



# Monthly Update



## Anchorage School District



### This month at the Anchorage School District

- **March 16** – End of 3rd quarter. In-service day, no school for students.
- **March 19-23** - Spring Break, all schools closed. District administrative offices open.

### Teacher Contract Negotiations

The Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Education Association have not yet reached an agreement on a new contract for teachers. The arbitrator's opinion is expected back by Monday, March 5. After review of that opinion, both sides have committed to going back to the table in an effort to reach a new contract.

If an agreement is not reached and if teachers vote to authorize a strike, there is a possibility that the union will strike within the next month. If the union chooses to strike, schools will close and after-school activities will be canceled. Parents should begin considering now what their back-up plans will be should schools be closed because of a strike.

### Negotiations: Frequently Asked Questions

#### What can parents do to prepare for a strike?

It's a good idea for parents to have a plan for supervising children in the event of an unexpected school closure, whether that closure is due to inclement weather, a strike or another emergency. Some parents request assistance from family, friends or neighbors who are home during the day. Others may arrange for teens to supervise younger children. Regardless of the plan you develop, you should begin making arrangements now.

#### Why can't the district meet the union's demands and avert a strike?

The district has already been forced to cut nearly \$18 million in jobs and programs to balance next year's budget. Limited finances prevent the district from increasing its offer further. If the district allocates more funds to the teachers' contract, it will be forced to make further cuts to other jobs and essential school programs.

#### How much notice will parents have if a strike begins?

By law, the union is required to provide 72 hours notice to the district before striking.

#### Will a strike force the closure of schools?

Yes. Schools will be closed during a strike in the interest of student safety and learning. Good instruction depends on having a professional educator in the classroom.

#### How will a strike affect after-school activities?

All activities, including sports and student trips, will be canceled in the event of a strike to ensure student safety.

#### Will students be required to make up the days schools are closed due to a strike?

Yes. This school year, the district has one flexible in-service day that could be used to make up time lost during a strike. However, once that day is exhausted, the district will be adding days to the end of the school year so the total number of instructional days is not impacted. By law, there must be 180 days of instruction in a school year.

#### How will a strike affect senior graduations?

High school graduations will continue as scheduled. Special arrangements will be made to help seniors acquire the credits needed to graduate.

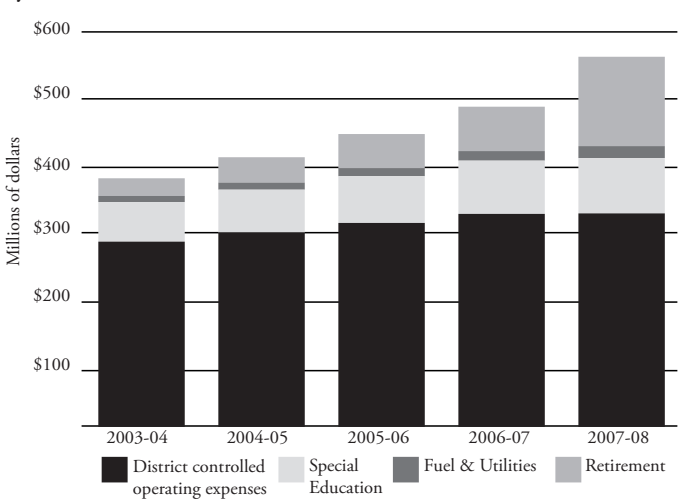
#### How will the district notify parents if there is a strike?

The district will use a variety of methods to reach parents. Take note of the following resources for school closure and strike information.  
**E-mail:** Subscribe at [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) to "ASDclosure" for updates via e-mail.  
**Hotline:** A hotline will carry any negotiations and strike messages for parents (566-4000).  
**Automated phone system:** In order for the automated phone system to work, it is essential your correct phone number is on record at your child's school.  
**Web site:** The district Web site has information regarding negotiations ([www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)).  
**Channel 14:** Tune into ASD-TV cable channel 14 for closure messages.

### Where does the money go?

#### If the district's general fund budget is increasing, why isn't there more money available to fund salaries?

Some costs increases are out of the district's 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.



