

MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 1999

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, February 8, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Harriet Drummond presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present: Harriet Drummond, Peggy Robinson-Wilson, Dave Werdal, Kathi Gillespie, Bettye Davis, Rita Holthouse and Debbie Ossiander.

Others Present: Bob Christal, Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Gail Opalinski, Pat McDowell, Arge Jeffery, Fred Stofflet, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Russ Ament, Ed Conyers, Ed Blahous, Lee Wilson, Teresa Johnson, Kathy Christy, Mike Franks, Mike Price, Bill Mikawa, Larry Wiget, Hans Bernard, Mary Tanghe, the press and other interested people.

The School Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harriet Drummond announced the scheduled up-coming meetings.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

E. PRESENTATION

1. Expansion Management Magazine Blue Ribbon Designation

Debbie Sedwick of the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, noted that Alaska's most valuable resource is its young people and presented the Board with an Award to the Anchorage School District from Expansion Management Magazine. This magazine helps the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to market Alaska and its school systems. Ms.

Sedwick further noted that Fortune 500 companies look at this type of information and will use it as a tool in making decisions as to what area their businesses should locate.

Bob Christal commented that February is National School Board Month and passed out plaques to each Board member. Mr. Christal further commented that staff has provided a cake to the Board in honor of this occasion.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Lannie Fleischer, Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Anchorage, commented on the positive and effective program going on in some of the schools and invited the Board to participate in this worthwhile program. This is a school-based mentoring program which has a big impact and really makes a difference in helping children become a success in life. Ms. Fleischer explained that Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Anchorage School District have collaborated to create a prevention-oriented program that strives to help elementary and middle school children build resiliency and self-worth through caring relationships with adults. School-based mentoring is a combined initiative to assist youth who are exhibiting signs of school dropout, academic failure, poor social skills development and low self esteem. These problems can be alleviated through trusting, one-to-one relationships with adult role models. Spending just one hour a week in a one-to-one mentoring relationship can build a child's self esteem and enhance peer relationships which translates into improved behavior, attendance and grades.

Ruth Dougherty, Denali Elementary teacher, commented that in her 3/4 combo class, 18 students have matches and many kids ask to be a little sister or a little brother. Ms. Dougherty explained that sometimes the big brother or big sister reads to their student or plays math games with them, but mostly they just listen and offer non-judgmental support. Many offer real life advice to kids and this program helps to build self-esteem in the individual child who goes from an angry, disassociated child to a happy, nurtured child. Ms. Dougherty commented that the academic growth can be remarkable in a very short period of time.

Ron McGee, Big Brother mentor, commented that this program only requires an hour a week and the time he spends with his 5th grade student at Mt. View Elementary is very rewarding. Mr. McGee further commented that this program really does make a difference to kids and invited the Board to participate in this school-based mentoring program.

Robert Hayes, Alaska State licensed fire alarm technician, commented that he heard that the city and school are self-insured and that tax money will be paying for the Russian Jack Elementary replacement. Mr. Hayes further commented that Russian Jack Elementary had an adequate fire alarm system and that he would like to see the report on the fire alarm system. Mr. Hayes would also like to have the name of the District's fire insurance company.

Theresa Obermeyer commented on the recent teacher evaluation process at East High School and questioned if students should participate in this type of evaluation.

Mary Jones, parent and grandparent of three Russian Jack Elementary students, commented that she appreciates the support from the staff and principal in helping all the kids from Russian Jack since fire destroyed their school. Ms. Jones expressed concern about the tools and equipment that are in use at the Alyeska building and the natural curiosity of youngsters. Ms. Jones asked if the tools could somehow be contained in an area away from the children. Ms. Jones suggested that because of the disruption in so many lives that a full-time counselor be provided for the Russian Jack students to help guide them and their families through this ordeal. Ms. Jones further commented that the District should proceed as soon as possible to replace Russian Jack Elementary so the students can get back into a stable environment.

