



# Monthly Update



## Anchorage School District



### This month at the Anchorage School District

- **January 15** - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, all schools and offices closed
- **January 22** – all administrative offices and School Board meetings now located at ASD Education Center, see announcement below
- **February 19** – Presidents Day, all schools and offices closed

### Announcements

#### Surplus give-away

The ASD is offering surplus and obsolete textbooks, library books and some school supplies to the public during the bi-annual surplus give-away.

**Monday, January 29 – Friday, February 2**  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
at select school sites

Materials will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and no phone requests will be allowed. A list of participating schools can be found at [www.asdk12.org/events](http://www.asdk12.org/events) or by calling 742-4242.

#### Alternative Programs Fair

Parents and students have many educational options because the district understands that the best instructional method for one child may not fit another. Learn about the choices in education available to you at the Alternative Programs Fair. Program staff and parents will be available to answer questions and assist you in filling out lottery forms for the 2007-2008 school year.

**Saturday, January 27**  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
at the ASD Education Center

#### Dropout rate dropping fast

The student dropout rate declined significantly from 2005 to 2006. The districtwide dropout rate in the 2005-2006 school year was 5.3 percent. This is an 18 percent decrease in the dropout rate from the 2004-2005 school year and is lower than the figure originally reported in our Profiles of Performance in October. Since then, the state has tracked 355 students listed as dropouts and found they enrolled in other districts in Alaska. State officials say the ASD rate could drop even further by the end of next quarter. The dropout rate measures the percent of students who enroll and then leave the district before the end of the school year.

The decrease is in response to hardworking teachers, parents and students who understand the importance of getting a high school diploma. On-line learning, work-study programs and self-paced courses have helped students learn at their fullest potential. In addition to a declining dropout rate, our graduation rate is increasing. The district's graduation rate surpasses the statewide rate by more than 4 percent.

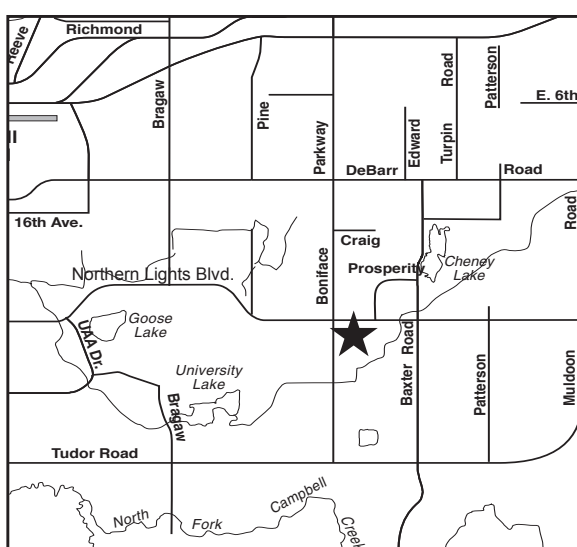
#### Special Education Community Forum

**Saturday, January 20, 2007**  
**Clark Middle School**  
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Special Education Community Forum is a disability outreach and informational workshop for everyone: parents, teachers, students, caregivers and others. Learn about disability issues and earn credit for certification programs, salary advancement or certification and training requirements for educators and service providers (UAA continuing education credit available). For free childcare call 742-3872. This month's topic is Lighting Up the Winter Months: Mental Health Issues for Children with Special Needs. For more information, contact the STeP Center at 742-3872 or click on the SECF icon on our Web site: [www.asdk12.org/depts/step](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/step).

#### ASD Education Center

The move of administrative offices from the 4600 DeBarr location to the ASD Education Center located at Boniface and Northern Lights is near completion. Beginning January 22 all School Board meetings will be held at the Education Center located at 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. This new location provides a "one stop" service center for employees and the community. The entire move and renovation of the facility was paid for by JL Properties, owners of the building. Lease rates are as good or better than the rate at the DeBarr location.



### A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Welcome to 2007. The new year brings a fresh start and is an opportune time to look back at what we've accomplished.

In August, the school year began two weeks early so we could get our school calendar better aligned with state testing days and conclude the first semester before winter break. Resistance to the calendar adjustment quickly faded once the school year began. The new calendar provided a nice break after the holidays to allow families and employees to enjoy time together before classes resumed. I hope you all are refreshed and ready for a great second semester.

Resolutions typically go hand in hand with this time of year. Many people choose general themes of weight loss and more exercise, spending time with family, quitting bad habits and saving money. Along with these, I've made a resolution regarding the district's budget and our priorities.

On January 23 I will put forward my recommendations for closing the multi-million gap. Rising costs for utilities, retirement programs, supplies and employee contracts will force us to cut jobs and valuable student services. These cuts are difficult to make and will take a toll on the entire district, however, I resolve to maintain programs that help our students succeed.

My staff and I, along with the School Board, will work hard to get the necessary funding to pursue our goal of educating all students for success in life. The ASD aggressively pursues grant funding and works tirelessly with state legislators to ensure they honor their campaign promises of fully funding and increasing funding for education. We can't do this on our own.

I strongly encourage you to contact your neighborhood representatives and remind them of the importance of public education. All students need and deserve quality programs, teachers and staff focused on their success.

The district must respond to our community's need for more individualized learning, better communication through digital information systems and more career and workforce development. Maintaining the status quo is not acceptable. We all must advocate for each and every student in our district and pursue resources to ensure their success.

I hope your family spent quality time together during the break. One resolution we all should keep is to spend more time with loved ones.

Please keep military families in mind. Many soldiers are returning home after serving our country for more than a year. The transition can be challenging. Life will never be the same, particularly for those military families whose soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice. Fort Richardson has suffered a number of losses recently and I hope none of us loses sight of what they have given so we can continue with our day-to-day freedoms.

