

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2001**

The Anchorage School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, December 10, 2001 at 6:40 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 who participated via teleconference.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Pat McDowell, Janet Stokesbary, Marie Laule, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Duane Moran, Dale Cope, Lee Wilson, Mark Pasier, Debbie Bogart, Bob Henry, Stan Syta, Ed Conyers, Ray Amsden, Mike Price, Mike Kerosky, Corey Rennell, Mary Marks, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and interested people.

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

The Trailside Elementary School Chorus sang songs before the Board meeting was called to order and another song after the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Robinson announced upcoming meetings and noted the employee holiday party was scheduled for noon on December 18. Ms. Robinson also noted that the Board would not be meeting again until January 7, 2002 for a Special School Board meeting for student hearings and executive session topics. The next regular School Board meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2002 at 6:30 p.m.

Carol Comeau commented that the District received a special award for a Silver Sponsor from the Special Education World Winter Games. It will be displayed in the Board room.

Superintendent Comeau attended the recent Youth Summit and was truly impressed with the level of discussion on racism, open/closed campus,

safety issues, drug/alcohol, etc. Ms. Comeau thanked the Dimond Z Club for organizing the Summit.

Debbie Ossiander commented that several Board members attended the Legislative Luncheon earlier in the day, and expressed a thank you to members of the legislature.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

D. AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

1. ASD memorandum #146 – PRSA Aurora Awards

Each year the Alaska Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America recognizes excellence in public relations through the Aurora Awards and the Awards of Excellence. This year, the Anchorage School District received a first-place Award of Excellence in the World Wide Web category for ASD Online, the District Web site; a second-place Aurora Award in the Internal Communications category for the ASD 2000 Charitable Giving Campaign; and, a first-place award in the Public Service category for the ASD Thinking About Drinking Student Campaign.

Carol Comeau read the memorandum and called Mike Kerosky, students, principals, and the Public Relations staff forward to receive their awards.

E. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

F. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

Student Advisory:

Corey Rennell gave a brief report on the recent discussion at the Student Advisory Board. Discussion centered around open/closed campus, Alaska Studies, school dance issues, and student participation in charity drives. Mr. Rennell was also able to attend the recent Alaska 20/20 Conference, which was sponsored by the Alaska Humanities Forum. He

discussed his involvement in the Youth Summit and commented that he was overwhelmed with all of the ideas that the students came up with.

Corey Rennell provided a copy of the resolutions that were passed by the Student Advisory Board. He commented that the ones with “stars” are the ones that will be considered. Mr. Rennell will be discussing this further with the Superintendent and the School Board.

Military Delegate:

LTC Mulcahy was absent from the meeting.

MECC

Mary Marks thanked the School Board for allowing several MECC members to attend the Alaska Native Summit. She stated that the number one issue at the Summit was parent involvement. Ms. Marks commented that they are working on getting a job description put together for parent volunteers so they will know what is expected of them when they volunteer in a school. She also mentioned that she would like to see schools open for community involvement and suggested policy changes for our schools.

Ms. Marks commented that MECC supports Alaska Studies being added to the ASD curriculum as part of the graduation requirement.

Carol Comeau clarified that our schools are open to the public and they use our facilities to the maximum.

G. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – (30 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

Sam Daniel, President of Girdwood PTA thanked Carol Comeau and George Vakalis for their work on the Girdwood dump issue, but is concerned over two things. The process used by URS is only a recommendation, and not knowing until February how much it will cost makes it hard to budget. Also the fact that the Municipality of Anchorage and the School District can't decide who is responsible for the costs is a concern. Mr. Daniels wants the work to take place next school year, but is fearful that it won't be completed.

Debbie Ossiander asked if Mr. Daniels had spoken with state legislators. Mr. Daniels replied that he thinks they are aware of the problem.

Ms. Ossiander also asked Mr. Vakalis if the District has spoken with the contractor about expediting the cost figures. Mr. Vakalis responded that the investigation will not be completed until January, but has asked for the best numbers by January 10. He further stated that Carol Comeau and he have a meeting with the Mayor tomorrow to discuss this issue.

Debbie Ossiander asked about information relating to gas readings and the monitoring system that was put into place at the school. Mr. Vakalis stated that an alarm has been set and will ring at Alaska General Alarm if the readings reach a dangerous level.

Peggy Robinson asked if the money in the bond proposition was related to this issue. Mr. Vakalis responded that the bond money was for the parking lot. The playground was physically moved this past summer so no children are playing in the dump site area.

Kate Chandler, Coordinator of the Girdwood Dump Task Force, stated that they have learned that leakage from the dump site was creating gases in the area. She also stated that the District has been very responsive to concerns to evaluate risks to the community and the children. At the present time, Mr. Vakalis stated that everything that shows positive is within the EPA drinking water standards. Current gas readings show that decay is continuing in the dump and methane gas has been found in the school. The readings were not high enough to bring school closure.

Robert Hayes is the parent of two children in the District and was complaining about a letter written by a former supervisor about him. The topic of the letter was about a conversation he had with a former supervisor on a fire alarm at Chugiak High School. The letter caused him to lose his job. Mr. Hayes' current lawsuit is about having the letter removed from his file because it is a false complaint.

President Robinson stated that the complaints have been investigated and no grounds have been found. The District is in the middle of a lawsuit with Mr. Hayes.

#### H. CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. ASD Memorandum #147 – Superintendent Evaluation and Contract Changes: January 1, 2002-December 31, 2004

The School Board and Superintendent have agreed to extend her contract for one year to December 31, 2004. The contract includes a \$3,000 salary increase (approximately 2.4 percent), which brings her total salary to \$130,000 per year, effective January 1, 2002. The contract also includes three additional cashable leave days.

2. ASD Memorandum #116 – Approval of Minority Education Concerns Committee Mission Statement and Goals

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Minority Education Concerns Committee's mission statement and goals for the 2001-2002 school year. The proposed mission statement and goals are shown on Attachment A.

3. ASD Memorandum #132 – Recommendation for Gifted Pilot Program at Government Hill Elementary School and Chugach Optional School: January 2002 – June 2003

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the request for a gifted pilot program at Government Hill Elementary School and Chugach Optional School beginning in January 2002 until June of 2003 as described in Attachment A. It is further recommended that the School Board approve the expenditure of \$105,986 for this pilot program.

4. ASD Memorandum #133 – Recommendation for Alaska Studies Course

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a one semester (.5 credit) Alaska Studies course as a graduation requirement for high school students at the junior or senior level. This requirement would begin with the freshman class entering high school in the fall of 2002 (Class of 2006). It is further recommended that this course replace one of the elective choices within the existing social studies requirements; students would be allowed to select one elective semester course from the area studies, geography, history, or the social sciences to fulfill their final .5 credit social studies requirement.

5. ASD Memorandum #138 – Professional Services Selection: Eagle River High School

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the selection of USKH, Inc. as the designer for the Eagle River High School, and following Municipal Assembly approval, authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into a contract with USKH, Inc., for these design services.