Ed Conyers commented that there is a fire watch guard on duty at the Alyeska building and that the issue of tools being close to where the children are will be addressed.

Bettye Davis suggested that an update be given to Russian Jack parents about services that can be provided to them.

Rich Kronberg, AEA President, commented on student achievements and noted that the most important variable in this area is the quality of education. Mr. Kronberg further commented that teachers have the biggest impact on student achievement and therefore it is extremely important that there are resources available to replace and retain quality teachers.

Bettye Davis responded that Board members are also very concerned and committed about student achievement which is demonstrated by the fact that the District is already giving 70 percent of its funding towards the classroom.

G. 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. Regular Meeting - December 14, 1998
- b. Special Meeting - January 11, 1999
- c. Regular Meeting - January 11, 1999

2. ASD Memorandum #202 - Russian Jack Elementary School - Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept the Unit Company's proposal to provide the Replacement Russian Jack Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and approve one or more contracts with the Unit Company in a total amount of not-to-exceed \$10,090,000.

It is further recommended that the School Board approve and authorize funding in the amount of \$10,950,000 for the total project to be provided from insurance proceeds from the fire damage and General Fund undesignated fund balance. In the event that the Russian Jack Elementary School Replacement project in the April 1999 bond proposition is approved by the voters, then the funds used from the undesignated fund balance will be transferred back to the General Fund.

3. ASD Memorandum #217 - Bond Proposition Adjustment

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board revise the 4-year bond proposal and submit a substitute ordinance to the Anchorage Assembly. The total amount of the 4-year bond package will remain at \$428,740,000 with the following revisions:

Year 1 - Reduce Russian Jack Replacement \$1,000,000 from \$9,000,000 to \$8,000,000.

Year 2 - Add Central Middle School Renovation for \$3,000,000 as a Reimbursable Project.

Year 2 – Reduce Districtwide Renewal and Replacement/ADA/ Code \$2,000,000 from \$8,160,000 to \$6,160,000.

4. ASD Memorandum #141 – Anchorage School District Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Anchorage School District's Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests. The information will be made available to Legislators and other interested groups for funding consideration.

5. ASD Memorandum #161 – High School Science Frameworks – Biology I, Chemistry I, Geology I, Physics I

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the attached "High School Science Frameworks - Biology I, Chemistry I, Geology I, Physics I." It is further recommended that the changes and additions in the "Science As A Process" Section near the beginning of the attachment be approved as amended for inclusion in the "Science Frameworks - Grades 7-9" document.

6. ASD Memorandum #198 – Prior Approval Of Discretionary Grant: Foreign Language Assistance Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs.

7. ASD Memorandum #196 – Increase Scope Of Project: Secondary And Elementary Planning And Preliminary Design, 1997 General Obligation Bonds

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to increase the scope of the Secondary and Elementary Planning and Preliminary Design Project, funded by the 1997 GO Bond, to include the following schools: Bartlett High Renovation, East High Renovation and New South Anchorage High School, New Eagle River Secondary School and New Muldoon Middle School.

8. ASD Memorandum #197 – 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 Memoranda #202, #217, #141, #161, #198, and #196.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander	to approve the Minutes of the
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson	Regular Meeting of December
	14, 1998; the Minutes of the
	Special Meeting of January 11,
	1999; the Minutes of the Regular
	Meeting of January 11, 1999;
	Memorandum #161; and
	Memorandum #197.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

Debbie Ossiander thanked Fred Stofflet, Donna York and Gail Raymond for the re-write on the High School Science Frameworks.

ASD Memorandum #202 – Russian Jack Elementary School - Replacement

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board accept the Unit Company's proposal to provide the Replacement Russian Jack Elementary School and authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and approve one or more contracts with the Unit Company in a total amount of not-to-exceed \$10,090,000.

