

## **MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2001**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, June 11, 2001 at 6:45 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. President Peggy Robinson presided.

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE**

Board Members Present: Debbie Ossiander, Tim Steele, Rita Holthouse, Peggy Robinson, Harriet Drummond, Jake Metcalfe, and Dave Werdal via teleconference for a portion of the meeting.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Pat McDowell, Jim Taylor, Gail Opalinski, Patricia McRae, Robyn Rehmann, Norm Holthouse, Fred Stofflet, Lee Wilson, Ellen Montague, Michelle Egan, Bob Henry, Stan Syta, Ray Amsden, Bill Mikawa, Michael Henry, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and interested people.

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

#### **B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Robinson announced the upcoming meetings. Ms. Robinson also stated that there would be no School Board meetings scheduled during the month of July.

Carol Comeau provided a clarification on the meeting scheduled at Chugiak High School on June 12, 2001. She explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the overcrowding conditions at Chugiak High and whether to proceed with the new high school in Eagle River or plan an addition/renovation for Chugiak High School. An additional meeting will be scheduled in late August or early September to discuss other options.

Carol Comeau reported to the Board that she had lunch with Mayor Weurch on June 11 and then met with the Chief of Police and the Mayor to discuss truancy issues.

#### **C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

An addendum to the Personnel Report was handed out. The agenda was approved with the notation of the addendum

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

1. ASD Memorandum #292 – School Nurse and Psychologist Honored

A dedicated team of teachers is an essential component for a successful school district. But they're only one part of the equation. There are other professionals whose work has a substantial impact on the lives of the students. School psychologists and nurses fall into this category.

This year two of these professionals were honored as Alaska School Nurse of the Year and Alaska School Psychologist of the Year.

In January Ruth Nighswander was selected as Alaska School Nurse of the Year by the Alaska School Nurses' Association. Ruth, who is currently working at Tyson Elementary, has many accomplishments under her belt. She has served as a mentor for new school nurses in the district and has been instrumental in helping develop and train all school nurses in the new vax system for health records. In 1990 Ruth created the position of Medical Alliance Liaison for the Anchorage School District to provide personal hygiene kits, glasses, medical care and other items to needy children and their families.

The 2001 Alaska School Psychologist of the Year is Deb Ward. Deb has been with the district since 1987 and currently works at both Bowman Elementary and Steller Secondary School. She is credited with many accomplishments including helping to establish the assessment model used for Mount Iliamna Preschool and special education preschool classrooms within the District. She has also provided parent education and staff development on many topics and has mentored school psychology interns.

It is requested the School Board recognize these award-winning professionals.

2. ASD Memorandum #331 – June Nelson Memorial Scholarship Recipients

On April 20, 11 Alaska high school seniors were chosen out of 101 applicants to receive a \$1,000 June Nelson Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship, named after a long-time Kotzebue School Board member, is an annual tradition of the Association of Alaska School Boards. Each year the association's members, students and district superintendents gather to raise money that will be awarded to graduating seniors in Alaska. This year enough money was raised to award eleven scholarships.

Recipients of the June Nelson Memorial Scholarship were selected based on grades, community service, activities, letters of recommendation and an essay. Four of the 11 seniors were Anchorage School District students.

Congratulations to Sarah Moody and Matthew Moon from Dimond High School and Kelly Ridge and Elena Romerdahl from East High School.

It is requested the School Board recognize these outstanding students.

3. ASD Memorandum #335 – Citywide Clean-Up Day – School Participants

Springtime in Anchorage marks the time that thousands of Anchorage School District students, their families and neighbors, come out of hibernation to gather at local schools and work together on a service project of gargantuan proportions! ASD schools are an integral part of the huge Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Citywide Clean-Up extravaganza. On Saturday, May 12, 2001, Anchorage School District clean-up efforts yielded a total of 5,355 bags of trash.

One student from each school that participated in clean-up day received a scooter and helmet from the Chamber of Commerce, and many PTA groups offered additional prizes. Gladys Wood Elementary unanimously won the “over 500” enrollment contest when it was discovered they had collected a grand total of 820 bags – nearly 150 more than last year! Baxter Elementary was the winner among the “under 500” enrollment schools with a grand total of 250 bags. Both schools will receive trophies and in-school parties for collecting the

greatest number of bags of garbage. The real winner though is the community of Anchorage. Students and their families from Girdwood to Peters Creek demonstrated again this year that neighborhood pride prevails in the race for a cleaner environment and a more attractive city to call home.