6. ASD Memorandum #136 – 2002 General Obligation Bond Recommendation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Bond proposal package totaling \$96,345,000, comprised of Proposition 1- Major Maintenance, Equipment and Code-Related Projects for \$44,720,000, and Proposition 2- School Renovations/Additions/Replacement for \$51,625,000. These propositions are summarized below:

**Proposition 1 – Major Maintenance, Equipment and Code-Related Projects**

**Districtwide Major Maintenance**

Asbestos/ADA/Code Issues	\$1,615,00
Minor Building renewal Projects	\$7,260,000
Electrical Projects	\$3,285,000
Maintenance Equipment	\$1,650,000
Mechanical Upgrades	\$15,795,000
Roof Replacement and Repairs	\$1,860,000
Traffic Safety Upgrades	<u>\$675,000</u>
Districtwide Major Maintenance Subtotal	\$32,140,000

**Code Related Projects**

King Career Center Code Renovation	\$7,300,000
Districtwide Sprinkler Upgrades	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
Code Related Projects Subtotal	\$9,300,000

**Other Major Maintenance Projects**

Public Sewer Service for Birchwood Elementary Chugiak High School	\$2,200,000
Public Water Connection – Girdwood School	<u>\$250,000</u>
Other major Maintenance Projects Subtotal	\$2,450,000

**Student Transportation**

10 Replacement Buses	\$830,000
<b>Proposition 1 Total</b>	<b>\$44,720,000</b>

**Proposition 2 – School Renovation/Additions/Replacement**

**Bartlett high School**

Phase 2 Design Funding	\$1,900,000
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**Chugiak High School**

Deferred Phase 3 Design and Construction Funding	\$4,300,000
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**Dimond High School**

Demolition Funding (Construction)	\$3,000,000
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**East High School**

Deferred Phase 1 Design and Construction Funding	\$1,500,000
Phase 2 and Sprinklers Design and Construction Funding	\$4,200,000
Phase 3 Design Funding	\$1,200,000

**Polaris K-12 School**

Design Funding	\$700,000
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**Service High School**

Deferred Phase 1 Design and Construction Funding	\$1,350,000
Phase 2A Design/Construction Funding	\$17,000,000

**Wendler Middle School**

Phase 2 Construction Funding – Match For EED Grant Funding	\$9,800,000
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**Ptarmigan Elementary School**

Design and Construction Funding	\$6,400,000
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**Planning**

Whaley School Assessment, Clark Middle School Planning, Birchwood ABC and Willow Crest Traffic Safety	\$275,000
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<b>Proposition 2 Total</b>	<b>\$51,625,000</b>
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7. ASD Memorandum #145 – Acceptance of Grant Award: Capacity Building Improvement for Special Education

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept grant funds from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) for \$315,116. Funds will enable Anchorage School District Special Education to begin building an electronic infrastructure for Individual Education Plans (IEP) and for IEP reporting.

8. ASD Memorandum #130 - Approval of Additional Safety-Security/Home School Coordinators

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve funding in the amount of \$150,000 to continue Safety-Security/Home School Coordinators in the high schools. These positions were formerly funded as Safety Officers by a grant from the Municipality of Anchorage.

9. ASD Memorandum #112 - Acceptance of Contract: The Bilingual/ESL Teacher for Anchorage (BETA) Project

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a contract from the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) in the amount of \$115,595. The total award covers the time period between October 1, 2001, and September 30, 2005. This contract is continuation grant award to UAA from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Language Affairs (OBEMLA). The budget amount for FY 2001-2002 is \$28,833. The project is designed to augment the teacher preparation program at UAA and to provide professional development in bilingual/ESL education for Anchorage School District (ASD) personnel.

10. ASD Memorandum #144 - Acceptance of Contract: Right Start - North Star, Williwaw, Tyson, Mountain View, and Big Lake Elementary Schools

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept a contract from the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$80,000.00. Funds will be used to provide interventions for kindergarten children identified by the Developmental Profile as needing extra help in specific areas of development.



Carol Comeau stated that the principals from Chugach Optional and Government Hill Schools brought forward concerns about children losing instructional time and asked for consideration of a different model for gifted services. Ms. Comeau commented that there may be some criticism of the pilot program because some people don't consider these two schools as "regular" schools. Ms. Comeau stated that this is a good opportunity to give us some new ideas since our gifted plan of service must be reviewed to come into compliance.

Because of the fire code, Peggy Robinson reminded the people who were standing in the back of the room to go upstairs to the third floor to watch the meeting on television.

Stephen Hyams supports the gifted proposal. He commented that children feel isolated from their classmates when they are removed and bused to another school for gifted services. Children also left behind are also feeling left-out. Mr. Hyams is concerned about the waste of resources due to the bussing and the difficult time they have trying to track the curriculum.

Rita Holthouse asked Mr. Hyams to elaborate on what he meant about not being able to track the curriculum. Mr. Hyams stated that the children miss their Spanish curriculum and the curriculum they are involved in with the gifted program does not relate back to their core studies. He further stated that the new proposal addresses this concern. The new pilot program does not disassociate the students and make them miss their regular curriculum.

Chiquita Cothrom has a second grader at Government Hill and is speaking on behalf of the staff and parents. The current model for gifted services does not meet the needs of the students and excludes minority students. Ms. Cothrom encouraged the Board to vote yes on this proposal.

Debbie Ossiander asked for a five minute at-ease and a point of clarification. Ms. Ossiander stated that Ms. Obermeyer was asked to leave the meeting because she was being disruptive. Ms. Robinson responded that there was an officer at the scene to assist, but Ms. Obermeyer was under control at the present time.

Alice Knapp thanked the School Board for the right to speak and asked for support of the pilot program. Ms. Knapp stated that students will

receive more contact time; classes can be scheduled in shorter blocks with less disruption; parents and teachers can better communicate with the gifted staff person; testing will be accomplished in a more timely manner; and it will better fit with the philosophy of the school. This new proposal will help to better monitor the children.

Jim Stanley wants to support this program. He feels that the pull-out program does not do what it is suppose to do and if children are on-site, you can do more with them. If the evaluation of the pilot program is not doing what it should do, they will certainly consider something else.

Louise Driscoll supports the pilot program. The IGNITE curriculum is completely separate from the standard program, and if the program were on-site, the classroom teacher could also be assisted.

Jodie Viscardi is presently a teacher of gifted students at Bear Valley. She favors the philosophy of an on-site program, but is bothered by the student-teacher ratio. Ms. Viscardi commented about her experiences in the District and how many students she has had. She feels there is not equitable treatment within the IGNITE program. Ms. Viscardi urged the School Board to look into this. The training that teachers will receive at Government Hill and Chugach will be free and is inequitable when other teachers within the program pay for their own training. Ms. Viscardi encouraged the Board to proceed slowly with caution if they decide to approve this pilot and to listen to other IGNITE staff members.