It is further recommended that the School Board approve and authorize funding in the amount of \$10,950,000 for the total project to be provided from insurance proceeds from the fire damage and General Fund undesignated fund balance. In the event that the Russian Jack Elementary School Replacement project in the April 1999 bond proposition is

approved by the voters, then the funds used from the undesignated fund balance will be transferred back to the General Fund.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #202.
seconded by Bettye Davis

Bob Christal explained that at the end of the last sentence in the Recommendation that the words undesignated fund balance be added. Mr. Christal further explained that this memorandum is before the Board because of the fire which destroyed Russian Jack Elementary the end of December. Neither ski trails nor bike trails will be impacted by this recommendation for a new facility on the Russian Jack site. A prototype design will be used and it is anticipated that students will be able to return to their home school by October of this year. No decision has been made as to the disposition of the old building although it could possibly be used for administrative office space. Mr. Christal noted that it's important to proceed with this project and to get the students back together in their own school.

Darrell Vincek, Russian Jack Elementary principal, commented that the situation speaks for itself. Russian Jack Elementary has been a community centerpiece for a very long time and the students and families and staff have experienced a severe disruption in their lives. A gallant effort has been put forth to create as stable learning environment as possible but with students housed in three sites, there is still a very real feeling of displacement. Mr. Vincek stated that it is very important to bring the school community back together and urged the Board to support this recommendation.

Cliff Eames, Alaska Center for the Environment, recognized the need to replace Russian Jack Elementary and to get the students back into their own school and noted that natural open space and a natural habitat is also a very important educational resource. Mr. Eames suggested that through the cooperation of the Administration, the Board and the community that the natural habitat adjacent to the planned site of the new Russian Jack Elementary could be kept intact with minimal forest clearing and still realize playfields and ballfields for the students.

Barbara Hord, Russian Jack Elementary PTA President, stated that students, families and the community in general have been torn apart. Students are now housed in three different locations which causes undue stress on everyone. Some students are experiencing a feeling of not belonging at their current location. Ms. Hord urged the Board to support

the Administration's recommendation and to proceed immediately with the construction of a new facility for the students of Russian Jack Elementary.

Bettye Davis suggested that an update be given to Russian Jack parents about services that can be provided to them to help alleviate the anxiety and stress associated with this major disruption in their community.

Bob Christal stated that it is very important to follow-up and have more discussions on options and ways kids can share schools in a positive manner. Kids need to know they are valued.

Harriet Drummond noted that the District's prime objective is to get the new school going as quickly as possible and commented that she is very pleased that this recommendation is coming before the Board so soon after the fire.

Kevin Keeler, Anchorage Trails and Greenways Coalition, stated that the primary concern of this organization is to maintain the biological viability of the upland forest/greenbelt to the east of Russian Jack Elementary and to also maintain a continuous trail connection between Russian Jack and the UAA/APU/Chester Creek Greenbelt. Mr. Keeler further stated that the coalition supports the current site location of the school and parking areas and appreciates the District's willingness to work with the coalition on their concerns. The coalition recommends that as much upland forest corridor as possible be maintained by co-locating the soccer field and the ball diamond onto one field and to consider relocating it to a site north of the existing school.

Malcolm Ford, member of Anchorage Citizens' Coalition for Land Use, commented that there is a definite need to respond to the loss of Russian Jack Elementary and at the same time to protect remaining green space. Mr. Ford stated that the need for a new school is very much supported and that it is also important to find ways to compromise in order to move forward for the benefit of everyone. Mr. Ford suggested that perhaps the ballfields and playfields could be relocated to another area on the site that would not severely impact the present forested area. It's important to think of how to best preserve a quality of life and habitat for all involved.

Mrs. Thess-Smith, Russian Jack parent, expressed concern about the stability and structure of the education of the students of Russian Jack Elementary. The entire Russian Jack community has been affected by the loss of the school and it is extremely important that a new facility be constructed as soon as possible not only for the students' education but to

restore their sense of stability as well. Mrs. Smith urged the Board to support the Administration's recommendation and to proceed as quickly as possible to construct a new facility.

