



# Monthly Update



## Anchorage School District



### This month at the Anchorage School District

- **September 1 - 29**, nominations accepted for name of new middle school. See announcement below for details.
- **Monday, September 18**, deadline to sign up for Budget Review Team
- **Thursday, September 28**, Budget Review Team kick-off meeting, Wendler Middle School, 7 p.m.
- **Friday, September 29**, Polaris K-12 School dedication – 5:30 dedication, 6-7 p.m. school tours

### Announcements

#### The Mind of Boys

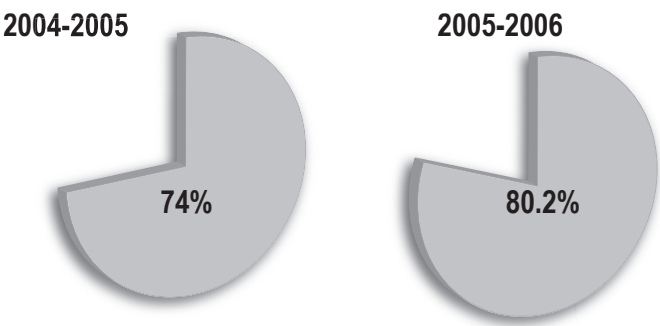
Don't miss a special guest lecture by author Michael Gurian, an expert on the psychological, physical and emotional development of boys. Gurian is author of *The Wonder of Boys*, *A Fine Young Man* and *The Good Son*.

**East High Auditorium, Wednesday, September 13, 7 p.m.**

#### More kindergarteners reading

District kindergarten student assessment results showed significant gains in the number of kindergarten students who are performing at or above our grade level expectations at the end of kindergarten as measured by the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA). In 2005, 74 percent of kindergarten students performed with proficiency at the end of kindergarten on the DRA and that number jumped to 80 percent in 2006. The majority of gains were seen in schools that are utilizing a core curriculum in reading. In the 2006-2007 school year an additional 14 schools have moved to a core curriculum for a total of 44 of our 60 elementary schools.

#### Kindergarten reading proficiency



#### Nominations accepted for new middle school

The district is accepting name nominations for the new middle school near the intersection of DeBarr Road and Muldoon Road. According to ASD School Board policy, no two district schools can have the same name and a school cannot be named after a living person. Nomination forms can be found online at [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) or at the following schools: Chester Valley Elementary, Creekside Park Elementary, Muldoon Elementary, Scenic Park Elementary, Susitna Elementary, Clark Middle and Wendler Middle. The deadline for nominations is September 29.

#### Wellness policy

In June 2006, Superintendent Comeau banned the sale of soda and junk food at all ASD schools and school offices as part of a comprehensive wellness policy. These changes will likely affect your child's classroom and what sort of food is allowed at school celebrations. For a breakdown of the snack and beverage criteria, a list of creative healthy snack alternatives, and the board policy outlining the new guidelines, log on to [www.asdk12.org/wellness](http://www.asdk12.org/wellness).

#### Point of Pride

Congratulations to the Dimond-West Little League team for making it to the Northwest Region Championship game. The team was one win away from traveling to the 2006 Little League Baseball World Series. The Dimond-West team is made up of many ASD students from Campbell Elementary, Gladys Wood Elementary, Mears Middle and Romig Middle schools. Coaches Brad Lauwers, Royce Woodruff and Ron Thompson are ASD alumni. Team members include Domonique Watson, Payton Lauwers, Brandon Cole, Lorenzo Jenkins, Kyle Kornegay, Garrett Brown, Brian Cooper, Sheldon Rouzan, Trace Woodruff, Sagan Osborne, Matt Illalio, Tyler Thompson, and Brian McKay.



### A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Though the school year started two weeks earlier than usual, the first weeks of school have gone very well, thanks to enthusiastic staff, students and parents. Our teachers and students have rolled up their sleeves and are keenly focused on teaching and learning. Pencils are also being sharpened around the district as we prepare to draft our 2007-2008 budget.

This fall I need the community's help identifying at least \$28 million in cuts to our operating budget. Students, parents, staff and community members can contribute significantly to our district by joining a Budget Review Team. Your ideas and input will help us prioritize expenditures and balance our budget.

Like every household or business, the district has an important mission to accomplish with limited revenue and growing expenses. Our enrollment is slowly declining; along with that comes declining revenue. The rising cost of fuel and utilities, mandated increases in the district's contribution to the state retirement systems, under-funded federal mandates and existing contracts all contribute significantly to our growing expenses.

I'm not satisfied with relying only on our administrative staff to develop the budget; we need fresh insights to help us bridge this fiscal gap. Everyone in our community has a stake in the school district's budget process and I know there are many ideas and suggestions to be captured.

If you've always wanted to get more involved or make a change in our district, please consider joining a Budget Review Team. Your input and expertise will help us prioritize budget expenditures. Budget Review Teams will analyze specific department budgets and make recommendations for cuts and/or revenue enhancements. Teams can expect to meet between six and eight times before the end of November. This is a significant time commitment, but I hope students, staff, parents and community members will consider making room in already busy schedules.

To participate, please visit [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) or visit your neighborhood school and complete an application. Your involvement really will make a difference.