Jim Schultz, a teacher in the IGNITE program, doesn't oppose this pilot. He suggested that there should be a committee formed to evaluate this model at Chugach and Government Hill. Mr. Schultz also suggested doing a third pilot in one of our schools using the Renzuli model.

Debbie Ossiander has had many conversations about different models and asked for clarification as to why some teachers feel this inclusive model will work. Jodie Viscardi responded that school-wide enrichment is different from the CDM model. It involves many different modules for the whole school and doesn't require teachers to do differentiated curriculum.

Peggy Robinson asked which school may be interested in doing another pilot. Mr. Schultz suggested speaking with Jo Garrett. Ms. Viscardi stated that Bear Valley is not ready.

Carol Comeau stated that she wants to meet with the teachers in the IGNITE program to discuss a number of issues. The Administration is responding to a proposal and wants to try it. If it is successful, they may return to the Board to add additional schools. Ms. Comeau suggested that there are many different ways to approach gifted education. This is just a start and if it is supported, the Administration will look at other possibilities.

Tim Steele has a concern using the benchmarks as a possible evaluation tool for this program.

Mr. Schultz feels that an outside person would be better to evaluate this pilot. Carol Comeau agrees and commented that the benchmarks are only one way of evaluation.

Debbie Ossiander also has concerns about the evaluation. Both Sandy Stephens and Sharon Meacham responded that many assessments are already in place. They both plan to work with the Assessment and Evaluation Office as well as the Gifted Department to identify additional surveys and evaluation tools.

Tim Steele had a question on the budget for the three days of training. Sandy Stephens responded that they plan on training teachers and could certainly include other gifted teachers if there were additional funds identified to include the additional staff. They would like to bring in an outside person to do the training.

Debbie Ossiander commented that she has spent time talking and thinking about the evaluation since the Administration chose two alternative schools. Ms. Ossiander further commented that to make the evaluation consistent, we need feedback. If there were pre- and post-testing at Government Hill and Chugach along with two other optional schools, there would be something concrete to review and compare before we went forward with additional schools. She feels that the pre-and post testing would be less expensive than an outside evaluator.

Carol Comeau stated that we need to identify the pre- and post-test and find the right measure. She asked Ms. Ossiander if it has to be two optional schools or could it be two neighborhood schools. Debbie Ossiander replied that it does not have to be two optional schools, but we need a control group. Ms. Ossiander asked the Administration if they could withstand a delay in the Board making a decision on the pilot program until another meeting so an evaluation instrument could be

developed. Carol Comeau stated that a delay would not allow the program to begin during the second semester.

Tim Steele commented that he is a firm believer in the gifted program. He understands that there are some problems with the current delivery method, but is in favor of trying this proposal at these two schools. Mr. Steele does not feel that a control group will give us the evaluation tool that is needed. He feels that optional programs are cohesive and have a lot of parent involvement, which is not true at every school in the District.

Carol Comeau stated that she is interested in adding a regular neighborhood school, but wants to start small and add next year. If the Board is interested in adding an additional school this year, it would become a different proposal.

Rita Holthouse stated that the School Board wants a valid evaluation tool, but it should not be Board driven. The Administration should come up with one.

Harriet Drummond is concerned with the budget of the proposal and wants to know if the funds have been identified for next year. Ms. Drummond asked if this proposal will reduce the student load at the schools where the students have been previously bussed. Ms. Comeau feels that some students will come back into the program once it is established in one school and students do not have to be transported to another location.

Peggy Robinson agreed with Ms. Holthouse about the evaluation. She agrees that the Administration needs to work this through. She feels that there will be great potential for other students who may not qualify for the gifted program.

Debbie Ossiander stated if the Board approves this pilot program, they will be adding to the budget deficit. Ms. Ossiander stated that she must have the belief that the District is going to get some value out of the pilot and the way it is written, she does not see it. She does not need to know how the assessment is going to be done, but needs assurance that an evaluation will be place to give the Board guidance when the program is revamped in the future. She wants something concrete, and is comfortable with the benchmarks or achievement tests.



Ms. Comeau commented that she wants to work with teachers, students, and staff to develop a strong significant course for students. She urged the Board to listen to the community tonight for all the reasons listed in the memorandum.

Lara Siegfried is currently a junior at Dimond High School. She sees the benefits and knowledge, but is against it being a required course. By making it a requirement, it will cut down on options for the selection of classes and could ultimately make the advanced placement classes a thing of the past. Teachers would be forced to teach something they don't want to teach. She would like to see the information broken up and put into existing classes. Miss Siegfried stated that this would solve the scheduling nightmare and would not force the students to take a class they didn't want to take.

Debbie Ossiander asked Miss Siegfried how many electives she has in her schedule. Miss Siegfried replied that language takes up one space and band fills the other.

Rachel Fuller sees a lot of benefit in this proposal by increasing sensitively among students and giving students a sense of pride. She fears that world languages and KCC would not be available due to the requirement of Alaska Studies. Miss Fuller would like to see Alaska Studies placed in the eighth grade. High school students should have an opportunity to choose what courses they are interested in taking.

Jennifer Arnold, 2001-2002 AFN Student Representative, set up a meeting with students to voice their concerns over this matter and how it would impact their educational program. She feels that it should not be a requirement, but a choice, and would be more effective in the eighth grade.

Shauna Sagmoen is a senior at Dimond High School. She feels this measure will pass, but does not think it has been considered very well. There was no student input. She grew up in rural Alaska, is of Aleut and Athabascan heritage, and was an active participant in Alaska studies. Miss Sagmoen stated that her experiences made her want to become an avid learner. She would like to see ASD continue the Rural Exchange program, and is concerned that there is no Native immersion program currently being offered.

Katy Isakson agrees that students should know more about Alaska, but feels it should be taught to younger students. The District should allow students to choose their own subjects that interest them.

Rita Holthouse asked the students what social studies classes they are taking. Shauna Sagmoen is taking AP government and Katy Isakson is taking criminal law and Spanish III. Mary Marks asked about languages and feels that Native people need languages within their own cultural.

Katie Miller is currently a senior and serves on the Student Advisory Board with Corey Rennell. She is upset that some classes would have to be eliminated because of Alaska Studies. Miss Miller would like to have Alaska Studies taught in the seventh and eighth grades. She supports leaving the courses alone at Dimond and feels many existing courses teach a part of Alaska studies.

Kaitlin Brown is a West High student and a participant in the Urban/Rural Exchange program. Before becoming involved with this program, she was not educated on Alaska. The program taught her a lot about Alaska and makes her proud to be an Alaskan. She would like to see the course required by the District, but is unsure where it should be placed.

Esther Perman is a junior at West High School and Vice President of the Student Advisory Board. She feels that it should be taught in high school. Students need to know about the resources of Alaska. Miss Perman urged the Board to approve this requirement.