Mr. Thess-Smith, Russian Jack parent, expressed concern that his son and grandchildren are Russian Jack students and it's important for them to go back to their school and to the comfort zone they were used to. Having to get kids to three different school locations has greatly impacted the entire neighborhood. Mr. Thess-Smith urged the Board to expedite the construction of the new facility and to not be swayed by moose and bird trails.

Sandra Dowdell, Russian Jack parent, commented that having to get kids to different locations has really impacted the stability of the entire community. Ms. Dowdell commented that a tremendous amount of stress has been placed on the students, parents, staff and teachers and urged the Board to proceed as quickly as possible with the Administration's recommendation.

Rita Holthouse inquired if this recommendation is adopted this evening if there would still be flexibility in the location of the playing fields.

Bob Christal commented that Kathy Christy and the proposers are present to address the Board. Mr. Christal stated that the students are the first and foremost priority and that the goal is to get the school moving and not to create a further conflict in the use of the facilities.

Kathy Christy reemphasized that it is not the District's standard process for developing schools to be on this type of fast track. As far as the location is concerned, Ms. Christy explained that the proposed location for the site is the best location. To be successful and to look forward to an October opening date, materials need to be ordered and the footings need to be put in place. The playground area will be developed next year so there is time if adjustment is needed to relocate them on the site. Ms. Christy introduced Bill Plunket of the Unit Company and Dale Porath of Porath/Burkhart Architects.

Dale Porath explained that the project will still have to go through the regulatory process with Planning and Zoning and the Urban Design Commission and meetings will also need to be scheduled to meet with the local community. Mr. Porath commented that in regards to the issue of playgrounds and ballfields, the Parks and Recreation Department likes to see those areas separated for other activity use.

Debbie Ossiander inquired about the expedited schedule for the regulatory agencies and asked how realistic that schedule is knowing all the hurdles yet to be addressed.

Dale Porath explained that meetings have been scheduled with the Municipal agencies to review the timeframes for all the necessary steps and procedures involved. A meeting has already been scheduled for March 11 with the Urban Design Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss this project.

Debbie Ossiander expressed concern with pipes freezing at one of the prototypes and inquired if a correction to this problem has been addressed as well as lock problems and floor tiling problems.

Mike Price responded that as far as the freezing pipe problem is concerned, it may be necessary to bring the piping into a warm space with some air circulation so there are no dead spots. This issue will be discussed with the architect and engineers. As far as the tile problem is concerned, the product that was used was found to be unsatisfactory for the tolerance and the concrete and that product is no longer used. Mr. Price stated that he will look into the lock issue.

Debbie Ossiander inquired about the layout of the plan in relation to the existing trails and asked how much of a green space barrier there will be between the ballfields and the trails.

Dale Porath responded that they tried to realize as little impact as possible to the existing trails. There is approximately 10 feet of separation of undeveloped area between the fields and the trails. There are some compromises that could be made in this area. Since there are no standards for an elementary soccer field there is some potential to increase the separation between the soccer field and the trail.

Debbie Ossiander commented that there is strong community interest in the use of the playing fields and she would not want to get too far off the recommended size. Ms. Ossiander also inquired if the existing school would be considered an attractive nuisance if a new school is built next to it.

Kathy Christy responded that it is the District's responsibility to secure the building which is locked and boarded up.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she received a fax noting that there wasn't a posting of this award on the bulletin board as required by the

Administrative Manual so that proposers and/or community people were aware that this would be addressed tonight.

Kathy Christy explained that this project falls under Board Policy 725.17 (emergency procurement). All proposers were aware that this would be addressed this evening. Generally, a ten-day protest timeframe is provided but everyone was put on notice from the very beginning of the process and information was faxed to all of them on Saturday, February 6, 1999. This has been done under an expedited process and emergency procurement procedures were used. This is not the standard procuring process.

Debbie Ossiander inquired if there would be a problem in allowing the ten-day potential period of grieved bidders to come forward.