It is requested that the School Board recognize Gladys Wood Principal Gene Janigo, clean-up coordinator Julie Robinson, and the entire school community at Gladys Wood Elementary for their success in gathering bags of trash in their neighborhood during Clean-Up Day. This is the 12th consecutive year that Gladys Wood has won this award.

It is further requested that the School Board recognize Baxter Elementary Principal John Andrews, clean-up coordinator Toni Truelove, and the Baxter School Community for their award-winning work in gathering trash.

Denise Thompson, Chamber Representative, congratulated the participants and expressed her thanks to the sponsors, ASD, School Board, Superintendent, PTA, principals, and teachers for their support, dedication, and participation in this event. Ms. Thompson emphasized that they are true, shining examples of support for their community.

E. PRESENTATIONS

Don Shackelford and Bill McDiarmid, Co-directors, Alaska Partnership for Teacher Enhancement Grant, UAA, gave a brief overview and explained the goals, partners, and description of the grant.

Mr. McDiarmid explained that the goals are to improve the academic achievement of students in Alaska's high-need schools; produce teachers prepared to help all students, especially those in high-need schools, learn new standards; design and deliver a post-baccalaureate teacher preparation program; institutionalize collaboration among the partners so that the partnership will continue after the grant ends in five years; align policy on teacher preparation and professional development across the DEED, the University, and school districts; and to provide professional development and support to educators in the partnership schools.

The grant is a five year \$6 million dollar grant from the U. S. Department of Education, which the University of Alaska matched with \$3 million dollars. The four major project initiatives are to collaboratively design and deliver a post-baccalaureate teacher preparation program; provide

professional development in partner districts (summer subject-matter institutes, mentor training, peer coaching training); create three urban and three rural professional development schools; and to develop a career ladder for classroom aides from an AA degree to teacher certification. Cross cutting themes include integrated special education, diversity as a strength, technology integrated with subject matter instruction, and bilingual/ESL training for all teachers.

Partners in the grant include the Department of Education and Early Development; Anchorage Education Association; Anchorage School District; College of Health, Education, & Social Welfare, UAA; College of Arts & Sciences, UAA; GCI; Institute of Social and Economic Research, UAA; Kashunamiut School District; Lower Kuskokwim School District; National Education Association-Alaska; Provost's Office, UAA; President's Office, UA; and Yupiit School District.

Keith Taton gave a brief presentation on Central Middle School as a professional development school in partnership with the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Dr. Taton commented that one of his teachers asked him to tell the School Board that this particular program has had more effect on his professional development than anything he has done for the past ten years.

Rita Holthouse stated that she thinks it is an excellent program.

Jake Metcalfe commented that he talked with Mr. Jones at Chinook Elementary School, and he spoke very highly of the program. Mr. Metcalfe also likes the exchange with the rural programs and inquired what will happen when the grant runs out of money. Mr. Shackelford stated that he hopes that some of the features of best practices will be institutionalized, which will be a big task after the end of the grant. The University and the District will need to step-up and commit to these improvements.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

Student Advisory:

Corey Runnell announced that the Student Advisory Board had adjourned for the summer session. Mr. Runnell also stated that he is excited to see the Board address ASD Memorandum #345, which deals with the sexual harassment issue.

Military Delegate:

No report. Lt. Colonel Mulcahy thanked the administration for their involvement in the support of the military appreciation events last week.

Carol Comeau gave a special recognition to George Vakalis, Assistant Superintendent, who organized many of the events.

MECC

No report.

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 – May 14, 2001

2. ASD Memorandum #344 – Naming of Chugiak High School Auditorium in Honor of Steve Primis

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the renaming of the Chugiak High School Auditorium in honor of the late Steve Primis.

3. ASD Memorandum #324 – Award of Contracts (s): Expendable Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of contracts to the three low responsive bidders as shown on the Recommended Awards by Vendor for Expendable Supplies (Attachment B) in the total estimated amount of \$363,423.

4. ASD Memorandum #325 – Award of Contract(s) Food Staples

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of contracts to the two low responsive bidders as shown on the Recommended Awards by Vendor for Food Staples (Attachment B) in the estimated total amount of \$505,208.50.