Shannon Orley feels by requiring Alaska Studies that we are limiting the full richness of the social studies curriculum. She feels that the course should be taught at the elementary and middle level. Miss Orley also commented that the Board is limiting students' choices and preventing potential learning when the courses are not a full year.

Meridith McDaniel-Strow is a student at Dimond and has taken many classes throughout high school, which have included information on Alaska Studies. The District should not sacrifice other subjects by mandating Alaska Studies.

Samantha Long is a senior at Dimond High School and feels that schools and teachers are in place to inspire kids. Teachers are great teachers when they have a passion for teaching. Miss Long stated that classes will be limited if Alaska Studies becomes a required subject.

Loren Lehman supports the recommendation for adding Alaska Studies. From his perspective, Alaska has a rich cultural, intermixture of people, and has experienced big events that have caused Alaska to change. Senator Lehman expressed frustration over the vision that is shared outside Alaska when people don't understand our history as they should. This proposal will help us raise better citizens. Senator Lehman doesn't like mandates on school districts, but sees this as leading by example for other districts. He assured the Board that the legislation may still pass, but would like Anchorage to lead the state. Senator Lehman respects the students' concerns, but believes we can work it out.

Steve Haycox explained that he has taught Alaska History at UAA for 31 years and stated that many people lack the importance of the diversity of Alaska. He stated that there is a higher priority to develop social conscience. This course would add character to their life and where they live. Students come to him out of high school with little or no knowledge of Alaska History or who shaped Alaska. Embedding this information in other courses does not work; it needs to be a stand-alone course.

Karen Waggoner stated that it is not her intent to engage in a debate on the necessity of the placement of Alaska Studies, but to question where the course will be placed, which will certainly be an impact. One of her concerns is that any increase in graduation requirements would increase demands within her department. She is concerned about the impact on immersion programs, advanced placement classes, and the KCC issue. Ms. Waggoner went on to express her concerns over students who have been unsuccessful in passing the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination. She sees high school drop-out and transiency as additional problems. Ms. Waggoner feels that the more specific we become as a District makes it more difficult for the student. She urged the Board to consider the ramifications of making this a required course.

Rick Mystrom believes that it is important for children to be connected to families, schools, and communities. Alaska Studies should be a requirement in schools and will help bridge the urban/rural gap. Bridge Builders will also speak about the connection that is really needed in Anchorage since it is so diverse. Mr. Mystrom believes that the more you understand Alaska, the more connected you are to Alaska.

Rita Holthouse asked Mr. Mystrom if Commonwealth North was recommending the course be added as a graduation requirement. Mr. Mystrom responded yes, they recommended adding the course.

Debbie Ossiander asked Ms. Waggoner about the scheduling problem at King Career Center. Ms. Waggoner stated that it is difficult to meet the graduation requirements and still get to KCC. By putting in an elective course requirement, unless there is a waiver, the logistics become a concern. When you add a required class, you bump out an elective. The classes at KCC will undoubtedly become smaller in order for students to complete their required classes.

Debbie Ossiander suggested that Alaska Studies be added as a required course to the eighth grade or put into the ninth or tenth grade integrated history. Ms. Waggoner responded that adding any information to existing curriculum requires a revision of that curriculum.

John Kuman, member of Common Wealth North Rural Unity Study, commented that most Alaska people are not informed about their state's history. He is concerned how future decisions can be made when people don't know about their past. Mr. Kuman stated that the committee members determined high school is the appropriate level for students to take Alaska Studies so it can be taught at a high level of sophistication. The subject is of added relevance to high school students as they reach voting age. He further commented that the ASD proposal parallels the state bill. Mr. Kuman urged the Board to pass this recommendation and feels that we will be able to find teachers just like Karen Waggoner, who will teach Alaska Studies with a passion.

Sharon Lind stated that the original enrollees of the Aleut Corporation have spread out throughout Alaska. Anchorage is now the largest village, which will only continue to grow. An Alaska Studies course may be the only thing outside the student's home to connect them to their Native culture. Ms. Lind further explained that there are many people within the Native community who are willing to help the District develop this new course. She feels everyone from all backgrounds will benefit from this new course.

Talakai Finau is the proud father of five sons, one which wrote a letter in support of Alaska Studies. Mr. Finau stated that there is a spirit in Alaska that is wonderful, and he wants his sons to become part of the community, run for office, vote, and be proud to be an American. Minority students need to start learning the history of the United States and Alaska. We need to understand how unique Alaska is and appreciate the diversity of our state. Mr. Finau further stated that our weakness is

that a few people try to do it all. He is supportive of this course and feels that people of all races must work together.

Paul Ongtooguk is a senior research associate at UAA, graduated from Nome High School in 1975, attended the University of Washington, and was a social studies teacher. He stated that you can't buy a textbook to teach Alaska Studies, but they have a web site for materials to help the District design the curriculum. Mr. Ongtooguk feels this will be a wonderful experience for high school students. Many other states require students to learn about their state. He is supportive of this recommendation.

Harriet Drummond stated that she heard Paul Ongtooguk speak at the Alaska Native Summit and was very impressed. His web site is: [www.alaskool.com](http://www.alaskool.com)

Panu Lucier is an Alaskan Native and was born and raised in Anchorage. She is the director of the Rural Exchange Program. Ms. Lucier is here to support the passage of the Alaska Studies. She urged the Board to consider the ramifications of not passing the course, not the ramifications of passing it. Knowledge is power and the opposite is ignorance and is the breeding ground for fear and prejudice. Ms. Lucier suggested that her program could be expanded for teachers to allow teacher exchanges, camps, and be a resource for students as well as staff. It makes sense to teach students about their history if we expect them to be our future leaders.

Father Michael Oleksa is a teacher of Alaska History. He is speaking on behalf of the proposal and stated that the required course is essential if we are going to develop a unified community. Many Alaskans have just arrived and don't know the history of our state. It is hard to be a responsible and active citizen unless you know the history. Father Oleksa feels that this information must be learned in public school. We must prepare our students for living side by side in a very diverse state.

Rita Holthouse stated that she is 100 percent in support of this recommendation.

Harriet Drummond noticed that a third session has been added to the King Career Center. She asked if the Administration would explain how it works and would it help the kids get in all the requirements we are imposing. Mike Henry stated that they will run a third session as a pilot

program, but is very expensive. He expects that it will open the doors for students to get in all their electives that are needed.

Harriet Drummond asked if KCC could be opened in the summer. Carol Comeau stated that she is always interested in a third session or summer use.

Tim Steele stated that it is time for Alaska Studies. He totally agrees that you need to understand your past before you can go forward. Mr. Steele is concerned about the duplication weaved throughout other courses. He asked the Administration if they have thought about how this problem will be addressed.

Carol Comeau commented that the Administration will review the existing social studies requirements and determine if something needs to be deleted or revised. She further commented that we must recognize that there are some things that are redundant, but are at the surface level. Students are now learning a smattering of things, but nothing in depth.