Kathy Christy responded that it would create a problem. It would add ten days to the projected October opening. The RFP very clearly stated that action would be taken at this evening's Board meeting. Legal counsel has also reviewed this entire process.

Debbie Ossiander stated that if a proposer comes forth with a complaint after this meeting that it is her understanding then that it would have no potential to move forward because this falls under the expedited emergency process for final award.

Kathy Christy responded that this recommendation is an award to proceed. A proposer would have to find a flaw in the process and the problem would need to be legitimate. Everything involved with this process has been very well addressed.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson inquired if the current lease the District has at the Alyeska building for \$47,000 per month includes office space as well as classroom space.

Bob Christal responded that yes, it includes both office and classroom space.

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that the District has a special dispensation from the city to allow students to be in the classrooms on the first floor of the Alyeska building only until the end of this year and that for any longer, the District would have to do other improvements.

Ed Conyers explained that the current occupancy permit goes through July of this year. The District would have to work with the city for any

extension to that timeframe. The District would need to make approximately \$300,000 in improvements if the Alyeska building would need to be used for classroom space for next year.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

that the words if approved by Bond Counsel be added to the end of the last sentence in the Recommendation.

Debbie Ossiander expressed concern about awarding this contract out of the District's undesignated fund balance and then go to the voters with it in the bond proposal. Voters will not know if they are approving bonds for school construction or approving funds to go back to the undesignated fund balance. Ms. Ossiander explained that she believes the undesignated fund balance should be used for this emergency but doesn't want to be premature unless there is assurance to take this approach. The motion that is approved needs to be flexible enough to follow the advice of Bond Counsel.

Bob Christal noted that information should be coming soon from the Bond Counsel and that phrase will be included in the last sentence of the recommendation but noted that it is not part of the contract.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

AMENDMENT PASSED.

Harriet Drummond commented that the major concern is to get the building started and since the playgrounds are not due to be landscaped until the following year, there is time to look at alternative locations for the sites of the ballfields. It is important to listen to the folks about the greenbelt area and it may be possible to reconfigure the ballfield locations.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.

Meeting recessed at 9:00 p.m.
Meeting reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

ASD Memorandum #217 – Bond Proposition Adjustment

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board revise the 4-year bond proposal and submit a substitute ordinance to the Anchorage Assembly. The total amount of the 4-year bond package will remain at \$428,740,000 with the following revisions:

Year 1 – Reduce Russian Jack Replacement \$1,000,000 from \$9,000,000 to \$8,000,000.

Year 2 – Add Central Middle School Renovation for \$3,000,000 as a Reimbursable Project.

Year 2 – Reduce Districtwide Renewal and Replacement/ADA/ Code \$2,000,000 from \$8,160,000 to \$6,160,000.

ACTION:

Moved by Peggy Robinson-Wilson to approve Memorandum #217.
seconded by Bettye Davis

Bob Christal commented that it's evident that over the years there's a lot of public sector criticism of public schools and public school administrators and oftentimes believes these are not valid. However, Mr. Christal noted, the recent criticism towards his decision about not enough input available to Central people is in fact a valid and a real criticism that he needs to accept as a school administrator. Mr. Christal stated that he believed he erred in not having the broader input by providing that opportunity to the Central people and the Central community and for that Mr. Christal apologized. Mr. Christal further stated that he believes that it's important for a community to support its schools and when there are errors, they should be owned up to and faced and to admit those errors. Mr. Christal noted there are still some significant issues about the Central facility that need to be talked about in the future and that in the last week the Administration tried to find some ways to demonstrate that they are not trying to close this school. The Administration is concerned however about the amount of money that would be needed for that school in order to increase the size to meet the middle school educational specifications standards. It is important that the Administration as well as the Central