I am eager for an excellent second semester and I encourage you to contact me at anytime.

Most sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*



### Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 1/12/07

**ALL MEETINGS ARE BROADCAST LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 14; SEE REBROADCAST SCHEDULE BELOW**  
**SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA** January 22, 2007 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Conference Room

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>School Board Comments</b>	<b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> 1. Student Hearings	2. HSGQE Waivers 3. Live Student Hearing (5:15 p.m.) 4. APA/AEA Negotiations Update	<b>Superintendent's Update</b> <b>Adjournment</b>
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**REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA** January 22, 2007 6:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Room

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>Approval Of Agenda</b> <b>Announcements</b> <b>Awards/Recognitions/Presentations</b> 1. Trailside Choir, Linda Bender directing 2. Memo 167 - Recognition of 2006 National Teacher Certification Recipients 3. Memo 157 - Recognition of People Mover Donation 4. Memo 145 - Recognition of Fall 2006 Denali Award Recipients <b>Special Advisory Reports</b> 1. Student Advisory Board 2. Military Delegate 3. M.E.C.A.C. <b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)</b> <b>Public Testimony</b> 1. Public Testimony Regarding Upcoming APA Negotiations <b>Consent Agenda</b> 1. Approval of Minutes a. Regular Meeting - September 25, 2006 b. Special Meeting - December 7, 2006 c. Special Meeting - December 11, 2006	2. Memo 170 - Approval of School Board Out-of-State Travel for Third Quarter 2006-2007 3. Memo 156 - Bond Information Campaign 4. Memo 175 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: 2007 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant 5. Memo 176 - Acceptance of Grant Award: National Council on Economic Education Microsociety at Eagle River Elementary School 6. Memo 171 - Acceptance of Sub-Recipient Grant: Alaska Parent Information and Resource Center, Southeast Regional Resource Center 7. Memo 100 - Award of Contract: Service High School CCTV System 8. Memo 172 - Approval of Funding for Capital Projects Using Interest Earnings and Project Balances 9. Memo 165 - Personnel Report <b>Superintendent's Report</b> 1. Memo 164 - Project Status Report 2. Memo 110 - Middle School Student-Led Conferences Update 3. Memo 169 - Conflict of Interest - Second Quarter Report FY 2006-2007	4. Memo 168 - Semi-Annual Report on Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$10,000 5. Memo 161 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of November 2006 6. Memo 163 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of December 2006 7. Memo 158 - Out-of-District Travel - Second Quarter Report FY 2006-2007 8. Memo 160 - Operating Budget Transfers November Monthly Report FY 2006-2007 9. Memo 166 - Operating Budget Transfers - December Monthly Report FY 2006-2007 10. Memo 159 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: November 30, 2006 11. Memo 162 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: December 31, 2006 <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>Persons wishing to be heard may call 742-4315 or sign up prior to the meeting being called to order.</b>
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\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Jan. 24 at 5 p.m., Jan. 25 at 12:30 p.m., Jan. 27 at 12:30 p.m. and Jan. 28 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** January 23, 2007 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Room

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>Superintendent's Comments</b> 1. Memo 174 - FY 2007-2008 Preliminary Financial Plan a. Superintendent's Overview b. Financial Analysis • Revenue Projections • Expenditure Projections <b>Administrative</b>	<b>Instruction</b> <b>Curriculum/Instruction Support</b> Elementary Education Middle School Education High School Education Special Education Charter Schools <b>School Board Comments</b> <b>Adjournment</b>	<b>The time estimate is intended to offer a suggestion for presentation by the Administration and questions and answers from the School Board. The presentations should take about 10 minutes for each area listed. It hopefully will allow for more efficient time management but everyone should be flexible and responsive to the amount of time needed. Public Testimony - Opportunities will be provided for public testimony at the School Board's discretion as to the appropriate time.</b>
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\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Jan. 24 at 9:00 a.m. and Jan. 26 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. A message may be left after hours.

**WORK SESSION—AGENDA** January 25, 2007 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Room

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>Human Resources</b> <b>Communications</b> <b>Business Services</b> <b>Chief Information Office</b> <b>Support Services</b>	<b>School Board Comments</b> <b>Adjournment</b> <b>The time estimate is intended to offer a suggestion for presentation by the Administration and questions and answers from the School Board. The presentations should take about 10 minutes for each area listed. It hopefully will allow for more efficient time management</b>	<b>but everyone should be flexible and responsive to the amount of time needed. Public Testimony - Opportunities will be provided for public testimony at the School Board's discretion as to the appropriate time.</b>
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**WORK SESSION—AGENDA** January 31, 2007 5:00 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Room

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>School Board Comments</b> <b>Persons to be Heard - FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan</b>	<b>Consent Agenda</b> 1. Memo 177 - FY 2007-2008 Proposed Financial Plan (First Reading) <b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/</b>	<b>Litigation)</b> <b>Adjournment</b>
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\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. and Feb. 4 at 8:00 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. 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)  
Crystal Kennedy, 696-2624, [kennedy\\_crystal@asdk12.org](mailto:kennedy_crystal@asdk12.org)  
Mary Marks, 742-2343, [marks\\_mary@asdk12.org](mailto:marks_mary@asdk12.org)  
Jake Metcalfe, 274-1441, [metcalfe\\_jake@asdk12.org](mailto:metcalfe_jake@asdk12.org)

Macon Roberts, 742-5350, [roberts\\_macon@asdk12.org](mailto:roberts_macon@asdk12.org)  
Tim Steele, 277-7663, [steele\\_tim@asdk12.org](mailto:steele_tim@asdk12.org)  
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 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Conference Room.

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99519-3135 • 742-4000 • [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) • Tune in to cable channel 14