Debbie Ossiander believes that we must have time to do it right so it doesn't hurt kids. To get into a top college, you need to take four years of math, english, science, and social studies. Ms. Ossiander hopes there is time to talk about this when the course comes back for approval.

Debbie Ossiander suggested that we hear from Mary Bristol and what her thoughts are on which grade level this course should be offered.

Mary Bristol stated that this has been well discussed and things will iron out. There will be difficulties if we implement and difficulties if we don't. Time is needed to do it right. Ms. Bristol believes that this will be a vibrant exciting class.

Debbie Ossiander asked if during the process of working through this course, will the social studies requirements be revamped. Carol Comeau will need to explore this and the AP issue and bring it back to the Board.

Rita Holthouse asked if the high school and curriculum principals have discussed this. Mike Henry responded yes, they met and discussed this new course.

Tim Steele asked if it would give a student greater flexibility to not include the bottom part of the recommendation. Carol Comeau responded that the Administration originally looked at taking it from

math, P.E. and other areas and each was discussed thoroughly. Ms. Comeau stated that Corey Rennell explained it eloquently as to why this course should stay within the social studies area. She stated that is why the recommendation was written this way and feels it is the right way to approach the course.

Jake Metcalfe commented that his family has lived in Alaska a very long time and described how important it is to be connected. He was brought up to celebrate our history and chose to stay in Alaska to live. Mr. Metcalfe further commented that it is time to start celebrating our culture and diversity within our state.

Harriet Drummond asked if freshman or sophomores could take Alaska Studies early. Carol Comeau commented that each case would be looked at individually, but the course is designed for juniors and seniors.

Dave Werdal has the same concerns that Ms. Ossiander has for the advanced placement classes. His daughter has foreign language and band. Mr. Werdal feels that we are not looking carefully at how this course will be implemented.

Corey Rennell stated that the Student Advisory Board voted unanimously to support this recommendation. No students are enthusiastic about additional courses, but the SAB supports it only if it is taken out of social studies. Mr. Rennell has full faith in the Administration to work out the problem with AP classes. He is concerned about KCC, UAA classes for high school students, gifted mentorships, transiency, etc. Mr. Rennell does not want to see new students burdened with additional requirements. He supports the Alaska curriculum, but is worried we won't have enough time to develop the course if we start next year.

Mary Marks stated that she is in support of this memorandum. She urged the Board to make the right decision. Resources are available within the Native community to help with the curriculum development.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

**MOTION PASSED**

Carol Comeau thanked the community for their support, and announced that she will return to the Board with a recommendation for final approval for Alaska Studies by the end of April.

Peggy Robinson announced a five minute break at 11:00 p.m.

ASD Memorandum #136 - 2002 General Obligation Bond Recommendation

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve a Bond proposal package totaling \$96,345,000, comprised of Proposition 1- Major Maintenance, Equipment and Code-Related Projects for \$44,720,000, and Proposition 2- School Renovations/Additions/Replacement for \$51,625,000. These propositions are summarized below:

**Proposition 1 - Major Maintenance, Equipment and Code-Related Projects**

**Districtwide Major Maintenance**

Asbestos/ADA/Code Issues	\$1,615,00
Minor Building renewal Projects	\$7,260,000
Electrical Projects	\$3,285,000
Maintenance Equipment	\$1,650,000
Mechanical Upgrades	\$15,795,000
Roof Replacement and Repairs	\$1,860,000
Traffic Safety Upgrades	<u>\$675,000</u>
Districtwide Major Maintenance Subtotal	\$32,140,000

**Code Related Projects**

King Career Center Code Renovation	\$7,300,000
Districtwide Sprinkler Upgrades	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
Code Related Projects Subtotal	\$9,300,000

**Other Major Maintenance Projects**

Public Sewer Service for Birchwood Elementary	
Chugiak High School	\$2,200,000
Public Water Connection - Girdwood School	<u>\$250,000</u>
Other major Maintenance Projects Subtotal	\$2,450,000

**Student Transportation**

10 Replacement Buses	<u>\$830,000</u>
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<b>Proposition 1 Total</b>	<b>\$44,720,000</b>
<b>Proposition 2 – School Renovation/Additions/Replacement</b>	
<b>Bartlett high School</b>	
Phase 2 Design Funding	\$1,900,000
<b>Chugiak High School</b>	
Deferred Phase 3 Design and Construction Funding	\$4,300,000
<b>Dimond High School</b>	
Demolition Funding (Construction)	\$3,000,000
<b>East High School</b>	
Deferred Phase 1 Design and Construction Funding	\$1,500,000
Phase 2 and Sprinklers Design and Construction Funding	\$4,200,000
Phase 3 Design Funding	\$1,200,000
<b>Polaris K-12 School</b>	
Design Funding	\$700,000
<b>Service High School</b>	
Deferred Phase 1 Design and Construction Funding	\$1,350,000
Phase 2A Design/Construction Funding	\$17,000,000
<b>Wendler Middle School</b>	
Phase 2 Construction Funding – Match For EED Grant Funding	\$9,800,000
<b>Ptarmigan Elementary School</b>	
Design and Construction Funding	\$6,400,000
<b>Planning</b>	
Whaley School Assessment, Clark Middle School Planning, Birchwood ABC and Willow Crest Traffic Safety	\$275,000
<b>Proposition 2 Total</b>	<b>\$51,625,000</b>

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #136.  
 seconded by Harriet Drummond

Discussion centered on when to vote on Memorandum #136; extend the meeting tonight or make the decision on Thursday, December 13 prior to the School Board/Planning & Zoning Public Hearing. The Board

determined that the final voting would be completed on Thursday, December 13, 2001.

Carol Comeau briefly stated that the Administration and the Board had a good discussion at the previous Work Session. She stated that the New Eagle River High School is not included on the bond recommendation for 2002 because the Administration believes that it needs to be fully designed first so we have accurate estimates to request construction funds in 2003. The school will still be on schedule even though it is not being recommended for bonding this year.

Patti Paiz, PTA President at Ptarmigan, explained that the kindergarten students walk to Ptarmigan and then are bused to Chester Valley for classes. These students experience a loss of Title I services and lose the ability to stay at Ptarmigan with their siblings. Ptarmigan was included in the bond package last year and it failed. She does not want it placed on another bond package that may fail again.

Jimmie Daniels expressed a concern over not being able to house the Ptarmigan area students in his school. Currently, 70 kindergarten students are bused to Chester Valley for classes. He is unable to provide Title I services to these students. There is no space for more portables on-site. Mr. Daniels informed the Board that there are 100 new housing units being built in the Ptarmigan attendance area.