community knows what the analysis will be on the impact of the Muldoon school if Central is to remain at the current size. If Central were increased from the current size and the current grade level configuration, then most likely the middle school in the Muldoon area will not qualify and would not be available for State reimbursement. The Administration took another look at a different option as to the potential of the Muldoon school to be at a different grade level configuration and believes that if the schools of Wendler, Clark and Muldoon were given the approach of a 6th, 7th, 8th grade model configuration, that the secondary school size reimbursement issues would not be jeopardized and that the Muldoon Middle School would be a school that could possibly be available for debt reimbursement. There is an analysis completed by the Facilities Department as to how the District would expend approximately \$3,000,000 at Central for renewal and renovation. This recommendation provides an opportunity for Central to view that what the Administration is trying to do is a commitment to do some renovations at the school that would be worthwhile. The Administration is neither expanding nor suggesting to expand the footprint of the school or to enlarge the school. While Mr. Christal was not available to be at the public meeting last week, he has listened carefully to the impact and the input he received back from Carol Comeau, Kathy Christy and Ed Conyers. The Administration is trying to demonstrate to the Central staff, students and parents that their issues are being addressed as best as possible at this time. Mr. Christal apologized for any undue concern on the part of parents, staff or the administration of the school. Mr. Christal stated that this recommendation will bring forward renovations to address what some of the critical needs are at Central without expanding the site of the school.

Rita Holthouse commended Superintendent Christal for his willingness to reevaluate and take another look at this situation in coming up with what appears to be a very workable and creative solution. Dr. Holthouse stated that she is very pleased with the current memo and encouraged the Board to be supportive of the Administration's recommendation.

Colleen Patrick-Riley, President of the Central Parent Advisory Committee, stated that it has been a real pleasure to talk to people who listen and who want to have input from parents and who can come up with a creative solution to challenges. The Central community would like the school to not get larger but perhaps the library area could be looked into. Should the Board decide to adopt the proposed adjustment, this adoption would alleviate many of the concerns of the Central parents. Ms. Patrick-Riley expressed appreciation for everyone's time and consideration and Superintendent Christal's effort to make a change. The

primary concern is that Central is an exceptional program in the downtown area and the top priority is to have it remain open. In the main proposal the science room lab tables were going to be replaced and it is hoped that the mechanical portion will cost less so that some of that money could be used for the science lab.

Kathi Gillespie asked how many 6th graders would be going into a middle school model.

Norm Hothouse responded that by the year 2004 approximately 1100 6th graders would feed into Clark and Wendler.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if the memorandum is giving the Central parents the impression that the District is moving towards another middle school model.

Colleen Patrick-Riley explained that the Central parents care about districtwide issues and they are also firmly committed to keeping their own school open. They do not want to do anything at the expense of some other area of the community. This is a win-win situation provided that the Muldoon community includes folks at Wendler and Clark and that the perspective Muldoon school will be happy with this scenario.

Bob Christal noted that the commitment is to keep Central open and if we can get the right grade configuration, we could get State reimbursement for Muldoon. The District is not planning to add more square footage to Central.

Vic Fisher thanked Mr. Christal for raising the issue about Central and creating the crisis at Central because it is this type of event that brings a community together; this is democracy at work. The recent meeting at Central with parents, students and faculty was wonderful. The Central community wants Central to be kept open and they do not want to be in the way of a Muldoon Middle School from being built. Mr. Fisher thanked the Administration and the School Board for coming up with such a constructive solution to the crisis.

Bob Christal asked about the issue of the amount of money for the science tables and also an estimate on the electrical issues at Central.

Mike Franks explained that the lab tables will cost approximately \$10,000. The electrical power upgrade and the receptacle distribution will be approximately \$183,000.

Kathi Gillespie inquired if the District gets the 50/50 debt reimbursement and 6th graders are put into three middle schools, if the District will still qualify for the additional space for the Service High School renovation.

Kathy Christy responded that additional square footage is not being added to Service. There is a trade-off in the space configuration and Service is still being looked at as a 2000 student school. Ms. Christy stated that Service will not be jeopardized

Peggy Robinson-Wilson commented that the east Anchorage schools have been talking for years in having 6th grade as part of a middle school grade configuration. A community survey conducted last spring indicated there was 50 percent support for this configuration. This is a real win-win situation where the Central community can keep their program and east Anchorage can move forward and get the building they have wanted for quite a while. This will also alleviate the overcrowding in many of the elementary schools in east Anchorage.

