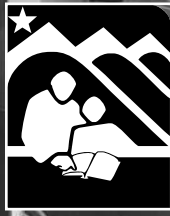




Monthly Update



Anchorage School District

This month at the Anchorage School District

- **Monday, February 21 is President's Day.** Students do not attend classes and administrative offices are closed.
- **Spring lottery** takes place Friday, March 18. Applications need to be at the school of choice by the end of the school day Thursday, March 17.
- **Get connected...** contact Parent Networks, 279-3966



Announcements

Mental Health Issues: The Hidden Challenges

February 5, 2005

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Wendler Middle School

Presented by the STeP Center's Parent/Teacher Institute, this program will cover topics such as defusing anger and aggression, suicide prevention, educating children with brain injuries, Asperger's Syndrome and hidden neurological challenges, among others.

School year calendars being developed

ASD is developing school-year calendars for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 and needs community and employee input. Two possible calendars are being considered. The first option continues the current practice of starting the school year the day after Labor Day in September and finishes the school year in June. The second option would move the start of school to mid-August and the end of school would be in late May, before Memorial Day. Both options have pros and cons, and have complex impacts on family and community life. ASD welcomes your thoughts on these proposed calendars. The two calendar options, an opinion survey, and a comment form are available at the ASD Web site, www.asdk12.org.

February is Black History Month

This month students and staff will have many opportunities to learn about Black History Month. For a summary of local activities, events and Channel 14 special programming, log on to www.asdk12.org.

Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, February 16

Elizabeth Peratrovich Day provides an opportunity to remind the public of the invaluable contribution of this Native Alaskan leader who was an advocate for Native citizens and their rights. For a summary of local activities, events and Channel 14 special programming, log on to www.asdk12.org.



Point of Pride



Scott Green

This month's Point of Pride is Mears Middle School 8th grade student Scott Green. Scott recently participated in the WordMasters Challenge, a national language arts competition for students in grades 3-8 which encourages growth in vocabulary and verbal reasoning. Over 225,000 students participate annually. He competed in the difficult Blue Division of the Challenge, and earned a perfect score. Scott was one of only nine eighth grade students in the entire country to earn a perfect score and was coached in preparation for the Challenge by Mears language arts teacher Stacy Stimson.

The WordMasters Challenge is an exercise in critical thinking which first encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words, and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the Challenge analogies helps Scott and other students to think both analytically and metaphorically. The Challenge has been administered the past 18 years and is dedicated to inspire high achievement in American schools.

Congratulations to Scott on his award winning performance!

A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent



Each month the calendar seems to be full of special recognition days, February is no exception. Recognition means the acknowledgement of something as valid, or entitled to consideration, and in the coming weeks we have the opportunity to pay tribute to several groups and individuals who are definitely worthy of recognition.

First, I'd like to take a minute to sincerely thank each of our seven Anchorage School Board members. As citizen leaders, our school board members face complex and demanding challenges every day. This group of individuals represents a cohesive team that is dedicated to fostering high expectations for student learning and rewarding results commensurate with the district's goals. Thank you for your countless hours helping to ensure quality education for all of our students.

While we celebrate the diversity of our district and our community year-round, the entire month of February is reserved for Black History month. In schools throughout the nation and our district, students will be learning about the significant history, teachings and achievements of African Americans.

Then, on February 16, the State of Alaska honors Elizabeth Peratrovich, the native Alaskan leader who was an advocate for Native citizens and their rights. This is an ideal time for our schools to celebrate Peratrovich's strength of character and her battle against injustice, prejudice and discrimination that dramatically impacted our state.

I want to acknowledge National School Counseling Week, February 7-11. The significant impact of our district counselors can't be overstated. Their tireless efforts to help students achieve academic success and plan for a career have a tremendous impact on many lives. They certainly deserve our thanks!

For a period of time now you've heard discussions about our 2005-2006 financial plan. The process of getting to a balanced budget is long and arduous. I submitted my recommendations to the board last month and after review and deliberation the board voted unanimously February 2 to approve my recommendations. I thank everyone who provided input and feedback during the budget development process. The Anchorage Assembly will consider our FY 2005-2006 budget on March 29, 2005.

And finally, I want to remind voters that we will **not** propose any school bonds for the April municipal ballot. Last fall I pledged to you, the taxpayers, that if our bonds passed on the November 2 special election ballot, we would not seek additional bonds this spring. Thanks again to everyone for supporting our bonds – our students will definitely benefit.