Rita Holthouse asked what the capacity of Ptarmigan would be if the kindergarten students were not moved to Chester Valley. It was reported that the building capacity would have been at 165 percent

John Steiner, President of Eagle River Valley Community Council, stated that the overcrowding situation at Chugiak High School has been long suffering by the Chugiak/Eagle River residents. At the previous work session, Debbie Ossiander suggested a bond for the new Eagle River High School if a 50 percent match by the legislature could be acquired. Mr. Steiner commented that Eagle River is feeling ignored by not being included in the bonds. He is concerned there will be a backlash from voters to not support the bond proposition for the much needed relief for Chugiak High School. Mr. Steiner supports Ms. Ossiander's suggestion of a bond for the new Eagle River High School with a 50 percent match from the legislature.

Crystal Kennedy asked the Board to consider a third bond for construction funds for the new Eagle River High School with the

condition of a 50 percent reimbursement from the state legislature. Ms. Kennedy commented that the Eagle River community is concerned about how to educate these students until the new school is built. She urged the Board to present a package to the community that shows we are working together, and to present a bond package to the Assembly that they won't change.

Mike Graham thanked the Board for including East High School in the bond proposal. He is excited about the current renovation and is happy with the progress with the phases.

Kitte' Miller is a parent at Polaris K-12 and a member of the Capital Requests Advisory Committee. She complimented the Facilities staff and Mr. George Vakalis on the committee's process that has been used. Ms. Miller is concerned that the bond package in 2003 will be very large, but is excited about moving forward.

Debbie Ossinder stated that Chugach Optional parents told her there was some confusion over the planning effort. Kitte' Miller confirmed that she toured the school and spoke with the principal and a parent, and did detect some discomfort.

Jim Stanley stated that he wants Chugach Optional included in the April 2002 bond package. He feels that a remodel is needed. Chugach Optional was the first optional program implemented in 1972, and the student scores are among the best in the District. He is worried about the delay. On December 5, a meeting was held at Chugach, and a resolution was passed unanimously to request inclusion on the April 2002 bond proposal.

Tina Thompson is committed to being involved in working on this school. Since they have moved to full-day kindergarten this year, there is only room for one class. Ms. Thompson feels that the school is losing momentum by not having the second kindergarten class. There is no special education resource room and art is taught off of a cart.

Catherine Call stated that Chugach Optional is a wonderful program. The switch to full-day kindergarten is a necessity, but is forcing them to ask for additional funds for another classroom as well as upgrades. This is a very committed community with a special program. They do not want to lose the momentum of the program.

Charles Wolforth is a product of Chugach Optional. He explained that it was a wonderful, successful experience, and he felt well prepared by the academics from the alternative schools. Mr. Wolforth stated that his community will campaign for the bonds if Chugach is added to the bond package.

Debbie Ossiander asked if there was room for a relocatable on the Chugach Optional site. Carol Comeau stated that it is a three acre site and does not have room for a relocatable. There is the need for more than one classroom, but the kindergarten room is critical.

Mr. Vakalis reported that between \$450,000 and \$500,000 is needed now to include design through construction documents for Chugach Optional.

The School Board meeting was recessed at 11:50 p.m. and will reconvene on Thursday, December 13, 2001 at 5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD  
CONTINUATION OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2001**

The Anchorage School Board reconvened on Monday, December 13, 2001 at 5:45 p.m. in the Board Room at the Anchorage School District Administration Building to continue the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2001. President Peggy Robinson presided.

Board Members Present: Debbie Ossiander, Rita Holthouse, Peggy Robinson, Harriet Drummond, Jake Metcalfe, and Dave Werdal who participated via teleconference. Tim Steele arrived at 5:55 p.m.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, George Vakalis, Pat McDowell, Janet Stokesbary, Marie Laule, Mike Henry, Jerry Sjolander, Patricia McRae, Gail Opalinski, Duane Moran, Dale Cope, Lee Wilson, Mark Pasier, Debbie Bogart, Bob Henry, Stan Syta, Ed Conyers, Ray Amsden, Mike Price, Mike Kerosky, Corey Rennell, Mary Marks, Mary Kay Sambo, the press, and interested people.

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

President Peggy Robinson stated that public testimony was completed on Monday, December 10, 2001 on ASD Memorandum #136 – 2002 general Obligation Bond Recommendations. This is the last item on the Consent

Agenda and three items remain to be discussed under the Superintendent's Report.

President Robinson confirmed that the Planning & Zoning Commission would hold a work session at 6:30 p.m. and a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. If the School Board is not finished with their pending business, they will reconvene after the Planning & Zoning Public Hearing on the site selection for Muldoon Middle School.

Carol Comeau briefly outlined the Administration's bond proposal. Ms. Comeau stated that she appreciates the School Board allowing the Administration to proceed with the planning and design for the new Eagle River High School. Negotiations will begin in January using the Dimond High School design.

Debbie Ossiander expressed concern over the size of next year's bond since a number of projects have already been designed. Ray Amsden commented that there are a number of high ticket items that could go before the voters next year, which may amount to \$154,545 million dollars

Harriet Drummond inquired if there was design money available for the new Muldoon Middle School. Mr. Amsden stated that there is a total of \$3 million dollars available for design of the new Muldoon Middle School.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Dave Werdal

to add an additional bond to be presented to the Assembly, to be sold only if 50 percent state match monies are available. This bond would include: Service Phase 2B - \$13.3 million dollars; East Phase 3 - \$11 million dollars; and Eagle River Area High School - \$49 million dollars For a total of \$70,230,000, with only half the cost \$35,115,000 going to local tax payers.

On the original amendment put forward by Debbie Ossiander, Service Phase 2B was listed as \$10,230,000. Ray Amsden stated that figure should be \$13.3 million dollars. Debbie Ossiander concurred with the change.

Debbie Ossiander reminded the Board that a \$154 million bond package is too high to achieve based on past history. This amendment, with 50 percent reimbursement, is less of a burden to tax payers. She believes that the new Eagle River High School will be presented to the voters by the Assembly. Ms. Ossiander asked the Board for consideration and a favorable vote because this is a high priority for Eagle River.

Harriet Drummond is concerned over demographics, which show that the elementary population in Eagle River is declining. She feels it is far more reasonable to proceed with the design and watch the demographics over the next year. Ms. Drummond cannot support this amendment.

Carol Comeau commented that she is not sure that the Capital Requests Advisory Committee will bring forward the whole bond package—it is pure speculation. The Muldoon Middle School may not be ready to bid for another year. Ms. Comeau has had some discussion with the Assembly and is not convinced that the Assembly will add projects to the bond package that will be submitted by the District. Ms. Comeau informed the Board that she is committed to the new Eagle River School, but based on demographics and no design, it will be hard to sell to the voters. She also doesn't personally feel that the Service and East High projects should be tied together.

Tim Steele asked if there was design money for Service Phase 2B. Ray Amsden responded no. The project is a mirror image from 2A, but since it is a new design, a lot has been learned. Mr. Steele feels that the new high school is needed in Eagle River, but feels other issues need to be addressed first. He stated that it is important to go through the process with design and is concerned that it doesn't end up like Denali and Dimond where the estimates were short. Mr. Steele feels we are better off not going forward this year with the new high school in Eagle River.

