



Monthly Update



Anchorage School District

This month at the Anchorage School District

- Feb 1 – 28** – Black History Month, for a list of community activities and ASD-TV programming log on to www.asdk12.org.
- February 8** – Public comment and final reading on 2007-08 budget, see agenda at lower right for more information.
- February 16** – Elizabeth Peratrovich Day, Native Alaskan leader honored for advocacy of Native citizens and their rights.
- February 19** – Presidents Day, all schools and offices closed.

Announcements

Internet safety

IDK. LOL. TTYL. BRB. Sometimes it may seem like your children are speaking a different language but that doesn't mean you can't talk to them about online safety. ASD librarians present *iParent Night 2007: How to help your children stay safe online*. Parents will learn about the dangers that lurk on the Internet and get basic technology tips to protect children and monitor home computers. Anchorage police detectives in the Crimes Against Children unit will describe what they're doing to catch Internet predators and participate in a question and answer session.

iParent Night
Wednesday, February 7
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Romig/West library

KCC 3rd session spring sign-up

The King Career Center is offering 3rd session classes for all students in grades 9-12. Classes begin February 6 and run Monday through Thursday, 3 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. until April 12. The class is free and so is transportation to KCC from the district's eight main high schools. Participating students will receive 0.5 elective credit. Current spring classes include:

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Automotive Maintenance | Rockets & Robots |
| Early Childhood Education | Emergency Services |
| Body and Fender Repair | Interactive Media |
| Carpentry | Small Engines |
| Construction Electricity | Welding |
| Criminalistics | |

For more information, contact your student's high school counselor or call KCC at 742-8900.

ASD's going on the Serum Run

Alpenglow Elementary PE teacher Lynda Barcome and her team of eight athletes will participate in the 2007 Colonel Norman Vaughan Serum Run '25 from February 18 – March 8. ASD families can follow her journey along all 776 miles of trail from Nenana to Nome. ASD-TV cable channel 14 will broadcast nine episodes featuring the Serum Run and Lynda's expedition. K-6 students in class and at home can follow along with an ASD Family Activity Pack. The booklet is full of fun multi-disciplinary activities, reading recommendations and web resources. Contact your neighborhood school for more information and to pick up a Serum Run Family Activity Pack.

Dress children appropriately

In the rush to get out the door in the morning, many children are not outfitted properly for winter weather. Schools frequently give out gloves and hats to students to keep them warm and safe while at recess or walking to and from school. Elementary students go outside for daily recess unless the temperature or wind chill factor reaches minus 10 degrees. Good quality outer clothing is a must for all students in the winter. Parents, please check to see that your child has the proper outdoor gear at school every day. If your child has outgrown some winter clothing, consider donating it to your neighborhood school or the HUGSS and Coats for Kids program at 64-HUGSS (644-8477).

Point of Pride



Michael Lazaro with "Taxi"



Mariano Barela with "The Joke"

Mears 8th graders Michael Lazaro and Mariano Barela won the middle school regional Scholastic Art Gold Key award along with classmate 7th grader Amanda Carter. Mariano also received a National American Vision award nomination. The students' work will travel to New York City along with 30 other ASD competition winners to compete at the National Scholastic Art awards show for national honors. The event is led by panels of jurors made up of renowned artists, authors, educators and art professionals.

A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

There is no easy way to close an \$18 million gap between ASD revenues and expenditures. District budgets are already tight so we are forced to make cuts to existing programs that will undoubtedly affect the quality of education we provide for our students.

Just like any other organization, our costs are going up to provide the same level of service. Many families are feeling the pinch of increasing utility bills and the district is no exception. For example, the cost for fuel and utilities for our buildings and transportation has jumped dramatically in the last five years, from \$9 million in 2003-04 to more than \$17.6 million for the 2007-08 school year.

Some cost increases are out of our control, such as mandated retirement fund costs, utilities and fuel, and required special education programs and services. If these costs are removed from the general fund, our general fund has risen by fewer than five percent in each of the last five years. You can see for yourself at www.asdk12.org/depts/budget.

I must be fiscally responsible and create a balanced budget for next school year. To do that, I've had to make several hard decisions. I'm recommending we eliminate 91 positions, increase class size at all grade levels, close the AVAIL alternative program and delay implementation of an effective reading program. There are many other cuts that also must be implemented to break even next year.

Earlier this week, I recommended that we reinstate the boys hockey program rather than outsource it as I originally proposed on January 23. I made this decision after hearing from hundreds of people in the hockey community who told me they are willing to find other ways to fund the sport. I also spoke with local hockey organizations and learned they were not in a position to take over the responsibility of the high school sport.

I want to make it clear that no other cuts were made to district programs or staff at the expense of the hockey program. To cover the \$280,400 cost of the sport, there will certainly be increased fees, both for participants and spectators. A committee will form to review the fee schedule for all sports where there are additional facility rental costs, including hockey, swimming/diving, soccer and cross-country skiing. A decision on increased fees is expected by June.