Carol Comeau

Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 2/4/05

SPECIAL MEETING — AGENDA February 7, 2005 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320

Call To Order, Roll Call
Tim Steele, Presiding
School Board Comments

Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)
1. Student Hearings
Superintendent's Update

Driven Budget Process
Adjournment

1. Presentation by Council of Great City Schools - Curriculum

SPECIAL MEETING — AGENDA February 7, 2005 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute,
Tim Steele, Presiding

Announcements

Approval Of Agenda

Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

1. Memo 195 - WordMasters Challenge Award Winner
2. Memo 200 - David Wilkinson's Selection To The United States Senate Youth Program

Special Advisory Reports

1. Student Advisory Board
2. Military Delegate
3. M.E.C.C.

Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items

(30-minute time limit)

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Special Meeting - January 10, 2005 4:30 p.m.
 - b. Regular Meeting - January 10, 2005 6:30 p.m.
2. Memo 173 - Resolution In Support Of Kroc Foundation

- Grant And Subsequent Sale Of Three (3) Acres Of ASD Land
3. M 172 February 16, 2005
4. M The Alaska Public School Funding Formula Revised
5. Memo 160 - Revision Of School Board Policy Section 333: Charter Schools (Second Reading) Revised
6. Memo 199 - Approval of School Board Out-Of-State Travel 2004-2005
7. Memo 192 - Summer School Enrichment Proposal 2005 Revised
8. Memo 201 - Arab World Studies Notebook
9. Memo 193 - Acceptance Of Grant Awards: Best Buy TE@CH Grants
10. Memo 167 - Professional Services Selection: Electrical Upgrade Design At Eight Secondary Schools
11. Memo 171 - Approval Of Budget For Consolidation Of Support Staff To 5530 East Northern Lights Blvd.
12. Memo 170 - Sale Of Surplus Property

13. Memo 169 - Award Of Contract: East High School - Full Stage Acoustical Shell
 14. Memo 168 - Award Of Contract: Term Contract For Special Inspection Services
 15. Memo 174 - Personnel Report
- Superintendent's Report
1. Memo 175 - Conflict Of Interest - Second Quarter Report FY 2004-2005
 2. Memo 176 - Project Status Report
- Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items
Communications & School Board Comments
Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)
Adjournment

Persons wishing to be heard may call 742-4315 or sign up prior to the meeting being called to order.

*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Feb. 9 at 5 p.m., Feb. 10 at 12:30 p.m., Feb. 12 at 12:30 p.m. and Feb. 13 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. The agenda is available in Braille by calling 742-4153. The ASD telephone number is 742-4000. A message may be left after hours.

WORK SESSION — AGENDA February 10, 2005 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute

Tim Steele, Presiding

Announcements

Discussion

1. Obesity Issues

School Board Comments

Adjournment

SPECIAL MEETING — AGENDA February 28, 2005 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320

Call To Order, Roll Call

Tim Steele, Presiding

School Board Comments

Discussion

1. Student Hearings

Superintendent's Update

Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING — AGENDA February 28, 2005 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute,

Tim Steele, Presiding

Musical Presentation

1. Scenic Park Elementary Choir

Announcements

Approval Of Agenda

Special Advisory Reports

1. Student Advisory Board
2. Military Delegate
3. M.E.C.C.

Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items

(30-minute time limit)

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Special Meeting - January 24, 2005 4:30 p.m.
 - b. Regular Meeting - January 24, 2005 6:30 p.m.
 - c. Special Meeting - January 27, 2005 5:00 p.m.
 - d. Special Meeting - February 2, 2005 5:00 p.m.
2. Memo 179 - Award Of Contract: Hanshew Middle School Fire & Security Replacement
3. Memo 194 - Award Of Contract: Point Of Sale Software
4. Memo 197 - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Cook Inlet Regional Incorporated
5. Memo 98 - Prior Approval: Indian Education Continuation Grant Application For 2005-2006
6. Memo 191 - Personnel Report

Superintendent's Report

1. Memo 185 - Operating Budget Transfers January Monthly Report FY 2004-2005

Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items

Communications & School Board Comments

Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)

Adjournment

Persons wishing to be heard may call 742-4315 or sign up prior to the meeting being called to order.

*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast March 2 at 5 p.m., March 3 at 12:30 p.m., March 5 at 12:30 p.m. and March 6 at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. The agenda is available in Braille by calling 742-4153. The ASD telephone number is 742-4000. A message may be left after hours.

For more information

Anchorage School Board

Tim Steele, President, 277-7663, steele_tim@asdk12.org

Jeff Friedman, 742-6699, friedman_jeff@asdk12.org

Crystal Kennedy, 696-2624, kennedy_crystal@asdk12.org

Mary Marks, 258-0592, marks_mary@asdk12.org

Jake Metcalfe, 274-3446, metcalfe_jake@asdk12.org

Macon Roberts, 742-5350, roberts_macon@asdk12.org

John Steiner, 696-2629, steiner_john@asdk12.org

Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, comeau_carol@asdk12.org

MECC: The mission of the Minority Education Concerns Committee (MECC) is to serve as the voice for families in the Anchorage School District and to promote educational success for minority students. The MECC meets the third Thursday of every month at 12 noon at 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320.

4600 DeBarr Road, Anchorage, AK 99519-6614 • 742-4000 • www.asdk12.org • Tune in to cable channel 14