Rita Holthouse reminded the Board that by not going forward for the construction money on this bond for the new high school, it will not delay the opening of the Eagle River High School in 2006. Demographics remain a concern with Ms. Holthouse. She suggests voting this amendment down and go ahead with the planning money for design. This will give the Administration time to review the demographics in the Eagle River area.

Dave Werdal is bothered by the Service and East projects and is concerned that Phase 2B could pass and Phase 2A fails. He does not like the addition of East and Service.

Carol Comeau reminded the Board that the new demographer is now on duty and will be working with the Municipality. Enrollment in K-3 is down across the District. This continues to be a challenge because the community expects us to use the current space we have now.

Jake Metcalfe stated that he is voting against the amendment. He believes we are going to need the school, but doesn't think we can convince the public to approve it at this time. Mr. Metcalfe suggested that we go with the current recommendation, which gives us another year to make a better case for the new high school in Eagle River. This school failed on last year's bond, and if it loses on this year's bond, we can't go back to the voters for a third time. It becomes a credibility issue.

Peggy Robinson talked about the survey and Ivan Moore is suggesting two bond propositions. She has had conversations with Assembly members who have expressed regret about the change they made last year. Ms. Robinson believes the Assembly members are more prone to taking the School Board recommendation this year.

VOTE:

Ayes: Ossiander

Nays: Steele, Holthouse, Robinson,  
Drummond, Metcalfe, Werdal

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION FAILS

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Harriet Drummond                   to add \$500,000 for design  
seconded by Jake Metcalfe                   through construction documents  
for Chugach Optional School to  
Proposition 2.

Ray Amsden stated that Facilities needs to complete the planning on Chugach Optional before asking for design funds. He doesn't know what the final cost estimate is yet and views this request as premature.

Carol Comeau stated that the Chugach site is extremely small and there are a number of questions yet to be answered on the design. She feels that we need to wait one year. There remains the question if they can have

school while construction is progressing. There has been no discussion on the relocation of students. The Administration has already been challenged with finding space for the Denali students. At this time,

Harriet Drummond is concerned over the program getting smaller due to full-day kindergarten. She wondered if they should go back to half-day kindergarten. Ms. Drummond asked if money could be found to cover the design costs.

Tim Steele asked when the design specs would be ready for Chugach Optional. George Vakalis stated that another year is needed to determine if the school will be remodeled or rebuilt. Mr. Steele asked the Administration to look for design money within the budget.

Harriet Drummond is concerned over spending almost a million dollars for Chugach when we are thinking of replacement. Carol Comeau responded that the Administration did not think about replacement and that is why we need to wait a year to decide if we are going to renovate or replace.

Rita Holthouse asked if it was possible to use the money in this amendment for a new project. Ray Amsden responded that the money in this amendment could be rolled into a new project. Ms. Holthouse is supportive of this amendment, and would like to see this group of parents work towards passage of the bond package.

Peggy Robinson commented that asking for design and construction money for this project next year is against the philosophy of the Administration and questioned why we are doing it this way. Carol Comeau responded that yes, it is different, but there has not been enough discussion on this project.

Peggy Robinson commented that when the money was put on the bonds for building Denali, no decision had been finalized as to where the kids would be attending school. Carol Comeau responded that there has been no discussion about a replacement school with the principal at Chugach. This would certainly be an option, but discussion needs to occur with the community.

Peggy Robinson asked Mr. Amsden if there is money to help the Administration work through the replacement versus renovation issue for Chugach. Mr. Amsden responded that he believes the money is available for him to hire staff to complete an evaluation.

The Board meeting was recessed at 6:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

Carol Comeau suggested that the amendment be modified to \$500,000 instead of \$450,000 for design through construction documents for Chugach Optional School. The Board voted unanimously to support this change.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION PASSES

Peggy Robinson thanked the School Board members for their input. Carol Comeau also thanked the Board and stated that the recent work session was productive and gave the Administration an idea of the Board's wishes.

Mr. Werdal signed off of the teleconference at 7:25 p.m.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. ASD Memorandum #135 – Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of November 19, through November 30, 2001.

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL - PHASE 1 & 2

Design Status: Design Phase 2 – The design fee negotiations with the designer are in progress, with the design to commence in January 2002.

Construction Status: Phase 1 - Construction is complete except for minor punch list items. The school is continuing to move into the business and photography classrooms.

#### CHUGIAK HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL - PHASE 1, 2 & 3

Design Status: Phase 2 and 3 - Gym/Cafeteria Modifications – The Design Development documents are currently being reviewed by the District.

Deferred Phase 3 – The design fee negotiations with the designer are scheduled to start in December 2001, with the design to commence in January 2002.

#### Construction Status:

House 2 – The exterior wall plastering started, framing, mechanical and electrical rough-in is continuing. Due to the pre-existing structural and fire code issues that have been uncovered, the project completion date was extended to March 14, 2002.

House 3 – Construction is continuing in this area, with flooring installation, walls being sheet-rocked and painted, and plumbing, electrical lights and ceilings being roughed in. An issue on code acceptability of ceiling materials may extend the completion date. The current completion date is December 14, 2001.

#### DENALI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

Design Status: The construction document design is in progress. With full funding now in place, the bid schedule is being assessed to determine if it can be advanced to an earlier date.

#### DIMOND HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT

Design Status: The 95 percent Construction Document Design of Phase 2 of the project (demolition of the existing school and completion of site work) is in progress, with completion of the documents scheduled for March 2002. The projected project deficit remains at \$3 million.

Construction Status: The construction continues on schedule. The structural steel is 85 percent installed, with the remainder of steel

on site and ready for installation. Fire proofing, exterior wall sheathing, exterior veneer, mechanical and electrical rough-in is continuing and interior wall framing and sheetrock has started.

EAGLE RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Design Status: The Professional Services Selection for the design will be presented for approval to the School Board at the December 10, 2001 School Board meeting. Upon approval, the designer selection will be submitted to the Assembly for their approval on December 18, 2001. After final approval of the Assembly, the design work should begin in the first quarter 2002.

EAST HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL – PHASE 1, 2 & 3

Design Status: Phase 2 & 3 – The design fee negotiations are in progress, with the design to commence in December 2001 for Phase 2, and in January 2002 for Phase 3.

Construction Status: *Phase 1 - Construction efforts are underway. The concrete and structural steel work is progressing, with shear walls and track being formed and poured; framing, mechanical and electrical rough-in has started on science rooms. The major concrete work is scheduled to be complete by the end of December 2001.*

SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL 1 & 2A

PHASE 1A – Exterior Sitework

Construction Status: *Sitework is complete with only minor punch list items remaining.*

PHASE 1B – Remodel Building H (Science Wing)

Design Status: The contract award was approved by the School Board on November 26, 2001.

Construction Status: Construction of Phase 1B will begin in the spring of 2002.

PHASE 2A – Design Status - The design fee negotiations with the designer are in progress, with the design to commence in December 2001.

