

# Monthly Update



## Anchorage School District

### This month at the Anchorage School District

- Schools are closed on Monday, February 20, for Presidents Day
- Assembly public hearing and action on ASD school bond proposals is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14
- February is Black History Month
- February 16 is Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

### Announcements

#### What's an ABC school? What does open-optional mean? How do students enroll in an alternative school program?

Learn more about ASD's alternative programs today by visiting one of these locations:

<b>Boniface Education Center</b> 5530 E. Northern Lights 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	<b>Eagle River Fred Meyer</b> 13401 Old Glenn Highway 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
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Representatives will be on hand to talk with you about world language immersion (Spanish, Japanese and Russian), ABC back-to-basics, open optional, Montessori, multi-sensory instruction, charter schools, and schools-within-schools.

#### Native Advisory Committee

The NAC is an advisory committee to the Title VII Indian Education Program and Anchorage School Board. The committee is made of volunteer citizens who are interested in improving education for Alaska Native/Native American students and commitment to the purpose of the ASD Title VII Indian Education Program. The committee's next meeting is:

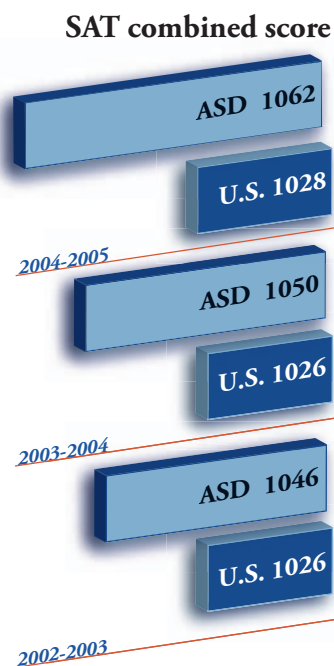
**Thursday, March 2, 2006**  
**Hanshew Middle School, library**  
**6:30 – 8 p.m.**

#### Reminder: Next school year will begin August 22

Already making plans for summer break? Don't forget that the first day of school is Tuesday, August 22, two weeks earlier than in previous years. The earlier start date gives students more instructional time prior to statewide testing and allows the first semester to conclude in December at winter break, rather than carrying over to January. Information regarding registration will be available soon.

#### Academic achievement on the rise

ASD students' average on the SAT college entrance exam has risen over the last three years. Six out of every 10 ASD graduates last year took the SAT, and their combined average score was 34 points higher than the national average.



#### Point of Pride

Chugiak High School student Ben Martinson struck a pure note with his original music composition titled *Agnus Dei*. Ben's musical masterpiece was one of several student works chosen by the National Association for Music Education to be played at its national conference in Salt Lake City this April.

One of Ben's teachers at Chugiak High, the talented Ron Lange, said that this honor is one of the highest a music student can receive. "This makes him one of the top five students in composition in the United States."

Congratulations to Ben, and kudos to the exceptional music program at Chugiak High School!



Ben Martinson

### A Word from Carol Comeau



*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...*

The Preamble to our Declaration of Independence begins with these powerful words that form the core of our democratic society.

Public schools were born out of the ideal of equality. Horace Mann and other leaders wanted every child, regardless of their family's wealth or background, to have a common educational opportunity, a shared foundation on which to build a successful life.

This month we honor the ideal of equality by celebrating the life of Alaska Native civil rights activist Elizabeth Peratrovich on February 16 and recognizing the achievements of African Americans during Black History Month.

We are fortunate to live in a community that is rich with diversity and committed to providing educational opportunities to every child. Part of having equal access to an education is the quality of the school building. Our students should have a level playing field, no matter what part of town they live. In recent years families in some Anchorage neighborhoods have seen new and renovated school facilities, while other neighborhoods continued to make do with older, overcrowded schools that are in serious need of major repair and renewal.

The school bonds we are proposing to the Assembly would bring two of our oldest elementary schools up to par with our newer schools, and they would begin designing the long-called-for renewal of Clark Middle School. Even after renovation, these schools won't be fancy, but they will support a high-quality instructional environment for teachers and students and they'll meet modern safety codes.

The bonds also fund continued renovation and renewal of Bartlett, Chugiak, East and Service high schools. Phased renovation of these schools began several years ago and we hope to continue the work we've begun on these schools. For anyone who doubts the need for these high schools to be renovated, or doubts the effect that renovation has on those schools, I encourage you to contact the principals at these schools and arrange a tour. The difference between the old sections of these schools and the renewed portions is dramatic and has transformed the teaching and learning environment.

The decision to improve our school facilities is a public process from start to finish, from the advisory group of citizens who make an initial recommendation, through the School Board and Assembly hearings and action, and then finishing in the hands of Anchorage voters who make the ultimate determination whether the projects merit their support. I encourage you to take part in the process this month by attending the Assembly meeting on February 14, when the decision will be made whether to place our proposals on the April municipal ballot.

