



# Monthly Update



## Anchorage School District



### This month at the Anchorage School District

- **April 5-7 are testing dates.**
- **Parent conferences** will be held the week of April 11. Contact your school for the schedule.
- **Tuesday, April 5, is Municipal election day.**
- **Friday, April 15, is a state released in-service day.** Students do not attend classes.
- **Get connected...** contact Parent Networks, 279-3966



### Announcements

#### Parent-teacher conference tips

Parent-teacher conferences present an excellent opportunity to find out how your student is doing at school and to get to know his/her teachers. It is a time when you can ask questions, express concerns, and seek programs that can be implemented to ensure success for your child. The conference also provides parents the chance to share information about a child that the teacher may be unaware of. By attending a parent-teacher conference, your student will see the importance you have placed on education and how valuable it is to obtain a good education.

The following are some hints on how to have a successful conference:

- Ask your child if there is anything that he/she would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- Jot down everything that you want to talk about at the conference.
- Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.
- Avoid lengthy discussions of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
- Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher.
- Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child.
- Do not stay beyond your allotted time.

#### Testing days are April 5 – 7

Students in grades 3-9 will take the Standards-Based Assessment (SBA). The SBA measures whether students are achieving academic standards in reading, writing and mathematics. The scores are also used to evaluate each of our schools in regard to what is called Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is just one of the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act that our nation's schools are operating under. Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 must pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE) to earn a diploma. The testing schedule for students is as follows:

April 5...Reading; April 6...Writing; April 7...Math

High schools will hold normally scheduled after-school activities, such as tutoring and sports practices, during the afternoons of the testing days.

**HSGQE Practice Test** – The Alaska State Department of Education & Early Development has a practice test available on their Web site for each subject: [www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/hsgqe.html](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/tls/assessment/hsgqe.html)

#### Test-taking tips

It is important for your student to do his or her best on tests; they provide important information for teachers. Here are some tips to help your student:

- Make sure they get plenty of rest the night before the test.
- Make sure they attend school on testing days and arrive on time. Avoid scheduling other appointments that day.
- Feed your student a good breakfast during testing days and be positive when he/she leaves for school.
- Encourage your student. Let him or her know they will do well on the exam. Remind them to relax and focus on the test.

Contact the school if you have any other questions about the exam or visit [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)

#### April 3-9 is Week of the Young Child

The Anchorage School District and other organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the Week of the Young Child, April 3-9, 2005. School Board members, district administrators, teachers and parents are urged to support high quality early childhood education for all young children. For more information go to [www.naeyc.org/about/woyc](http://www.naeyc.org/about/woyc).

#### Point of Pride



Dr. Mary DuHoux

Dr. Mary DuHoux, school psychologist, and employee of the Anchorage School District since 1989, has been named the 2005 Alaska School Psychologist of the Year by the Alaska School Psychologists Association.

Dr. DuHoux works at Bartlett High School and is co-advisor for their RARE-T (Reducing AIDS Risk Effectively in Teens) peer education group. Prior to joining the Bartlett staff, she worked at Dimond High School for 10½ years and has served a variety of elementary and middle schools.

Dr. DuHoux is well known throughout the district for her work in crisis intervention. She assisted the district's Psychology program develop its suicide intervention protocol and helps with suicide prevention in-services.

### A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent



Recently students and educators enjoyed a week off for Spring Break. They now find themselves preparing to start the fourth quarter. As spring approaches it is important that parents work with their children to help them keep up with schoolwork. During our longer days and warmer weather it's not uncommon to find students having a more difficult time focusing on school. To obtain information about how your student is doing I encourage you to attend parent-teacher conferences this month.

An important issue you've likely been hearing about lately is school safety. The Anchorage School District needs you to help us address personal safety issues. Student behavior in school is a reflection of our community. Behaviors are learned at home, in the streets and through the media and other channels of communication. As educators we must meet our obligation to protect and closely monitor students in our schools; I completely accept that responsibility. However, schools can not single-handedly eliminate inappropriate behavior. We need parents and other adults to model acceptable behavior to younger people and talk with children and teens about their expectations.

As parents you can help create and maintain safe schools. Please make sure that if your child feels uncomfortable, for any reason, during school hours, they can voice their feelings to a trusted individual such as the nurse, counselor, principal, teacher or other school official. Knowing they can turn to a number of caring adults is important to your child's sense of well-being. Please ask your child's teacher about his or her safety procedures and discuss these with your student to make certain he or she understands them.

Schools are places of learning. We must do everything we can to ensure that all students reach their full potential and become productive members of our society and nation. In doing so it's imperative that our schools be safe and secure. Safe schools don't just happen; they require aggressive efforts. Yes, school safety is our responsibility – but not ours alone.

As a district we continue to take steps to keep our students and staff safe and secure, and ensure our schools are orderly places conducive to learning. I welcome comments, concerns and suggestions so that we can continue to work in partnership to provide the best learning environment for children.

Sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*

### Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 4/1/05

#### Joint Anchorage School Board/MOA Planning & Zoning Commission Meetings April 7, 2005 5:30 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall, Room 830

1. Work Session: 5:30-6:30 p.m., Southwest Anchorage School Site Selection
2. Public Hearing: 6:30 p.m., Southwest Anchorage School Site Selection

#### SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA April 11, 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. Potential Litigation
2. Student Hearings (5:00 & 5:30 p.m.)

3. HSGQE Waivers  
**Superintendent's Update  
Adjournment**

#### REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA\* April 11, 2005 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

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

**Musical Presentation**

1. Goldenview Middle School Choir

**Announcements**

**Approval Of Agenda**

**Awards/Recognitions/Presentations**

1. **Memo 208** - Denali Award Winners – Winter 2005
2. **Memo 255** - 2004 Student Library Bookmark
3. **Memo 267** - Recognition for USKH Outstanding Design Award - Dimond High School

**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 213** - Reconsideration Of Voting Procedures For the Controversial Issues Recommendation: The House Of The Spirits (March 28, 2005 School Board Meeting)

3. **Memo 219** - Resolution In Support Of Administrative Professionals Day April 23, 2005
4. **Memo 240** - Prior Approval: Alaska State School For Deaf And Hard Of Hearing
5. **Memo 241** - Prior Approval: Title VI-B Individuals With Disabilities Education Entitlement And Preschool Disabled Incentive
6. **Memo 231** - Approval Of Pilot Course: Public Safety And Security
7. **Memo 265** - Acceptance Of Grant Award: Fred Meyer Stores
8. **Memo 138** - Acceptance of Grant Award: Department Of Education And Early Development/Teaching And Learning Support For Web-Based IEP System
9. **Memo 236** - Award Of Contract: Miscellaneous School Supplies
10. **Memo 235** - Award Of Contract: East Anchorage High School Renovation Project, Phase 4A South Academic Area And Library
11. **Memo 237** - Award Of Contract: School Furniture
12. **Memo 232** - Award Of Contract: Muldoon Area Middle School Project
13. **Memo 230** - Award Of Contract: Playground Surface Material
14. **Memo 242** - Award Of Contract: Elmendorf Schools Boiler Installations
15. **Memo 244** - Award Of Contract: Standby Generators

16. **Memo 249** - Award Of Contract: Airport Heights Elementary School Window And Siding Upgrades
17. **Memo 221** - Personnel Report

**Superintendent's Report**

1. **Memo 222** - Facility Change Order Report And Completed Projects For The Month Of February 2005
2. **Memo 223** - End-Of-Month Membership Summary For February 23, 2005
3. **Memo 224** - Project Status Report
4. **Memo 247** - One Percent For Art – Dimond High School
5. **Memo 248** - One Percent For Art – Eagle River High School
6. **Memo 233** - Conflict Of Interest - Third Quarter Report FY 2004-2005
7. **Memo 225** - Assessment Calendar For 2005-2006 School Year

**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 April 13 at 5 p.m., April 14 at 12:30 p.m., April 16 at 12:30 p.m. and April 17 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 April 13, 2005 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

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

**Announcements**

**Discussion**

1. Obesity Issues
- Student Breakfast/Lunches
- Vending
- Physical Education

-Health Education  
-Task Force

**School Board Comments  
Adjournment**

#### SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA May 2, 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**

#### SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA\* May 2, 2005 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

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

**Announcements**

**Summary Of 2004-2005 Year, Tim Steele, Presiding**

**Adjournment Of 2004-2005 – Sine Die**

**Organization Of 2005-2006 School Board**

Superintendent Carol Comeau will preside as temporary chair until a new president is elected.

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Clerk
- d. Treasurer

**Approval Of Agenda**

**Awards/Recognitions/Presentations**

1. **Memo 263** - Recognition Of Pioneers Of Alaska
2. **Memo 266** - Recognition Of High School Career Resource Advisors

**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 - March 7, 2005 4:30 p.m.
  - b. Regular Meeting - March 7, 2005 6:30 p.m.
2. **Memo 256** - Resolution Designating May 12, 2005 As National School Nurse's Day
3. **Memo 264** - Adoption Of Diversity Plan
4. **Memo 251** - Award Of Contract: West High School IMC Roof Upgrades
5. **Memo 220** - Award Of Contract: Four School HVAC Upgrades (Bear Valley, Klatt, Ravenwood, And Spring Hill)
6. **Memo 268** - Award Of Contract: Mountain View HVAC, Sprinkler And Electrical Upgrade
7. **Memo 261** - Personnel Report

**Superintendent's Report**

1. **Memo 257** - Status Report: Submission Of Discretionary Grants, Third Quarter 2004-2005 School Year
2. **Memo 260** - End-Of-Month Membership Summary For March 2005
3. **Memo 258** - Out-Of-District Travel – Third Quarter Report FY 2004-2005
4. **Memo 259** - Operating Budget Transfers – March Monthly Report FY 2004-2005
5. **Memo 262** - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap March 31, 2005

**Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items  
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### For more information

**Anchorage School Board**

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Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, [comeau\\_carol@asdk12.org](mailto: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](http://www.asdk12.org) • Tune in to cable channel 14