



Monthly Update



Anchorage School District



This month at the Anchorage School District

- **Eagle River High School** will hold a public forum open house Wednesday, March 9 from 7-9 p.m. at Gruening Middle School.
- **Spring Break** is March 21-25. Schools will be closed.
- **March 29 public hearing** for FY 2005-2006 budget goes before the Anchorage Assembly.
- **Friday, April 1** is a district in-service day, and the end of the third quarter. Students do not attend classes.

Announcements

Community forums on school year calendars

ASD is developing school-year calendars for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. Three public forums will be held to provide information and get input on the possible calendar change. A survey has also been mailed to parents asking for feedback about the proposed school calendar change. For more information go to www.asdk12.org/events/publicforum.

Tuesday, March 8
Gruening Middle School, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9
Dimond High, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 15
Wendler Middle School, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Spring lottery deadline

Spring lottery deadline is **Friday, March 18**. Applications need to be at the school of choice by the end of the school day (NOT business day, i.e. 5:00 p.m.) **Thursday, March 17, 2005**. Applications are available online, www.asdk12.org. Check with the school to which you are applying for possible additional forms.

Proposed changes to middle school boundaries

The district is considering the option of changing the attendance boundary for Fort Richardson middle school students from Central Middle School of Science to Gruening Middle School. A boundary task force has been appointed and will make a recommendation to Superintendent Carol Comeau for her review. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please send them to us via www.asdk12.org. Superintendent Comeau will present her recommendation to the Anchorage School Board on Monday, March 28.

Middle Level Education Month

Adolescence is a time when friends and activities saturate children's schedules. It's also a period where students have more rigorous assignments and participate in sports and other activities. Middle schools are designed to capitalize on the strengths of adolescence and address the unique challenges faced by this age group. March is National Middle Level Education Month. Take some time to learn more about the great things happening in our middle schools.

National Youth Art Month

In celebration of National Youth Art Month, the Art Department is sponsoring an art exhibit at sites throughout the community. The 32nd annual district-wide student art exhibition will take place March 19 through April 17. Student artwork will be on display at:

- Anchorage Museum of History and Art
- ASD Administration Building
- Elmendorf Air Force Base library
- Municipal libraries: Eagle River and Loussac
- Girdwood, U.S. Post Office.

A reception will be held at the Anchorage Museum Wednesday, March 30 at 6 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Music in Our Schools month

March is Music in Our Schools Month. Numerous performances will illustrate the benefits of the quality music education programs offered in Anchorage School District schools. An extensive list of festivals, honor group and variety concerts is provided on the district's Web site, www.asdk12.org/dept/music/.

Point of Pride



Tiffany Cash

This month's Point of Pride is Dimond High School sophomore Tiffany Cash. Tiffany recently organized an event at DHS to highlight Black History Month. Titled "Black History: Alaska Style!" The event consisted of an extensive display of photographs, books and other materials, poetry readings, music and choir performances, and guest speakers, all highlighting African-American history and culture in Alaska. Tiffany put this event together as part of her Family, Career and Community Leaders of America club at Dimond High. This student-led event illustrates

important Anchorage School District goals: *Establish and maintain a supportive and effective learning environment by challenging each student academically, maximizing opportunities for lifelong learning, and offering reinforcing extracurricular activities.*

A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent



On Thursday I attended the Thunderbird Synergy Review at the newly renovated East High Auditorium. This event marked the opening of a fantastic performing arts facility made possible by Anchorage voters and taxpayers. Experiencing the showcase of East High's photography, drama, dance, choir and band talent filled me with pride and gratitude. I am so proud of our students and staff and I'm extremely grateful to live in a community that values arts and education. Voters and taxpayers make it possible for us to renovate facilities so we can bring out the very best in our students. Thank you very much for your support!

You can check out the auditorium and the Thunderbird Synergy Review tonight at 7:00 p.m. at East High. There are many opportunities to visit our schools and experience student talent this month. During March, we celebrate both Music in our Schools Month and Youth Art Month. Schools throughout the Anchorage School District take this opportunity to showcase student artwork and performances, crafted throughout the year. The students look forward to displaying their design work, their voices, and their musicianship for all, but especially for their families to see and hear.

We are fortunate to have the support of the local community so that we can offer a broad education, rich in the arts. Sometimes arts or activities are the exact things that hook a student who might otherwise lose interest in school. The arts, perhaps more than any other subject, help students understand themselves and others, and are important to a quality educational experience and to forming good citizens. The arts are languages that most people speak, cutting through individual differences in culture, educational background, and ability. From music and dance to painting and sculpting, the arts allow us to explore new worlds and to view life from another perspective. They also encourage students to sharpen their skills and abilities and to nurture their imagination and intellect. Research points to the important role of the arts in improving students' achievement and preparing them for an economy that demands creative solutions to challenging problems. Arts in education can also increase students' engagement in learning as well as their social and civic development.