5. ASD Memorandum #326 – Award of Contract(s): Frozen Food Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of contracts to the three low responsive bidders as shown on the Recommended Awards by Vendor for Frozen Food Products (Attachment B) in the estimated total amount of \$923,799.50.

6. ASD Memorandum #332 – Renewal of Contract: Dairy Products

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of a contract extension for Dairy Products to Creamery Corporation, dba/Matanuska Maid Dairy for the period July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002, in the total estimated amount of \$828,100.

7. ASD Memorandum #300 – Award of Contracts(s): Miscellaneous School Supplies

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the award of contract to Arctic Office Products in the total amount of \$166,448.

8. ASD Memorandum #330 – Revision to School Board Policy Section 451.121: Programs for Expelled or Long-Term Suspended Students (Second Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 451.21 on Second Reading.

9. ASD Memorandum #345 – Revision to School Board Policy Section 114.2: Harassment (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 114.2, Harassment, on First Reading as shown on Attachment A.

10. ASD Memorandum #346 – Revision to School Board Policy Section 729.5: Resolution of Claims and Lawsuits (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 729.5, Resolution of Claims and Lawsuits, on First Reading as shown on Attachment A.

11. ASD Memorandum #347 – Revision to School Board Policy 450 (Appendix A): Statement of Rights & Responsibilities (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 450 (Appendix A) Statement of Rights and Responsibilities on First Reading.

12. ASD Memorandum #338 – Personnel Report

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

13. ASD Memorandum #333 – Contract Renewal: Group Health Insurance

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to renew the contract for the 2001-2002 fiscal year with Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Alaska for Group Medical, and Dental care; and with States West Life Insurance Company for life insurance. It is also recommended that vision care insurance be provided by VSP (Vision Services Plan).

14. ASD Memorandum #362 – Adoption of Tentative Agreement: Public Employees Local 71, 2001-2004

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and adopt the collective bargaining agreement between the District and the Public Employees Local 71 which will establish terms and conditions of employment for Custodians and Building Plant Operators during the period between July 1, 2001 and June 30, 2004.

15. ASD Memorandum #334 – 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. Prior to the sale, these assets will be offered to the Municipality of Anchorage for extended public use.

16. ASD Memorandum #337 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Castles Supplemental Funding

It is the Administration's recommendation that the Anchorage School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to apply for supplemental grant funding requesting supplemental funds from the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Labor, in the amount of \$189,533.

17. ASD Memorandum #342 – Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Carl Perkins

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to submit an application to the State Department of Education and Early Development for SY 2001-02 Carl Perkins funds in the amount of \$941,430.

18. ASD Memorandum #341 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Youth in Detention

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept additional Youth in Detention grant funding from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$25,000.

19. ASD Memorandum #339 – Renewal of Contract: Collect and Remove Trash from 64 Existing Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and exercise the third one-year option for renewal of a contract for Districtwide refuse hauling to Alaska Waste Transfer, Inc. in the estimated amount of \$248,121.82 plus pass-through tonnage charges from July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002..

The following items were removed from the Consent Agenda: ASD Memorandums #344, #345, #346, and #347.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to approve the minutes for the  
Regular Meeting of May 14, 2001;  
Memorandum #324;  
Memorandum #325;  
Memorandum #326;  
Memorandum #332;  
Memorandum #300;  
Memorandum #330  
Memorandum #338;  
Memorandum #333;  
Memorandum #362;  
Memorandum #334;  
Memorandum #337;  
Memorandum #342;  
Memorandum #341; and  
Memorandum #339.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse, Robinson,  
Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #344 – Naming of Chugiak High School Auditorium  
in Honor of Steve Primis

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the renaming of the Chugiak High School Auditorium in honor of the late Steve Primis.