I am grateful for the continued support this community has given school bonds. I **strongly** believe that the quality of the facility impacts student learning. Adequate space, modern wiring and lighting, efficient heating and ventilation, and up-to-date classrooms help students focus on their studies. I want to be certain we give every child, in every neighborhood, an equal opportunity for success in life.

Most sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*

### Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 2/3/06

#### SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA February 6, 2006 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding	<b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> 1. Student Hearings 2. HSGQE Waivers	3. Contract Negotiations Update <b>Superintendent's Update</b> <b>Adjournment</b>
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#### REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA February 6, 2006 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding	<b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)</b>	<b>Superintendent's Report</b> 1. Memo 191 - Project Status Report
<b>Approval Of Agenda</b>	<b>Consent Agenda</b>	<b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items</b> <b>Communications &amp; School Board Comments</b> <b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> <b>Adjournment</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	1. Approval of Minutes a. Regular Meeting - October 24, 2005	
<b>Awards/Recognitions/Presentations</b>	2. <b>Memo 192</b> - Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day	
1. Service High School Orchestra, Director Christine Nees	3. <b>Memo 157</b> - Award of Contract: Taxicab Services	
<b>Special Advisory Reports</b>	4. <b>Memo 189</b> - Award of Contract: Huffman Elementary School HVAC Upgrades	
1. Student Advisory Board	5. <b>Memo 190</b> - Personnel Report	
2. Military Delegate		<b>Persons wishing to be heard may call 742-4315 or sign up prior to the meeting being called to order.</b>
3. M.E.C.A.C.		

\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Feb. 8 at 5 p.m., Feb. 9 at 12:30 p.m., Feb. 11 at 12:30 p.m. and Feb. 12 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 7, 2006 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding	<b>Discussion</b> 1. Technology	<b>Adjournment</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>School Board Comments</b>	

\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14, and will be rebroadcast Feb. 10 at 5 p.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.

#### SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA February 27, 2006 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding	<b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> 1. Student Hearings 2. Contract Negotiations Update	<b>Superintendent's Update</b> <b>Adjournment</b>
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#### REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA\* February 27, 2006 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding	a. Regular Meeting - November 14, 2005 b. Special Meeting - November 28, 2005 c. Regular Meeting - November 28, 2005	10. <b>Memo 197</b> - Personnel Report <b>Superintendent's Report</b>
<b>Approval Of Agenda</b>	2. <b>Memo 183</b> - Appointment of Controversial Issues Review Committee Members	1. <b>Memo 198</b> - Project Status Report
<b>Announcements</b>	3. <b>Memo 184</b> - Award of Contract: Carpet Term Contract	2. <b>Memo 193</b> - Second Quarter End-of-Month Membership Summary - January 31, 2006
<b>Awards/Recognitions/Presentations</b>	4. <b>Memo 185</b> - Award of Contract: Rogers Park & Mount Iliamna School Carpet Replacement	3. <b>Memo 203</b> - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: January 31, 2006
1. Read Across America, a celebration of Dr Seuss's birthday - Williwaw Elementary students and Karen Iris, Williwaw Literacy Coach	5. <b>Memo 186</b> - Award of Contract: Bear Valley & Willow Crest School Carpet Replacement	4. <b>Memo 199</b> - Operating Budget Transfers - January Monthly Report FY 2005-2006
2. Presentation on Gas Pipeline Negotiations - Mary Ann Pease & Chuck Logsdon, Governor's Gas Pipeline Advisors	6. <b>Memo 187</b> - Award of Contract: Chinook Elementary School Door Installation	<b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items</b> <b>Communications &amp; School Board Comments</b> <b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> <b>Adjournment</b>
<b>Special Advisory Reports</b>	7. <b>Memo 202</b> - Award of Contract: Whaley School Boiler Replacement	
1. Student Advisory Board	8. <b>Memo 196</b> - Award of Contract: Five School Intercom Upgrade	<b>Persons wishing to be heard may call 742-4315 or sign up prior to the meeting being called to order.</b>
2. Military Delegate	9. <b>Memo 194</b> - Renewal of Contract: Independent Audit of School District's Financial Records	
3. M.E.C.A.C.		
<b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)</b>		
1. Approval of Minutes		

\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast March 1 at 5 p.m., March 2 at 12:30 p.m., March 4 at 12:30 p.m. and March 5 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**  
Jeff Friedman, President, 742-6699, friedman\_jeff@asdk12.org  
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Macon Roberts, 742-5350, roberts\_macon@asdk12.org  
Tim Steele, 277-7663, steele\_tim@asdk12.org  
John Steiner, 696-2629, steiner\_john@asdk12.org  
Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, comeau\_carol@asdk12.org

MECAC: The mission of the Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee (MECAC) is to serve as the voice for families in the Anchorage School District and to promote educational success for minority students. The MECAC 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