I strongly encourage you to experience first hand some of our student performances this month - including concerts, festivals, plays and the student art exhibit at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. You will be delighted with the talent of our students.

Thank you, again, for your continued support for an education system rich in academics, arts, and extracurricular activities. Together, I know we are making a difference for *all* students.

Sincerely,

Carol Comeau

Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 3/4/05

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA March 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. Litigation
2. Teamster Negotiations
3. AEA Negotiations

4. Student Hearings
Superintendent's Update
Adjournment

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

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

Musical Presentation
1. Goldenview String Honors Ensemble
Approval Of Agenda
Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

1. **Memo 203** - Wells Fargo Recognition
2. **Memo 234** - Logo Design Recognition
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 27, 2005 4:15 p.m.

2. **Memo 210** - School Board Policy Revision Section 725.131(j): Purchasing/Contracting - Exempt (First Reading)
3. **Memo 180** - Award Of Contract: Gladys Wood Elementary Fire Protection
4. **Memo 181** - Award Of Contract: Eagle River Elementary Roof, Structural And Sprinkler Upgrades
5. **Memo 194** - Award Of Contract: Point Of Sale Software
6. **Memo 189** - Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan Analysis And Recommendations: July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2011
7. **Memo 211** - Approval of Funding for Capital Projects Using Interest Earnings And Redirected Balances
8. **Memo 229** - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Department Of Education & Early Development Set For Life Grant
9. **Memo 188** - Personnel Report

Superintendent's Report
1. **Memo 190** - Status Report: Submission Of Discretionary Grants, Second Quarter 2004-2005 School Year
2. **Memo 184** - End-Of-Month Membership Summary For January 31, 2005
3. **Memo 186** - Facility Change Order Report And Completed Projects For The Month Of January 2005
4. **Memo 187** - Project Status Report
5. **Memo 183** - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: January 31, 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 9 at 5 p.m., March 10 at 12:30 p.m., March 12 at 12:30 p.m. and March 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.

Joint Anchorage Municipal Assembly/School Board Meeting March 18, 2005 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Anchorage School District Administration Building, Board Room

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA March 28, 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

2. HSGQE Waivers
Superintendent's Update
Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA* March 28, 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 238** - 2005 Alaska School Psychologist of the Year
2. **Memo 239** - Alaska VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Award
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 - February 7, 2005 4:30 p.m.
b. Special Meeting - February 7, 2005 6:30 p.m.
c. Special Meeting - February 28, 2005 4:30 p.m.
d. Regular Meeting - February 28, 2005 6:30 p.m.
2. **Memo 210** - School Board Policy Revision Section 725.131(j): Purchasing/Contracting - Exempt (Second Reading)
3. **Memo 212** - Gruening Middle School Boundaries (First Reading)

4. **Memo 213** - Controversial Issues Recommendation: House of Spirits
5. **Memo 196** - Award Of Contract: Service High School Renewal Project Phase 2B
6. **Memo 202** - Award Of Contract: Service High School Fume Hood Modification
7. **Memo 205** - Award Of Contract: Bayshore Site Improvements
8. **Memo 206** - Award Of Contract: Ursula Major Window Replacement
9. **Memo 207** - Award Of Contract: College Gate Elementary School Mechanical Upgrades
10. **Memo 178** - Award Of Contract: Emergency Preparedness Project Phase I
11. **Memo 214** - Award Of Contract: East High School And Chinoak Elementary Schools Hockey Rinks Installation
12. **Memo 215** - Award Of Contract: West High School Power And Data Upgrades
13. **Memo 216** - Award Of Contract: Bayshore Elementary School Lighting And Sprinkler Upgrades
14. **Memo 230** - Award Of Contract: Playground Surface Material
15. **Memo 231** - Award Of Contract: East High School Renewal Project Phase 4A
16. **Memo 232** - Award Of Contract: Muldoon Middle School Project

17. **Memo 228** - Renewal Of Contract: Independent Audit Of School District's Financial Records
18. **Memo 209** - Personnel Report
Superintendent's Report
1. **Memo 204** - Report Of Emergency Procurement: Fire Lake Boiler Replacement
2. **Memo 182** - Second Quarter Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report 2004-2005
3. **Memo 217** - Operating Budget Transfers - February Monthly Report FY 2004-2005
4. **Memo 218** - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: February 28, 2005
Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items
Communications & School Board Comments
Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)
Adjournment

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For more information

Anchorage School Board

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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