ACTION:

Moved by Harriet Drummond                      to approve Memorandum #344  
seconded by Debbie Ossiander

Carol Comeau pointed out that the renaming of the Chugiak High School Auditorium will have a long standing impact on the community and wished that it could have been done earlier in honor of a wonderful man who gave much to the community. The School Board recognized the Primis family: daughters, Eugenia and Mary, and wife, Diane, who is currently the Administrative Assistant at Chugach Optional. There will be new signage ordered for the auditorium and once it has been installed, the Board will be notified.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse, Robinson,  
Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #345 – Revision to School Board Policy Section 114.2:  
Harassment (First Reading)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the School Board adopt the recommended policy changes for School Board Policy 114.2, Harassment, on First Reading as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Harriet Drummond to approve Memorandum #345  
seconded by Rita Holthouse

Carol Comeau explained that the recommendation for this policy change came through the School Board Policy Subcommittee from the Student Advisory Board. Ms. Comeau stated that it is timely for this topic to come forward to ensure a safe environment for students. She commented that she did change her mind after she spoke with students who have incurred discrimination in their schools.

Ms. Comeau informed the Board that she met with several clergy members throughout Anchorage and had a very thoughtful discussion. Even though everyone was not in total agreement, everyone committed to work together to ensure the safety for all students in our schools. Several members also offered to work with the District in the fall on training issues for staff.

Taylor Burns, Board Member of the Alaska Association of Social Workers, stated that he is proud to be a social worker. Discrimination is damaging to the social/emotional status of individuals. Mr. Burns stressed that the policy in public schools should be more responsive to high needs students, but should be respectful of all students. He urged the Board to stand firmly in support of the policy changes, which would maintain a safe environment for all students in our schools.

Molly Coulter, teacher at Chugiak High School, is one of the sponsors of the Gay/Straight Alliance Club. She supports the change for many

reasons and wants to make sure that every student feels included, safe, and important. Ms. Coulter stated that some students have come to class feeling depressed and ignored. She feels that this new policy gives students a voice and students would feel more supported with the acceptance of this new policy.

Susan Derrera urged the Board to amend the policy on sexual harassment. The new policy would prevent violence and make it safer for students. She further stated that it is a matter of social justice; students need to feel protected.

Pam Siegfried commented that it is obvious that gay kids are targeted. The only moral response is to protect these kids and urged the Board to vote yes on this policy change.

Renee' Aguilar reported that her son is a senior at Bartlett High School and is bisexual. She has been concerned for his safety at a place where he spends several hours in an environment where slang is yelled at him and no one does anything about it. She urged the Board to support this policy change because her son deserves to feel safe and the Board is responsible for providing a safe environment.

Timothy Aguilar reported that he is one of many transsexual, gay/lesbian, transgender, questioning youths. He has been harassed in schools, and adults who heard the slurs chose not to do anything about them. Mr. Aguilar expects to be safe and free from harassment and supports the addition of the sexual orientation policy.

Aaron Daugherty, senior at Bartlett, is one of many who have experienced harassment at the hands of other students. Reports were made to the office, but the school staff did not intervene. Mr. Daugherty feels unsafe at school.

Andree McCloud chose to speak about teachers who perpetrate the harassment. She asked what is in place for students who might not be part of a certain group. An example was given of a class where there was a hostile learning environment and the students were afraid to speak out against the teacher. Ms. McCloud asked how you protect these students so when they do complain, a negative retaliation does not come their way.

Steve Cook supports the change in policy and stated that this issue does not relate to whether you are liberal or conservative, but is an issue of safety. He further commented that it is School Board policy and goals to

provide a safe learning environment for all students. The Board was elected to provide the best education for all students.

Bert Mead is a gay parent who spent his K-12 career in the Anchorage School District. He is also the Chairperson of GLISEN. Mr. Mead suggested changing the wording in the policy to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Fred Hillman commented that the present policy is not working. He favors adding sexual orientation and gender identity. Dr. Hillman also stated that the change in policy is only one step—training, monitoring, and enforcement are the other parts that need to be changed.

Trang Duong strongly encouraged this revision on harassment. It would promote zero tolerance and protect students against harassment and would provide a safe environment.

Rev. Connie Jones, representing St. Mary's, is in favor of adding the new language. She strongly supports student resolution and commends the District for leading this change.

Ryan Schowen, a graduate from Chugiak High School, urged the policy change to ensure the future.

Phillip Burch, teacher at Chugiak High School, is the parent of three children, two straight and one gay. Mr. Burch strongly encourages this change in policy.

Barbara Clark commented that she was saddened to hear of assaults against gay kids. Ms. Clark is a teacher at West and stated that kids need role models that are gay.

