers - May Monthly Report FY 2008-2009

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of May 2009 that were processed in IFAS include Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers over \$5,000 - Report for individual transfers of more than \$5000, which includes summarized justifications. The schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of May 2009 and related information are available at the Budget Department office for review by the School Board and members of the public.

6. ASD Memorandum #353 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: May 31, 2009

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 and the entire report includes year-to-date information as of May 31, 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 June 22, 2009 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:02 p.m.

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John Steiner, President

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Jeannie Mackie, Clerk

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Vanessa Blake, Recording Secretary

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Date Minutes Approved