Unfortunately, if other recommended cuts are restored, something else must be eliminated in its place. The only way to save other programs and positions is to increase revenue. There is still a possibility of this, but it's up to the legislature and governor. The community must hold legislators to their campaign promises to fully and adequately fund education. Providing the same amount of funding as last year doesn't account for inflation and other business cost increases.

The public is welcome to comment on the budget proposal through e-mail, phone calls or in person. The School Board will hear public testimony and take a final vote on the budget at 5 p.m. on February 8 at the ASD Education Center. All comments will be read and shared with the board before a final vote is taken.

I appreciate all of the people who have shared their opinions on the budget and other school district procedures. I encourage you to contact me at any time.

Most sincerely,

Carol Comeau



Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 2/2/07

MEETINGS ARE BROADCAST LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 14; SEE REBROADCAST SCHEDULE BELOW
SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA February 5, 2007 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Conf. Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute Jeff Friedman, Presiding School Board Comments	Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) Discussion	1. Planning Superintendent's Update Adjournment
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SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA February 8, 2007 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Conf. Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute Jeff Friedman, Presiding School Board Comments	Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) 1. Uncontested Student Hearings	2. Negotiations Update Superintendent's Update Adjournment
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SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA February 8, 2007 5:00 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute Jeff Friedman, Presiding School Board Comments Persons to be Heard on Non-Agenda Items (30 min.)	time limit Consent Agenda 1. Memo 183 - Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day	2. Memo 177 - FY 2007-2008 Proposed Financial Plan (Second Reading) Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) Adjournment
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*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. and Feb. 11 at 8:00 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 February 20, 2007 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Conference Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute Jeff Friedman, Presiding School Board Comments	Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) 1. Student Hearings 2. HSGQE Waivers	3. Workers Comp Claim 4. APA/AEA Negotiations Update Superintendent's Update Adjournment
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REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA February 20, 2007 6:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute Jeff Friedman, Presiding Approval Of Agenda Announcements Awards/Recognitions/Presentations 1. Service High School Freshman Academy Update 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 25, 2006	b. Regular Meeting - October 16, 2006 c. Special Meeting - January 22, 2007 2. Memo 180 - Recommendations for School Year Calendars: 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 3. Memo 181 - School Board Policy Revision: Sections 840-844 Code of Ethics (First Reading) 4. Memo 182 - Acceptance of Grant and Contract Awards: Continuation Funding for Administration of 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey 5. Memo 199 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Universal Design for Learning (UDL) 6. Memo 173 - Award of Contract: Scanning Services 7. Memo 178 - Award of Contract: Miscellaneous School Supplies 8. Memo 196 - Award of Contract: Bartlett High School	Dust Collection System 9. Memo 179 - Sale of Surplus Property 10. Memo 186 - Personnel Report Superintendent's Report 1. Memo 187 - Project Status Report 2. Memo 184 - Assessment Reporting System 3. Memo 185 - Second Quarter End-of-Month Membership Summary - January 31, 2007 Persons To Be Heard On Non-agenda Items Communications & School Board Comments Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) Adjournment
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*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Feb. 21 at 5 p.m., Feb. 22 at 12:30 p.m., Feb. 24 at 12:30 p.m. and Feb. 25 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 February 26, 2007 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Conference Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute Jeff Friedman, Presiding School Board Comments	Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation) 1. Student Hearings 2. HSGQE Waivers	3. APA/AEA Negotiations Update Superintendent's Update Adjournment
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REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA February 26, 2007 6:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute Jeff Friedman, Presiding Approval Of Agenda Announcements Awards/Recognitions/Presentations 1. Bartlett High School Choir, Liesl Davenport-Wheeler, conductor 2. Memo 192 - Recognition of Geoff Colvin 3. Memo 193 - Presentation on Positive Schoolwide Discipline and CSF Program 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)	time limit Consent Agenda 1. Approval of Minutes a. Regular Meeting - November 14, 2006 b. Special Meeting - February 20, 2007 2. Memo 181 - School Board Policy Revision: Sections 840-844 Code of Ethics (Second Reading) 3. Memo 195 - Award of Contract: Playground Shredded Rubber Fill 4. Memo 190 - Personnel Report Superintendent's Report 1. Memo 191 - Project Status Report 2. Memo 194 - Status Update on the External Review of the Student Information System Procurement Process 3. Memo 198 - Second Quarter Suspension/Weapons/	Expulsion Report 2006-2007 4. Memo 197 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of January 2007 5. Memo 189 - Operating Budget Transfers - January Monthly Report FY 2006-2007 6. Memo 188 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: January 31, 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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*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Feb. 28 at 5 p.m., March 1 at 12:30 p.m., March 3 at 12:30 p.m. and March 4 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

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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 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Conference Room.

5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99519-3135 • 742-4000 • www.asdk12.org • Tune in to cable channel 14