Victoria Shaver is a graduate of Dimond High School. During her tenure at Dimond, she was very active, but had not come out as gay. She saw fellow students who had come out that were ridiculed by staff and students. Ms. Shaver encouraged the Board to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the harassment policy.

Christina Reagle has been involved with education for 30 years and worked with a number of students on anti-harassment issues. She encouraged the Board to be concerned about all students and supports this change—sexual orientation is a school safety issue.

Hans Bernard, former Student Representative to the School Board, urged the Board to stand courageous against the opposition to this policy and pass this revision to current policy.

Jacqueline Black, former student at West High School, told her story of being openly harassed at West. She felt threatened and unsafe and dropped out of public school to be home schooled. Ms. Black urged the Board to pass the policy change.

Kassie Grunder emphasized that students do not feel safe in schools. She was afraid to join the gay/straight alliance club because she did not want to be harassed by other students. Ms. Grunder urged support by the Board for this policy change.

Charles Hart told of constant abuse he suffered during his junior high years in the District. He found only one teacher who would intervene on his behalf. He urged support of the policy change and suggested the addition of sexual orientation and sexual identity.

Denali Kerr sees discrimination every day. Ms. Kerr feels that the schools should not just be preparing students for college, but should be preparing students to be better people. By putting the policy in place, we should be able to stop bigotry in our schools.

Carol Comeau thanked each person who had the courage to come forward and speak from his/her heart this evening.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse  
seconded by Harriet Drummond

to amend Memorandum #345 to  
include changes to 114.1 a, b, and

c to mirror the changes being  
made to Memorandum #347,  
Policy 450 (Attachment A) –  
Section 9a 1, 2, 3, and 4.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse, Robinson,  
Drummond, Metcalfe, Werdal

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSED

VOTE:



Carol Comeau stated that the Administration is trying to bring the Statement of Rights and Responsibilities in line to be consistent with the harassment policy.

Robert Hayes stated that principals' do not investigate reported incidents within the Anchorage School District. Safety issues were complained about and the principal has done nothing about them.

Ms. Robinson reminded Mr. Hayes that he can only speak on three items per meeting.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander, Steele, Holthouse, Robinson,  
Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: None

Absent: Werdal

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #327 – Project Status Report

Below is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the past two weeks.

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL - PHASE I

Construction Status: Construction is scheduled to start June 8, 2001.

CHUGIAK HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL - PHASE I, II & III

Design Status: Gym/Cafeteria Modifications – The identification of possible cost reductions is in progress, to allow the design to proceed beyond the Schematic Design phase.

Construction Status:

House 2 – Construction is scheduled to start on June 8, 2001.

House 3 – Construction has started in this area. Asbestos abatement has been completed and demolition is in progress.

DENALI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

Design Status The Design Development phase has begun.

DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

Construction Status: The waterline installation is nearly complete. Underslab mechanical, underslab electrical, and concrete footing work continue. Construction of the concrete slab and masonry walls for the boiler room addition to the gym/pool building will start in the next two weeks. The contractor is also beginning work on the temporary utility/loading dock addition to the existing school. These two additions need to be in place prior to demolition of the last building (building G - utility building) that is within the footprint of the new school building.

A few neighbors have complained about dust control and the contractor is taking action to ensure the site is watered adequately.

EAGLE RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Design Status: The timing or phasing of design work on this project is under review at this time, following the failure of the Bond proposition on April 3, 2001.

EAST HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL – PHASE 1

Design Status: The project has been repackaged and is out for bid. The exterior site work will be removed from the project and deferred allowing the interior renovation to proceed. The bid opening is scheduled for June 7, 2001. The recommendation for Award of Contract is scheduled to be presented at the June 25, 2001, School Board meeting. This will allow the work to start in July 2001 with completion in August 2002.

Construction Status: Initial construction efforts required to relocate the library to the student center are in progress.

### SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL

#### PHASE 1A – Exterior Sitework

Design Status: The bids were received on May 1, 2001, and were within the budget for this part of Phase 1. The School Board approved the Award of Contract at the May 14, 2001, School Board meeting. Construction is scheduled to begin on June 7, 2001.

#### PHASE 1B – Remodel Building H (Science Wing)

Design Status: The Design Development Drawings have been reviewed. The most recent cost estimate shows that there are adequate funds to complete the exterior sitework and science wing under budget. The 95 percent Construction Drawings are scheduled for completion on July 24, 2001. The project is scheduled to bid September 10, 2001, with construction beginning on June 8, 2002.