Debbie Ossiander expressed concern about the fire safety issues through all the schools as well as the wiring issues and the growing concerns about plumbing safety.

Bob Christal responded that when the current Fire Marshal's inspection of the schools has been completed, a firm analysis across the entire system will be provided to the Board.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to call the question.
seconded by Bettye Davis

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #141 – Anchorage School District Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Anchorage School District's Capital Improvement Program Legislative Requests. The information will be made available to Legislators and other interested groups for funding consideration.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #141.
seconded by Rita Holthouse

Bob Christal explained that some editorial changes and chart adjustments will be made to the document. The final document will be available for review by the Board prior to their up-coming trip to Juneau.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #198 – Prior Approval Of Discretionary Grant: Foreign Language Assistance Program

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board authorize the Superintendent to apply for a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual and Minority Languages Affairs.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #198.
seconded by Bettye Davis

Kathi Gillespie inquired if Japanese is actually going to be taught in the music and art classrooms.

Janice Gullickson explained that the instruction that is being considered in this area would be in classes offered after school on a voluntary basis.

Kathi Gillespie asked where the remaining 50 percent of the money comes from since the grant funds up to only 50 percent of the project activities each year and that major in-kind contributions will include staff time and materials.

Janice Gullickson responded that the reference about staffing includes the existing staff (Ms. Gullickson's position and teachers who are already teaching in the program). This is an in-kind match not a cash match.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

ASD Memorandum #196 – Increase Scope Of Project: Secondary And Elementary Planning And Preliminary Design, 1997 General Obligation Bonds

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to increase the scope of the Secondary and Elementary Planning and Preliminary Design Project, funded by the 1997 GO Bond, to include the following schools: Bartlett High Renovation, East High Renovation and New South Anchorage High School, New Eagle River Secondary School and New Muldoon Middle School.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #196.
seconded by Peggy Robinson-Wilson

Rita Holthouse asked for clarification as to where the projected balance of approximately \$700,000 comes from.

Kathy Christy explained that at the time the Board memorandum was prepared that was a conservative estimate. The figures on the attachment show there is more money available than the \$700,000.

Rita Holthouse inquired if the \$150,000 for planning and design for Central will now be used to plan the major renovations in the school.

Kathy Christy responded that the category funding approved in the bond was for planning and part of that money could be used for some of the preliminary design work for Central. It is very important to be very clear that there is still a significant balance without touching any of the money designated for Central.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Werdal,
Robinson-Wilson, Drummond,
Gillespie, Holthouse, Davis

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #178 - Operating Budget Transfers - December Monthly Report FY 1998-99

The attached report of budget transfers for the month of December 1998 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.

Attachment B: Schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of December 1998. Abbreviations in titles represent how data is stored in IFAS; continuity in the abbreviations within IFAS is an on-going process.

Debbie Ossiander requested that the geographic information system issue be discussed at a later date.

Rita Holthouse requested information on how much money is left in the Unallocated Elementary Resources account and if there are any other elementary schools with class sizes over 30 other than Huffman.

ASD Memorandum #179 - Out-Of-District Travel - Second Quarter Report FY 1998-99

The attached Travel Report summarizes the travel taken by District employees and School Board members during the second quarter of FY 1998-99 for both in-state and out-of-state travel. This report complies with the travel procedures established with the revision to School Board Policy Sections 156, Board Member Travel, and 526, Staff Travel.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Board members indicated an interest in meeting with the Fire Marshall at a future date to discuss the districtwide fire code issues

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION – (PERSONNEL/FINANCE/NEGOTIATIONS/LITIGATION)

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of February 8, 1999 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:30 p.m.

Harriet Drummond, President

Dave Werdal, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved