

**MINUTES OF THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 1, 2002**

The Anchorage School Board met in Special Session on Monday, April 1, 2002, at 6:40 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Anchorage School District Administration Building. This meeting is referred to as a Special Meeting instead of the Regular Meeting. The School Board Regular Meetings are scheduled on the second and fourth Monday and since this month the meetings are scheduled on the first, third and fifth Monday, they are considered Special Meetings. The schedule was adjusted due to the fact that School Board members would be out of state attending the National School Board Conference during the regularly scheduled meetings. President Peggy Robinson presided.

A. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, FLAG SALUTE

Board Members Present: Peggy Robinson, Jake Metcalfe, Rita Holthouse, Harriet Drummond, Debbie Ossiander, and Dave Werdal and Tim Steele via teleconference.

Others Present: Carol Comeau, Janet Stokesbary, Pat McDowell, Gail Opalinski, Jeff Wood, Michelle Egan, Stan Syta, Ray Amsden, Bob Henry, Julie Ginder, Ophelia Dargan-Steed, Steve Kalmes, Robin Siegfried, the press, and other interested people.

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

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Robinson announced the upcoming meetings and events.

Debbie Ossiander stated that as part of the National School Board meeting, she would serve on a focus group for IDEA reauthorization for special education funds as well as on the statewide school designator committee.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved with revision to minutes of the Work Session of March 4, 2002.

D. AWARDS/ RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS**1. ASD Memorandum #223 - Recognition of ASD Milken Educator Award Recipient**

Last fall Rhonda Gardner, a reading and language arts teacher at Chugiak High School, was awarded the 2001 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award.

This award, sponsored by the Milken Family Foundation, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, strives to elevate the education profession by increasing public recognition and support of outstanding educators. Along with this prestigious honor, Gardner received a financial award of \$25,000 from the Milken Family Foundation of Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Ed McLain, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Education, presented the award to Rhonda Gardner. Peggy Robinson presented Rhonda with an obelisk. Carol Comeau commented on Rhonda's talent accomplishments and stated that her students are very fortunate to be in her classroom. Debbie Ossiander also commented on Ms. Gardner's teaching accomplishments.

2. ASD Memorandum #221 - Lifesaver Award: Robbin Robinson

In October of this school year, Williwaw Elementary School, Noon-Duty TA, Ms. Robbin Robinson, observed a student choking in the lunchroom and grasping the throat giving the universal sign for choking. The student was unable to breathe and was turning blue. Ms. Robinson saw the student choking and, using first-aid skills she learned during a recent Red Cross Course, performed the Heimlich Maneuver. Ms. Robinson's quick action and life saving expertise dislodged the obstruction in the student's airway and restored normal breathing. Her response to this situation and ability in performing the Heimlich Maneuver may have saved the student's life.

Mike Klawitter, Director of Risk Management presented Robbin Robinson with a certificate and thanked her for her lifesaving efforts.

3. ASD Memorandum #226 - Denali Award Recipients

To Alaskans, Denali means "great one," and the Anchorage School District is proud to have employees that display greatness in the areas of achievement, service and dedication. Twice each year, a committee of Anchorage School District employees selects several co-workers and one team of colleagues that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to our mission of educating students for success in life.

Michelle Egan read the awards that were presented to the recipients of the Denali Award.

E. SPECIAL ADVISORY REPORTS

1. Student Advisory

There was no report tonight.

2. Military Delegate

There was no report tonight.

3. M.E.C.C.

Victoria Parham reported that the M.E.C.C. finalized their brochure. The M.E.C.C. is interested in having a work session with the School Board to go over some recent incidences including an incident at one of the middle schools.

F. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Doug Jones spoke to the Board regarding policies for boundary changes and stated his feelings that there should be a limit to the amount of times there are boundary changes in the same area. Encouraged adopting a policy to limit amount of times a child can be moved because of boundary changes.

Carol Comeau stated that this year the growth in the Ocean View development appeared very quickly. Ms. Comeau assured the speaker that it was never the intent to consider moving those students again. The CIP recommends that the District do a boundary study next year. Ms. Comeau stated that there is a need to look at all south Anchorage

schools. Ms. Comeau is recommending that no boundary changes occur for another year until after the study.

Speaker, Sidnie Seaward, spoke to the Board regarding the teacher transfer system. Ms. Seaward shared her concern that there are teachers who have asked for transfers for several years and haven't received them. The speaker feels the teachers should be moved if they have requested the transfer for several years.

Debbie Ossiander stated that in some states, some kind of additional incentive pay occurs for teachers in high stressful positions and asked the speaker if she thought that would be a partial solution. Ms. Seaward stated that she thought it would be helpful, but when they know they should move they should have that option.

Carol Comeau stated that the Administration works very closely with the Association. The principals try to accommodate transfer requests. However, many times there are a lot of teachers limiting their request to the same schools. The Administration believes very strongly that principals should have the ability to select those on their staff. It is their responsibility to know the needs of their school and students and to put together a team at their school that works. One of the challenges is that there are interview committees in the negotiated agreement with varying degrees of success. It is very difficult when the principals are trying to form a staff at the beginning year. Teachers need to be open to a transfer to any school in the District and not limit their options to a small number of schools. Ms. Comeau encouraged the speaker to bring this up with Mr. Roses.

Robert Hayes spoke to the Board about safety in the schools. Peggy Robinson stated that Mr. Hayes' claims have been investigated and the investigation did not bring anything forward. No further comment would be made due to the current lawsuit.

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. Work Session - March 4, 2002 - 5:00 p.m.
 - b. Special Meeting - March 5, 2002 - 6:00 p.m.
 - c. Special Meeting - March 11, 2002 - 4:30 p.m.
 - d. Regular Meeting - March 11, 2002 - 6:30 p.m.

2. ASD Memorandum #233 - Revision to Policy 176 Public Participation And 176.1 Public Testimony (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the proposed changes to School Board Policies 176, Public Participation, and 176.1, Public Testimony, as shown on Attachment A.

3. ASD Memorandum #234 - Revision to Policy 343.41 Graduation Requirements (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the proposed changes to School Board Policy 343.41, Graduation Requirements, as shown on Attachment A.

4. ASD Memorandum #230 - Boundary Changes for Alpenglow, Eagle River Homestead, and Ravenwood Elementary Schools (First Reading)

It is the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the following attendance boundary for the 2002-2003 school year for Alpenglow, Eagle River, Homestead, and Ravenwood Elementary Schools as shown on Attachment A.

5. ASD Memorandum #231 - Recommendation for Reduction of Overcrowding at Chugiak High School

It is recommended that the current overcrowding condition at Chugiak High School be temporarily remedied by the continued use of the fifteen relocatable classrooms currently placed on the Chugiak High School campus for the 2002-2003 school year. It is further recommended that this issue be reviewed annually thereafter until a new high school is built in the Eagle River area.

6. ASD Memorandum #197 - Budget Revision Between Food Service Fund and Debt Service Fund for Fiscal Year 2001-2002

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve an increase of \$470,000 to the Food Service Fund and a decrease of \$470,000 to the Debt Service Fund. Since the overall budget revision will not exceed the approved upper limit of the budget, no approval from the Anchorage Assembly is required. The total revised budget for FY 2001-2002 will remain at the \$448,655,706 that includes the following individual funds:

General Fund	\$355,920,728
Food Service Fund	11,453,000
Debt Service Fund	47,281,978
Local/State/Federal Projects Fund	<u>34,000,000</u>
 Total All Funds	 <u>\$448,655,706</u>

7. ASD Memorandum #232 - Personnel Report

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

The following memoranda were removed from the agenda: ASD Memoranda #233, #234, #230, and #231.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander
seconded by Rita Holthouse

to approve: the Minutes of the Work Session of March 4, 2002 (5:00p.m.) as revised; Special Meeting of March 5, 2002 (6:00 p.m.); Special Meeting of March 11, 2002 (4:30 p.m.); Regular Meeting of March 11, 2002 (6:30 p.m.); 2002 ; ASD Memorandum #197 and Memorandum # 232.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #233 - Revision to Policy 176 Public Participation And 176.1 Public Testimony (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the proposed changes to School Board Policies 176,

Public Participation, and 176.1, Public Testimony, as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Rita Holthouse to approve ASD Memorandum #233
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that this policy change came about after a complaint to the Municipal Ethics Commission. It was fully reviewed with two Board members, Ms. Comeau and the complainant. After that meeting, the Policy Sub Committee met and made the recommended changes. The Administration also made changes to the administrative procedures that included adding a bulletin board that lists the agendas as well as the people who had called to testify. Information regarding how people can testify has been added to the ad in the newspaper. Rita Holthouse thanked Robert Hayes and they felt his suggestions had merit. Very few changes will show up in policy. Most are changes in procedures.

Speaker Robert Hayes thanked the Board and everyone that worked on the policy change. It is a great start to making it easier for people to speak to the Board and he hoped people would do better at sticking to School District issues and not other topics.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #234 - Revision to Policy 343.41 Graduation Requirements (First Reading)

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading, the proposed changes to School Board Policy 343.41, Graduation Requirements, as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve ASD Memorandum #234
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau stated that on December 10th, 2001, the Board approved adding the one semester course in Alaska Studies beginning with the Class of 2006. This revision brings the Policy into compliance with the Board-approved course change. In addition, the effective date for the requirement to pass all three sections of the High School Graduation

Qualifying Exam was changed from 2002 to 2004. The proposed change brings the Policy into compliance with that change in the statute.

The Administration will be continuing to develop the Alaska Studies course over the next few months and addressing the number of issues that were raised over public testimony in December.

Rita Holthouse commented that the Committee kept its work to the Policy and did not move into the administrative area of looking at some other ways that people might meet this credit.

Debbie Ossiander stated that it is her belief that it is impossible for a student to get into a top university without taking extra credits in classes beyond what Anchorage offers by going to college credits or correspondence schools. Ms. Ossiander expressed that there is a need to be more flexible in the graduation requirements. Ms. Ossiander encouraged the Board to look again at the graduation requirements. Ms. Ossiander stated she would be supportive of eliminating Lifetime Personal Fitness as a required P.E. class; allowing World Language to count for either Social Studies or English credit; and allowing testing out of some of the required current core classes if the student can show that he/she is able to do that. In order to work favorably with a broad ability spectrum and needs of the students, the District needs to be flexible.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

ASD Memorandum #230 - Boundary Changes for Alpenglow,
Eagle River Homestead, and Ravenwood Elementary Schools
(First Reading)

It is the Superintendent's recommendation that the School Board approve on First Reading the following attendance boundary for the 2002-2003 school year for Alpenglow, Eagle River, Homestead, and Ravenwood Elementary Schools as shown on Attachment A.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve ASD Memorandum #230
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau called the Board's attention to Page 5 and the sentence that should read: "At Alpenglow this year there are 52 zone exceptions in according to the January 30, 2002 zone exception report." Ms. Comeau thanked all of the people who have spent the last two and a half years working on this issue. Ms. Comeau stated that we have to acknowledge that the population at Alpenglow must be reduced. It is overcrowded and continues to grow. Ravenwood, Homestead and Eagle River Elementary Schools have room for that growth. Ms. Comeau feels that the community of Eagle River has outstanding schools. Most of the staff work and live there so there is a huge investment of the community. It is critical to remember that if parents are supportive of their children's schools their children will be successful in their school.

Carol Comeau made a revision to the scenario brought forward by the task force, and feels very comfortable with the recommendation made. Ms. Comeau stated she believes that the east/west boundary does better to preserve safety because we can keep most of the students walking to school. By looking at where the houses are and where Alpenglow is located, Ms. Comeau made the recommendation not to move Park West because most of the children can walk to school as well as the students from Eagle Crossing. The boundary allows the vast majority of students at Alpenglow to walk. Ms. Comeau recognized that the Eaglewood subdivision group went to Ravenwood before Alpenglow was open, and the recommendation is that they be moved again after this many years. Highland Rd and Eagle Point has a significant amount of growth coming in those areas. Homestead Elementary School can accommodate those students. Eagle River Elementary would have received the students from Park View Terrace, however with her recommendation, they will not receive additional students due to some potential growth in that area. Ms. Comeau again thanked everyone who put so much time and effort into this issue.

Julie Ginder, Larry Huff, Principal of Alpenglow, and Ophelia Dargan-Steed presented the scenarios to the Board and other interested people. Julie Ginder explained the capacity of the different schools with the suggested boundary changes.

Public Testimony:

Debbie Gioffre, spoke to the Board and stated her concern over going through another boundary change, with the first being seven years ago. Ms. Gioffre stated her concern over approved zone exemptions for Eagle Crossing students when their families were told by the contractor building their homes that they were in the Alpenglow Elementary area

when they were actually in Ravenwood Elementary area. Ms. Gioffre urged the Board to approve Susan Harvey's proposal.

Ken Kutney stated he would not have a problem with his child going to any Eagle River school because he felt they are all good. He stated his support for Carol Comeau's suggestion and also the school bonds.

Carol Comeau clarified that with her revised recommendation there are not as many students being moved from Alpenglow as the original one and believes her recommendation is the best one.

Peggy Robinson asked Debbie Gioffre if it would be preferable that the people from Highland go to Eagle River Elementary since that was the school they went to before Alpenglow was opened. Ms. Gioffre stated that it would still be a change.

Peggy Robinson asked Ken Kutney if there was a sidewalk going along Eagle River Loop Rd on Park View Terrace west side. Mr. Kutney stated that there is not a sidewalk there.

Kerry Drake, father of three children at Alpenglow lives in West Park View Terrace. Mr. Drake is concerned about some of the safety issues of his students walking to Homestead Elementary. They would be walking the same time as middle schools students, and would also walk by Alliance Park where the route is not safe.

Jennifer Beard lives on West Park View Terrace. Beard has children at Birchwood now due to overcrowding at Alpenglow as well as other reasons. The speaker is happy with the Superintendent's recommendation however she is concerned with the dangerous route to Homestead. Ms. Beard does not understand why Eagle River Crossing can't be moved to Ravenwood since they are a new subdivision. Ms. Beard does not support zone exemptions into Alpenglow.

Peggy Robinson asked Mr. Drake if busing was provided to Homestead would he feel different about the recommendation. Mr. Drake stated that the cost involved is additional and unnecessary. Additionally, even though there is a bus that has few students on it now, as the development grows, it will become crowded.

Ted Beard spoke to the Board and agreed with the Superintendent's recommendation.

Melinda Schuck supports Carol Comeau's recommendation and thanked the task force.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she in the past has proposed that when large housing developments are approved that there should be a site proposed for ASD to build a school. Ms. Ossiander asked the speakers if they would be supportive of that proposal and the speakers stated that they would be supportive.

Stephen Thorpe has been a Highland resident for 22 years with a daughter at Alpenglow. Mr. Thorpe recommended that the Board take a look at the least impact proposal and believes the recommendation does not take into consideration the majority of the students at Highland.

Jeff Patterson commented to the Board that everyone needs to get past the emotions and look at what is best for the largest group. Mr. Patterson asked the Board to approve the Superintendent's recommendation.

Aaron Zulliger thanked everyone involved in the process and felt everyone put a lot of thought and concern in this. Mr. Zulliger asked the Board to reconsider some of the parts of the least impacted solution. The speaker commended Carol Comeau for solving some of the difficulties in the other recommendation. Mr. Zulliger stated concern regarding the School Board policy on zone exemptions. The speaker thinks the policy is not being practiced.

Susan Udevitz, parent of a third grader at Homestead takes exception to part of Carol Comeau's recommendation as far as rebounding the square area east of Crestview Lane to make it a part of Ravenwood. The speaker feels it does nothing to alleviate the overcrowding at Alpenglow. There are twelve undeveloped lots in the area and the speaker does not feel Homestead should be giving up any of its boundary area. Ms. Udevitz stated that she does not support the Superintendent's recommendation to rebounding the eight Homestead students to Ravenwood.

Harriet Drummond requested information regarding a sidewalk near Homestead. It was determined that the sidewalk did not go up to the school but the students were able to walk to Homestead along several roads in the neighborhood.

Board recessed at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

In order for two student speakers to speak to the Board regarding Memorandum #230 which addresses overcrowding at Chugiak High School, and out of concern for student performance, the students were allowed to address the Board at this time instead of later in the meeting.

Christina Roper, student at Mirror Lake asked that the Board to keep the status quo for next year. The numbers are not grave enough to pose an immediate problem. Ms. Roper proposed devoting a year to solve the future.

Paul Eldred, student at Mirror Lake stated that the majority of the students wanted to go to Chugiak High School and keep the status quo. The majority of the 8th graders would like to go to Chugiak rather than stay at Mirror Lake as 9th graders.

Ms. Robinson thanked the students for attending the meeting.

The discussion for Memorandum #230 continued.

Carol Comeau stated that she appreciated the work of the task force and the parents who have contacted the Administration and Board Members and assured that every single comment and contact was read.

Debbie Ossiander asked Steve Kalmes and Ed Scherer to speak as to why the recommendation was to change the Crestview Lane and Homestead 8. Steve Kalmes stated that part of the reason is the geography in the area. Crestview is a hilly road and there's a concern about the people who live east of Crestview crossing it to go to Homestead. Debbie Ossiander asked how many students are sixth graders. Mr. Scherer stated that one student is a sixth grader.

Debbie Ossiander questioned the statement in the memorandum regarding the study of a new school in the Eklutna area. Carol Comeau commented that nothing has been decided and clarified the statement made in the memo. Ray Amsden approached the Board and stated that he had a conversation with the city and they have not developed the Eagle River comp plan. Debbie Ossiander stated that there was recent work done in terms of traffic analysis. Maybe the data from that could be used to help delineate the area for the new school site. Ms. Ossiander stated she intends to bring this issue up at a later date.

Rita Holthouse asked Larry Huff about the zone exemptions at Alpenglow. Mr. Huff stated that the Board had directed 31 of the 52 zone exemptions at Alpenglow. Carol Comeau noted that we approve zone

exemptions by grade, not by school. CC spoke to Board policy regarding allowing zone exemptions to continue each year and also mentioned hardships and daycare needs. Mr. Huff commented that Alpenglow continues to enroll new students in the area. No new zone exemptions are being approved.

Peggy Robinson asked Ophelia Dargan-Steed to present information regarding housing developments in the near future. In the Powder Ridge area the total build-out will be 100 homes in the next few years which could bring potentially a total of 41 students to Fire Lake. In the Denali subdivision in downtown Eagle River, 27 homes are being built for 2002 with a total build-out of 58 homes for a potential of 29 additional students. Fire Eagle subdivision will have 130 homes being built there with a potential of 53 students to impact Ravenwood. Eagle Point, with 100 additional homes being built has a potential of 41 additional students to impact Alpenglow at the current boundary. Eagle Crossing will have a total build-out of 250 - 400 with a potential of 164 students to impact the Alpenglow or Ravenwood boundary areas.

Debbie Ossiander asked Steve Kalmes to talk about the history on that road linking Eagle Crossing with Ravenwood. Steve Kalmes stated that it had significant grades and he does not believe students should be walking through what is actually a utility easement with no lights or homes in sight. It is not a safe walking situation for students at this time until a roadway is built.

Tim Steele thanked Debbie Ossiander for taking him around the area sometime ago and commented that he appreciates what the Superintendent has done to the proposal. One concern he has is future growth and if we have enough slack in Ravenwood for continued growth in the next few years. Carol Comeau stated that for the near future Ravenwood could handle the growth.

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Rita Holthouse	that the eight students from
seconded by Peggy Robinson	Homestead 8 be grandfathered, if
	they so choose, to remain at
	Homestead through Grade 6.

Rita Holthouse stated that the student's siblings would be moved to Ravenwood Elementary. This amendment is just to keep the eight students there.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she will support the motion and recommended that the other Board members drive out there to see the area. Harriet Drummond stated that moving the four block area into the Homestead boundary area would bring the school to 92.5% of capacity (it is scheduled to get smaller in future years) and bring Ravenwood to 89% with perhaps grandfathering students at Ravenwood until they are gone. Moving students just to move them between two schools when it doesn't make any difference to their population does not make sense. Ms. Drummond proposed changing the boundary back to where it is now and recommended voting down the amendment.

Peggy Robinson mentioned the prior history of this area with hazardous busing. Steve Kalmes approached the Board regarding the issue. ASD provided hazardous transportation for students who lived east of Crestview because of the intersection at Crestview and Citation. Crestview at one time was hazardous on the east side going to Homestead Elementary.

Carol Comeau gave her opinion on the options and stated that it is important to consider the students and since it's a small amount of students it will not make that much difference if they stay at Homestead. Tim Steele asked Carol Comeau what the logic of moving the students would be, and should the students be in Ravenwood or Homestead geographically. Steve Kalmes stated that the decision had to do with the slope and grade of the road in the area. Crestview was a better dividing line for the students to walk to the west to Homestead and the east to the bus stops going to Ravenwood. Jake Metcalfe stated that it seems more logical to keep the Homestead boundary the way it is. Peggy Robinson reminded Mr. Metcalfe of the safety concern of students walking to Homestead since they lost their hazardous busing.

VOTE:

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

Nays: Werdal

AMENDMENT TO MAIN MOTION PASSED

AMENDMENT:

Moved by Harriet Drummond
seconded by Jake Metcalfe

that we alter the Homestead boundary to the east to include to Hillcrest Lane and from Eagle River Road to Citation. (This would bring Homestead to 92.5% from the proposed 90% and Ravenwood Elementary to 89%.)

Harriet Drummond spoke to her motion. Ms. Drummond and Ms. Holthouse drove the area and felt it is a reasonable walk.

Debbie Ossiander stated that she would not support the amendment and feels it is a significant and hazardous walk.

VOTE:

Ayes: Holthouse, Drummond, Metcalfe

Nays: Werdal, Ossiander, Steele, Robinson

AMENDMENT TO MAIN MOTION FAILED

Debbie Ossiander reminded the audience that the final vote is not tonight. The second reading of the memorandum would be at the next School Board meeting and testimony will also be given at the next meeting.

Harriet Drummond commented that the only way to avoid a boundary change is to move where there are no empty lots. Ms. Drummond urges the City Planning Department to take a more proactive stance. We will always have to try to balance the number of students in a school. When an area is growing you always have to change the boundaries. We need to urge the municipality to identify a school site before we run into this problem in a new subdivision again.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED

ASD Memorandum #231 - Recommendation for Reduction of
Overcrowding at Chugiak High School

It is recommended that the current overcrowding condition at Chugiak High School be temporarily remedied by the continued use of the fifteen

relocatable classrooms currently placed on the Chugiak High School campus for the 2002-2003 school year. It is further recommended that this issue be reviewed annually thereafter until a new high school is built in the Eagle River area.

ACTION:

Moved by Debbie Ossiander to approve Memorandum #231
seconded by Harriet Drummond

Carol Comeau thanked everyone who worked on this issue. It is very important that we look at the pros and cons and what is the best for the students. The preference of the community is to pursue getting a new high school and it has been listed on the recommendation for construction of the new high school to be put on the ballot next year. Progress is being made on the current construction at Chugiak High School. Ms. Comeau is very impressed with the parents, staff and students at Chugiak High School who have done an extraordinary job under the difficult conditions with the continuing construction. They continue to have an exceptional curriculum program, the students are doing well in sports and in extracurricular activities, and there is huge parental support for the students and staff. Everyone is committed to working hard to keep the students successful. There was clear support for moving the students on from Mirror Lake. Ms. Comeau reminded everyone that there is a need to review this annually until there is a new school.

Speakers:

Laura Wrenn spoke to the Board and agreed with the Superintendent's recommendation.

Regina Sather is a counselor at Mirror Lake Middle School and she spoke to the Board regarding 9th grade students and the needs for stability and for building rapport with students. It takes place in the hallways, basketball court and by being visible during the day. The speaker appreciated Carol Comeau's idea of maintaining the status quo.

Brian Fay, a teacher at Mirror Lake and parent of students attending Chugiak High School encouraged the Board to accept Carol Comeau's recommendation.

Rhonda Gardner spoke to the Board regarding her support of the Superintendent's recommendation.

Rita Holthouse asked Rhonda Gardner to explain how the house program will decrease traffic in the hall and overcrowding. Rhonda explained that the lockers and a minimum of two classes will be in each student's "house."

Deb Schultz supported Carol Comeau's recommendation and urged the Board to support it.

Holly Hobby, parent and teacher spoke to the Board regarding the need to keep the 9th grade students together in the high school. The speaker supported the Superintendent's recommendation.

Caroline Schultz, student at Chugiak High School spoke to the Board regarding the overcrowding at Chugiak. Ms. Schultz feels overcrowding at Chugiak is not an issue. It is a slight inconvenience but not worth disrupting over 2000 students.

Robert Hayes accredited the Board for making the decisions they need to make. Mr. Hayes commended Harriet Drummond and Rita Holthouse and continued to speak on the overcrowding issue.

Rita Holthouse asked Caroline Schultz if the school has improved since the other hall was opened. The speaker stated that it's getting better and the students have learned to adjust.

Robert Hayes asked why the relocatables were not connected modules to the school. Carol Comeau explained that the District has 133 relocatables and to add to them would be a prohibited expense. Peggy Robinson asked Ms. Comeau if the fire marshal maintains there needs to be a space between the relocatables and building. Ms. Comeau confirmed that that is correct.

Crystal Kennedy spoke to the Board regarding the Chugiak High School. If the recommendation is to make no change she is looking forward to the Board supporting the new Eagle River high school next year. Ms. Kennedy felt there is some stress involved when a 9th grade student goes from a school that is not crowded to an overcrowded school.

Harriet Drummond stated that there was a mention of an alternative program and asked Ms. Kennedy if there is a cry from Eagle River for one. It will not come from the Board without a great deal of support from the Eagle River community.

Crystal Kennedy asked that the community would get information on what an alternative school would look like. Ms. Kennedy stated that it is hard to make a decision on it and felt there wasn't enough information to the community right now. There are people who would like to know what else is available. Peggy Robinson informed Ms. Kennedy that there is information in the School Board Policy on how to put an alternative program together. There needs to be a core group to work on that and to bring it forward and there are resources in the District to help with it. The cost can easily be figured out.