### SOUTH ANCHORAGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Design Status: The Construction Document Design Phase continues on within budget and on schedule, with advertisement for construction bids anticipated for this December. After its review of the Schematic and Design Development documents, the State DEED has approved the documents with stipulations, one of which suggests applying for a variance for the 3,000 square feet Intensive Needs program. After resolving details, we intend to submit this variance request to DEED. We continue to coordinate the school's site design with the City's Elmore Road upgrade design. Lead Artists, Harries and Heder, are meeting with the art jury to designate one percent art locations, refine the overall theme, and proceed with selecting other participating artists.

### WENDLER RENEWAL - PHASE 1

Sitework Status: The School Board approved the Award of Contract at the May 14, 2001 School Board meeting. Construction is scheduled to start on June 8, 2001 and be completed August 18, 2001.

Building Renovation Design Status: The Design Development Phase is in progress with completion scheduled in early July.

Carol Comeau commented that this report will be given to the Board every two weeks with the latest available information.

Debbie Ossiander requested that budget amounts for construction be incorporated into the report. She further stated that construction projects that are not in line or within budget are a continuing community concern.

Carol Comeau expressed a concern with the timelines on Ms. Ossiander's request regarding budget figures. Ms. Ossiander's major concern is with high school projects that are not within budget limits.

Peggy Robinson inquired if Ms. Ossiander wants budgets for all projects or just those that are not within the approved budget. Ms. Ossiander replied that she wants to be apprised ahead of time when we need to re-examine the plans or request additional funding.

Rita Holthouse commented that she appreciates the reports so she can stay informed on construction projects. She also agrees that the Administration should inform the Board should there be a problem. She does not agree that we need this information every two weeks—it is too time consuming for the Administration.

Tim Steele stated the problems that he was aware of were the bids that were coming in over the budgeted amount. He hopes to get a handle on the estimation process that is currently used. Mr. Steele also commented that if there is a large overrun, the Board needs to be made aware. The present information currently received is just fine.

Jake Metcalfe inquired if it will be a problem to inform the Board on projects underway if they run into a problem. Carol Comeau reported that change order reports are done monthly.

Carol Comeau stated that the Board is informed on the Project Status Report every two weeks of any problems. Ms. Comeau questioned the Board as to what they would like different than what they are already receiving.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she preferred the Project Status Report on e-mail. This new report is not enough information for her. She would like to know the major decisions that are to be completed over the next few months at Chugiak High School. Ms. Ossiander also thought the South Anchorage High School project was short \$3 million dollars, but found out that it is not true. She would have liked to have been informed of this.

Jake Metcalfe questioned if would be difficult to put each construction item into a column with a budget indicating if it is up or down. Ray Amsden stated that it was the Administration's goal to provide all information to the School Board that they desired.

Rita Holthouse asked if we could leave it up to the Administration to let the Board know when there are financial matters looming.

Carol Comeau agreed that the Administration will try to provide more information on the next Project Status Report to try to address Ms. Ossiander's concern.

#### I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Rena McFarland is an advocate for advanced placement courses in the Anchorage high schools. She feels there is disparity among our high schools offering advanced placement courses. Ms. McFarland would like all high schools to have higher level courses for students. The District is not meeting the goals on maximizing student achievement. She would also volunteered to go to the Legislature to advocate for funds for addenda to be paid to teachers who will teach these classes.

Debbie Ossiander reported that she had a conversation with Ms. McFarland and talked about the state subsidizing fees. Staff training continues to be a big problem and may become a legislative agenda item. She would like to see some money for addenda and honorariums and urged the Board to consider this an important issue.

Rita Holthouse inquired as to whether or not the District might qualify for a grant. Pat McDowell commented that she has not seen the RFP and

does not know the criteria that has been established. Carol Comeau stated that she is interested in applying if the District qualifies for a state grant.

J. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

There will be a team building meeting at Mr. Werdal's house at 9:30 a.m. on June 18, 2001 for Board Members.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of June 11, 2001 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:03 a.m.

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Peggy Robinson, President

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Harriet Drummond, Clerk

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Date Minutes Approved