



Monthly Update



Anchorage School District



This month at the Anchorage School District

- **November 8 – 9** - Parent conferences, half day for all students. Please visit www.asdk12.org for conference schedule.
- **November 10** - In service day, no school for students.
- **November 23–24** - Thanksgiving holiday. All ASD schools and offices will be closed.

Announcements

Alaska Native & American Indian Heritage Month

Through generous donations from The CIRI Foundation, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, the Soroptimists International of Cook Inlet, and The Alaska State Council on the Arts, ASD students will be able to visit in their classrooms with dozens of Alaska Native and American Indian artists and tradition-bearers. Sixteen artists and 22 guest speakers will visit with students throughout the month to raise awareness and understanding of Alaska Native and American Indian cultures. Lesson plans, reading lists, and other resources are available on the ASD Web site, www.asdk12.org. Additional information on community events is available at www.alaskanativeheritagemonth.org. Watch ASDTV cable channel 14 throughout November for programs on Alaska Native and American Indian heritage. Schedule available at www.asdk12.org. A few of the many programs are:

- *Shadow Walkers: An Alaska Native cultural compilation*
- *Talking and Listening the Alaska Way*
- *Alaska - Aleut Evacuation during WWII*
- *More Than Bows and Arrows*
- *Kayaks*
- *The People of Ukpiagvik*
- *Our Alutiiq Journey*
- *When My Spirit Raised Its Hands: The life and times of Elizabeth Peratrovich*

Native Advisory Committee meeting

Thursday, November 16
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Spring Hill Elementary

The agenda is posted on the Title VII Indian Education link on the ASD website at www.asdk12.org.

Expect the Best

On Wednesday, November 8, the ASD will publish its progress report to the community. The newspaper insert entitled "Expect the Best" will detail academic gains within our diverse school district. The report documents our results on the state's Standards Based Assessments in reading, writing and math, details how we're closing the achievement gap, and outlines the district's new goal of improved customer service.

The report also details the steady increase in the district's graduation rates.

2005 Four-year graduation rate
60%



2006 Four-year graduation rate
64%



The district's graduation rate increased by 4 percentage points over last year and some groups of minority students made gains of more than 10 percent.

Please pick up a copy of the report on Wednesday or view the document by logging on to www.asdk12.org/depts/communications/ETB.

American Education Week

Join us November 12–18, 2006, to celebrate American Education Week. This year's theme, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," highlights the importance of bringing the entire community together in a unified effort to build great public schools. We encourage parents and other members of the community to visit our schools during this week and throughout the school year.

Point of Pride

Dimond High sophomore Mercedes Curran will serve as the state ambassador for the "Jamestown Live!" Web cast on November 9 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Alaska time. The live interactive Web cast will focus on the history of the first permanent English settlement in the United States and will combine elements of a television news magazine, town hall meeting and entertainment.

Mercedes was the state winner of the 2006 National History Day contest. She created a video documentary on Steve Biko, a South African civil rights activist. Not only was Mercedes the state winner, she placed in the top 15 nationwide. You can read more about Jamestown Live! at www.jamestownjourney.org.



Mercedes Curran

A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

November is my favorite month of the year. It is a time of the year when we are focused on giving thanks to many who make this country and our schools strong – veterans and our school staff.

In schools we teach children the history of our military, the causes and outcomes of wars, and the struggle for liberty and democracy. On Veterans Day, November 11, our community can add to those lessons by demonstrating to our children how much we value the sacrifices made by our fellow citizens, past and present, who have served their country.

This holiday season holds much meaning for Americans. There are thousands of men and women serving in many capacities here at home and around the globe. They are a visible reminder that indeed, freedom isn't free. It's critical that we not lose sight of their sacrifices and the sacrifices of their families. It is especially poignant for our Alaskan families with more than 8,000 troops currently deployed. We look forward to their safe return home.

A heartfelt thank you to all of our veterans who are employed in the district, and also to those local troops who protect all that we hold dear: our families, our freedom, our future. You deserve the nation's honor, respect and thanks. You most certainly have mine.

I also encourage all community members to take a moment to say "thank you" to all of our school staff members during American Education Week, November 12 – 18. Teachers, administrators, aides, student nutrition workers, noon duty attendants, bus driver attendants, building plant operators and all other support staff work diligently to make sure our students are getting a quality education in safe facilities every day.

The goal of American Education Week since its establishment in 1921 has been to increase the importance of education and encourage public support for it. I encourage each of you to stop by your neighborhood school, take a tour, and talk with staff and students to gain a true appreciation of what our schools are all about.

Parent-teacher conferences are an important opportunity for parents to learn about their students' successes and any areas needing improvement. We look forward to welcoming you to our classrooms.

I hope each of you in the community has a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We have a great deal to be thankful for.

Most sincerely,

Carol Comeau



Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 11/3/06

ALL MEETINGS ARE BROADCAST LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 14; SEE REBROADCAST SCHEDULE BELOW

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA November 6, 2006 5:00–6:00 p.m. 4600 DeBarr Road

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

Announcements

Consent Agenda

1. Memo 89 - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Fiscal Year 2005 – 2006

Adjournment

WORK SESSION—AGENDA 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Discussion

1. Profile of Performance
2. School Board Goals

School Board Comments

Adjournment

*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Nov. 8 at 5 p.m., Nov. 9 at 12:30 p.m., Nov. 11 at 12:30 p.m. and Nov. 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.

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA November 13, 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. Live Student Hearing
2. Uncontested Student Hearings

3. AEA Negotiations Update

Superintendent's Update

Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA November 13, 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. East High Orchestra, Margaret David director
2. Planet Walk Presentation
3. Memo 97 - Recognition of Alaska Assistant Principal of the Year
4. Memo 127 - Recognition of Alaska Assistant Principal of the Year

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 - September 11, 2006
 - b. Special Meeting - October 16, 2006
2. Memo 125 - ASD Resolution in Support of Principal Appreciation Day
3. Memo 123 - ASD Resolution in Recognition of

American Education Week and All School Employees

4. Memo 126 - Adoption of School Board Goals
5. Memo 112 - Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Financial Planning
6. Memo 98 - Recommendation of the Name for the Muldoon Area Middle School
7. Memo 111 - School Board Policy Revision: Section 143 - Policy Development Principles (First Reading)
8. Memo 124 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Fund for the Improvement of Education Earmark Grant
9. Memo 103 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Alaska Railroad Summer Youth Employment Program 2007
10. Memo 106 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Manning Family Foundation
11. Memo 120 - Professional Services Selection for Districtwide Specifications
12. Memo 101 - Award of Contract: Dispensed Juice Beverages
13. Memo 102 - Award of Contract: Frozen Potato Products
14. Memo 108 - Award of Contract: ASD Warehouse Fire Alarm & CCTV Installation
15. Memo 104 - Personnel Report

Superintendent's Report

1. Memo 105 - Project Status Report
2. Memo 113 - First Quarter End-of-Month Membership Summary - October 31, 2006
3. Memo 114 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of October 2006
4. Memo 115 - Student Membership Projections for September 30, 2007
5. Memo 117 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, First Quarter 2006-2007 School Year
6. Memo 118 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: September 30, 2006
7. Memo 119 - Operating Budget Transfers - October Monthly Report 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.

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For more information

Anchorage School Board and Superintendent

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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 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 • Tune in to cable channel 14