Debbie Ossiander stated that as parent of a student at Chugiak High School, she feels the overcrowding is a significant impact on the students. There have been parking complaints for years. There are too many students in the halls and cafeteria and the noise level is too loud. Ms. Ossiander feels the problems have not been eliminated but just lessened.

Rita Holthouse commented that she saw hundreds of happy students walking in the halls today at Chugiak High School. There was a positive feel to the school when she visited it today. The students don't see the problems the way the adults do.

Tim Steele agreed with Debbie Ossiander on the overcrowding but feels students are adaptable. Mr. Steele applauded the Superintendent for her proposal. Mr. Steele agreed that the core group should look at an alternative program. This decision is a good one and Mr. Steele will support it.

Jake Metcalfe stated that he felt it is a good proposal and he likes the idea of a technical or alternative school. The community needs to propose it to the Board. Mr. Metcalfe urged the community to get the facts and educate the Board and the people of Anchorage to show that the new Eagle River high school is needed.

VOTE:

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

Nays: None

MOTION PASSED

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ASD Memorandum #229 - Project Status Report

This is a report of activities and project status changes in Major Capital Projects during the period of March 11, through March 22, 2002.

Harriet Drummond noted that according to the Facilities manual, the Chugiak site has 106 acres and wondered why it had a parking problem. Ms. Drummond suggested the Administration provide the site map and double check the acreage.

ASD Memorandum #228 - End-Of Month Membership Summary for February 2002

The end-of-month membership report for February 2002 is attached (Attachment A). The total active enrollment at the end of February was 49,353. This enrollment represents an increase of 148 students compared to the end of February 2001. Table 1 compares the membership totals.

Peggy Robinson expressed her concern on the way the last sentence on the second paragraph was worded regarding the renovation at Polaris and is concerned that it is misleading. Carol Comeau assured her that it can be reworded to say the major renovation and addition plan is to accommodate the enrollment for the future.

Peggy Robinson asked if the Administration was aware of the housing units planned as stated in the Scenic Park Community Council newsletter. Ray Amsden stated that the Administration hasn't been informed of that yet and he encouraged the Board and Assembly to work more positively to develop sites. Peggy Robinson is concerned that the Planning Department hasn't gotten any information to the Facilities Department. Carol Comeau stated that the Administration would be asking the Planning Department for better information sooner. Ms. Robinson suggested that the Facilities Department should ask the Community Councils for copies of their newsletters. Debbie Ossiander suggested that the Facilities Department should talk to Sue Fison regarding communication of housing developments going in.

Rita Holthouse and Debbie Ossiander commented on the logic of the list of schools that are at 120% capacity. They stated that they would prefer more immediate administration analysis on which schools need action because of the DEED capacity numbers now. Carol Comeau commented that this is a good task of the Capital Request Advisory Committee. Peggy Robinson suggested having a list of 110% to 120%.

ASD Memorandum #224 - Operating Budget Transfers - February Monthly Report FY 2001-2202

The attached report of budget transfers for the time period of February 2002 that were processed in the Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS) includes the following:

Attachment A: Report of Budget Transfers Over \$5,000—
Report for individual transfers of more than \$5,000, which includes summarized justifications.

In order to conserve paper, the schedule of monthly budget transfers processed for the month of February 2002 normally attached to this Board Memorandum is available for interested parties in the Budget Department.

ASD Memorandum #225 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: February 28, 2002

The attached report consists of two parts: the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap. The Treasurer's Report and the Financial Recap are presented on a monthly basis with year-to-date information as of February 28, 2002.

I. PERSONS TO BE HEARD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

J. COMMUNICATION & SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS

Peggy Robinson commented that she was in Portland and the school districts there are having budget problems and cutting their school year.

Harriet Drummond and Rita Holthouse complimented the Facilities Department for the Chugiak High School construction.

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

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of April 1, 2002, was adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:02 April 1, 2002.

Peggy Robinson, President

Harriet Drummond, Clerk

Date Minutes Approved