Most Sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*



### Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 9/8/06

**ALL MEETINGS ARE BROADCAST LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 14; SEE REBROADCAST SCHEDULE BELOW**  
**SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA September 11, 2006 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320**

**Call To Order, Roll Call**  
Jeff Friedman, Presiding  
**School Board Comments**

**Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)**  
1. Student Hearings  
2. AEA Negotiations Update

**Superintendent's Update**  
**Adjournment**

**REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA September 11, 2006 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road**

**Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute**  
Jeff Friedman, Presiding

**Approval Of Agenda**  
**Announcements**  
**Awards/Recognitions/Presentations**

1. Conoco Phillips Healthy Futures Student Prize Presentation
  2. Memo 25 - Chugiak High School's Every 15 Minutes Program
  3. Memo 48 - Connecting in Your Classroom
- Special Advisory Reports**
1. Student Advisory Board
  2. Military Delegate
  3. M.E.C.A.C.

**Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)**

- Consent Agenda**
1. Approval of Minutes
    - a. Regular Meeting-May 8, 2006
    - b. Regular Meeting-May 22, 2006
    - c. Special Meeting-August 28, 2006
  2. Memo 47 - ASD Resolution in Support of Mayor's Diversity Week

3. Memo 31 - Resolution in Support of National Indian Education Association and Alaskan Federation of Natives Conference
4. Memo 55 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 765 Vending Machine and Other Food Sales (First Reading)
5. Memo 53 - Amendment to Alaska Department of Education and Early Development FY2008 Grant Applications
6. Memo 35 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Family Directory Web site
7. Memo 37 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Crossroads Smart Families Initiative
8. Memo 38 - Acceptance of Grant Award: School Wellness Policy Implementation Grant
9. Memo 36 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Comprehensive Behavioral Health Prevention and Early Intervention
10. Memo 61 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Emergency Response and Crisis Management
11. Memo 50 - Approval of Regulatory Compliance Specialist Position
12. Memo 34 - Approval of Contract: Consortium on Reading Excellence (CORE)

13. Memo 41 - Award of Contract: Xerographic Paper
  14. Memo 49 - Award of Contract: Clark Middle School Renewal General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) Preconstruction Services
  15. Memo 39 - Personnel Report
- Superintendent's Report**
1. Memo 40 - Project Status Report
  2. Memo 42 - Fourth Quarter and End-of-Year 2005-2006 Suspensions/Weapons/Expulsion Report
  3. Memo 44 - First Two Weeks of School Enrollment Update FY 2006-2007
- 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 Sept. 13 at 5 p.m., Sept. 14 at 12:30 p.m., Sept. 16 at 12:30 p.m. and Sept. 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.*

**Joint Anchorage Municipal Assembly/School Board Meeting**  
**September 15, 2006 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ASD Board Room – 4600 DeBarr Road**

**SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA September 25, 2006 4:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road, Room 320**

**Call To Order, Roll Call**  
Jeff Friedman, Presiding  
**School Board Comments**

**Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)**  
1. Student Hearings

**Superintendent's Update**  
**Adjournment**

**REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA September 25, 2006 6:30 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road**

**Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute**  
Jeff Friedman, Presiding

**Approval Of Agenda**  
**Announcements**  
**Awards/Recognitions/Presentations**

1. Chugiak Swing Choir, Mr. Ron Lange, Director for Support of the Anchorage School District
  3. Changer of Commerce ATHENA: Camp Start-Up Presentation
  4. Memo 62 - Recognition of State Teacher of the Year Finalist
- Special Advisory Reports**
1. Student Advisory Board
  2. Military Delegate
  3. M.E.C.A.C.

**Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)**

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Regular Meeting - February 7, 2006
  - b. Regular Meeting - June 12, 2006
  - c. Regular Meeting - June 26, 2006
  - d. Special Meeting - September 11, 2006
2. Memo 46 - Alaska Association of School Boards Core Resolutions
3. Memo 52 - Nomination for AASB Board of Directors
4. Memo 63 - Approval of Aquarian Charter School Enrollment Adjustment
5. Memo 55 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 765 Vending Machine and Other Food Sales (Second Reading)
6. Memo 54 - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Alaska Community Learning Centers – 21st Century Community Learning Centers FY 2007
7. Memo 43 - Acceptance of Grant Award: AASB 1:1 Student to Computer Pilot Project Grant
8. Memo 57 - Personnel Report

- Superintendent's Report**
1. Memo 56 - Project Status Report
  2. Memo 45 - Summer School Update
  3. Memo 51 - Update on Security and Emergency Preparedness
  4. Memo 59 - Facility contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of August 2006
  5. Memo 33 - High School Innovations: Dimond and Service High Schools
  6. Memo 60 - School Business Partnership Report, 2005-2006
- 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 Sept. 27 at 5 p.m., Sept. 28 at 12:30 p.m., Sept. 30 at 12:30 p.m. and Oct. 1 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 and Superintendent**  
 Jeff Friedman, President, 742-6699, [friedman\\_jeff@asdk12.org](mailto:friedman_jeff@asdk12.org)  
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 Mary Marks, 742-2343, [marks\\_mary@asdk12.org](mailto:marks_mary@asdk12.org)  
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Macon Roberts, 742-5350, [roberts\\_macon@asdk12.org](mailto:roberts_macon@asdk12.org)  
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 John Steiner, 696-2629, [steiner\\_john@asdk12.org](mailto:steiner_john@asdk12.org)  
 Carol Comeau, Superintendent, 742-4312, [comeau\\_carol@asdk12.org](mailto: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 first Wednesday of every month at 4:30 p.m. and 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**