SOUTH ANCHORAGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Design Status: The 95 percent Construction Documents have been reviewed by the District. Additional time will be required to complete the construction documents. The project is now scheduled to be issued for bids on January 14, 2002. The construction estimate is \$334,000 above the budgeted construction costs of \$49,200,000; cost reductions and bid packaging efforts are in progress. An appeal of the September 24, 2001 Planning and Zoning action has been filed by the residents along Leyden Drive concerning the pedestrian access to the school from Leyden Drive. P&Z has not completed its record of the meeting on September 24, 2001. Once this is completed and served on the appellant, the District has 30 days to file its brief.

WENDLER RENEWAL - PHASE 1

Sitework Status: Project is complete with the exception of minor punch list items that will need to be completed next summer.

Building Renovation Design Status: The review of the A/E design development submittal is in progress. With other project priorities, this will be completed by January 2002, with no impact on the start of construction. At completion of this phase the construction cost estimate will be finalized.

2. ASD Memorandum #140 First Quarter Parent/Teacher Conference Report

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

For many years, elementary schools have had release time opportunities twice per school year to allow 15 to 20 minute individual parent/teacher or parent/student/teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarters. More recently, the middle schools and high schools began the practice of providing opportunities at the end of the same grading periods for parents to

pick-up their student's report cards and confer briefly with teachers.

These efforts have generally been well-supported by parents and teachers, as can be seen in the information provided by each division. Where there has been a decrease in participation at a school, the appropriate Instructional Division supervisor works with principals, their staffs and PTA or parent group to increase involvement. Through work with the Public Affairs staff, the web site, and our School/Business partners, the District will continue attempts to increase employer awareness of the importance of these opportunities in the hope that parents can be released from work to attend. At any time of the school year, parents are welcome to request a parent/teacher conference to discuss their child's progress at any time of the school year.

After our conference schedule and calendar were established last year, the former commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development notified the District that we must have a minimum five hour school day for middle and high school students.

Staff worked to mitigate the impact of this change, which shortened the time available for parent conferences since there was no budget to extend the teachers' contract day. There appeared to be no way to fit the elementary conferences into the allotted time so an exception to the minimum school day ruling for the Elementary Division was requested by the superintendent and, happily, they were permitted to follow their usual, successful schedule. Middle and high schools attempted this quarter to compress their parent/teacher conferences into four hours, as opposed to the six and one-half hours previously allocated. Students were dismissed one-half hour early during the days of conference week and Friday was a half-day schedule. Parent and staff reactions to this abbreviated conference schedule are reflected within the division reports.

Carol Comeau stated that the change in conference schedules for middle and high school did not work out very well this year. Ms. Comeau requested concurrence from the Board to write a letter to Commissioner Holloway requesting a waiver to return to the prior practice of conferences for middle and high school students.

Peggy Robinson asked if the Administration knew how other large districts handle parent-teacher conferences. Carol Comeau stated that the Administration will check this out and return to the Board with this information.

3. ASD Memorandum #141 – First Quarter Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report – 2001-2002

Information regarding suspensions and expulsions for various offenses, including weapons, is collected from the elementary, middle, and high schools each quarter. The information is shown in the narrative information below and as Attachments A-F.

Overall suspensions increased at the elementary level when comparing incidents from the first quarter of the 2000-2001 school year. Elementary schools showed increases in fighting/assault, willful disobedience and drug/alcohol/tobacco use. Suspensions in harassment/sexual harassment remained the same (three for the first quarter this year and last year). Suspensions in middle schools have decreased slightly from last year in the areas of fighting/assault and drug/alcohol/tobacco, but increased in the areas of harassment and willful disobedience. In total, middle school suspensions were down. Suspensions at the high school level increased in the areas of harassment, weapons, drug/alcohol, and willful disobedience, but decreased in firearms, fighting/threats, assault, and smoking.

First Quarter Expulsion

Fourteen students, including three middle school students and 11 high school students were expelled by the School Board during the first quarter of the 2001-2002 school year; no elementary students were expelled. This compares to 15 students expelled during the first quarter of 2000-2001. Of the middle school expulsions, one was for second offense drug/alcohol, one for a firearm incident off campus, and one for weapons/threats. All 11 high school expulsions were second offense drug/alcohol.

Discipline Reports

The elementary, middle, and high school discipline summaries follow: elementary first quarter by school and category (Attachment A & B); middle school first quarter by school and category (Attachment C & D); and high school first quarter by school and category (Attachment E & F).

Pat McDowell gave a brief overview of the elementary, middle and high school suspensions/expulsions.

Rita Holthouse had a question on causality for an assault on a staff member at a middle school. Gail Opalinski responded that the student was re-evaluated and placed in an alternative setting.

Rita Holthouse asked if there is a time limit for students to stay at alternative sites. Jerry Sjolander responded that the IEP team must meet within 45 days and determine what is to be put in place or suggest another alternative setting.

Peggy Robinson reviewed the changes from year to year and noticed the figures for both high school and middle school harassment have increased. Her assumption is that it is because of the new policy. Carol Comeau commented that an inservice was held for students to review the new policy so student's are more aware of the changes.

Carol Comeau spoke with one of the students who testified this past summer in support of the new policy and asked how things were going this year. He told Ms. Comeau that things were much better and he is more comfortable this school year. He also thanked the School Board for their support.

Peggy Robinson asked the Administration why we are seeing a decrease in smoking and tobacco use. Gail Opalinski stated that there are more counselors in schools, more programs such as Volunteers of America in the schools, as well as the health curriculum has been enhanced. Mike Henry is unsure why the increase in drug/alcohol use. It could be because of an increased number of high school students. Peggy Robinson stated that nationally, they are finding more substance abuse and alcohol use since the September 11 terrorist attack.

Tim Steele expressed his surprise over four elementary drug/alcohol suspensions.

Rita Holthouse commented that the Policy Subcommittee is looking at the policy for expelling students for the second drug/alcohol offense. Ms. Holthouse asked Ms. Comeau to provide information to the subcommittee on this topic.

Harriet Drummond asked what kind of offenses were included in the other category. Mike Henry responded that students who are accessories or refuse the option of in-house suspension are placed in this category.

Carol Comeau suggested that most students learn from their first suspension, and encouraged the Board to keep in mind that we have almost 50,000 students in our schools.

J. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

K. COMMUNICATIONS & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Carol Comeau reminded the School Board about the employee holiday luncheon in the Board room on December 18 at 12 noon. She encouraged the Board members to attend and visit with employees.

Peggy Robinson reminded the Board members to give their holiday schedules to Mary Kay Sambo in the Superintendent's Office.

The next official meeting of the School Board is scheduled for January 7, 2002 for student hearings and executive session.

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

M. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of December 10, 2001 was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:45 p.m. on December 13, 2001.

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Peggy Robinson, President

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Harriet Drummond, Clerk

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Date Minutes Approved