### A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Early next week the district and the teachers' union will receive an arbitrator's opinion on contract issues. This neutral, third-party report provides an important perspective to help us continue negotiations. Both sides are committed to resuming talks as soon as the report is received and reviewed. I am hopeful that the arbitrator's opinion will help us conclude over a year of negotiations with a fair and affordable settlement that teachers will accept.

If we cannot reach agreement, teachers may vote to strike. In the interest of student safety, I have decided that schools will be closed and activities canceled during a strike, this includes student trips. I realize that a school closure would be very disruptive, however, parents and community members should prepare for this possibility.

Each family should have an emergency closure plan that includes child care and supervision for students, regardless of age. Working parents should talk about the possibility of a closure with employers.

As a former teacher and labor organization leader, I respect the collective bargaining process and believe it will lead us to a settlement. Teachers do extremely important work that is essential to our society; they deserve to be respected and well paid. I have worked hard to direct our available resources to teachers' salaries, benefits and working conditions, yet there are real limits to what the community can afford. I trust that teachers will take time to thoroughly review the arbitrator's opinion and consider the district's constraints before voting to settle or strike.

When the arbitrator's report arrives we will post it on our Web site at [www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org) along with regular updates on negotiations and the status of a school closure. I urge you to stay informed about the issues.

Thank you for your continued patience with this process.

Most sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*



### Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 3/2/07

#### SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA March 5, 2007 5:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Conference Room 150

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>School Board Comments</b>	<b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b>	1. AEA Update/Discussion of Arbitrator's Report <b>Superintendent's Update</b> <b>Adjournment</b>
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#### Joint Anchorage Municipal Assembly/School Board Meeting March 9, 2007 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ASD Board Room – 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd.

<b>Call To Order</b> <b>Roll Call</b> <b>Pledge Of Allegiance</b> <b>Minutes Of Previous Joint Meeting</b> a. Joint Meeting – December 1, 2006 <b>Addendum To Agenda</b>	<b>Items Of Business</b> a. Proposed ASD 2007-2008 Budget b. ASD Budget Review and Approval Process c. Superintendent's Report d. Mayor's Report	<b>Comments</b> <b>Schedule Of Upcoming Joint Meetings</b> a. Set Next Meeting <b>Adjournment</b>
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#### MEETINGS ARE BROADCAST LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 14; SEE REBROADCAST SCHEDULE BELOW SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA March 12, 2007 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Conference Room 150

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>School Board Comments</b>	<b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> 1. Uncontested Student Hearings 2. HSGQE Waivers	3. Live Student Hearing (5:00 p.m.) 4. APA/AEA Negotiations Update <b>Superintendent's Update</b> <b>Adjournment</b>
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#### REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA March 12, 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. Memo 219 - Recognition of Scholastic Art Competition winners 2. Memo 220 - Recognition of Costas Writing Award Winner, Mary Richards 3. Anchorage Community Assessment Project Presentation – Mary Barber and Mike Abbott <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>Consent Agenda</b>	1. Approval of Minutes i. Regular Meeting - October 16, 2006 ii. Special Meeting - February 26, 2007 2. Memo 200 - Award of Contract: Lake Otis Elementary School Window and Façade Upgrades 3. Memo 178 - Award of Contract: Miscellaneous School Supplies 4. Memo 216 - Acceptance of Cash Grant Award: Fred Meyer Stores 5. Memo 217 - Acceptance of Grant Award: Best Buy Teach Grants for Polaris K-12 6. Memo 218 - Budget Transfer: Partial Offset of Vending Machine Losses for Middle and High Schools 7. Memo 202 - Six Year Capital Improvement Plan Analysis and Recommendations: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2013 8. Memo 201 - Acceptance of Alaska Community Foundation Donation	9. Memo 205 - Personnel Report <b>Superintendent's Report</b> 1. Memo 206 - Project Status Report 2. Memo 208 - Presentation of District Induction and Mentoring Program 3. Memo 209 - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Second Quarter 2006-2007 School Year <b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-agenda Items 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 March 14 at 5 p.m., March 15 at 12:30 p.m., March 17 at 12:30 p.m. and March 18 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 March 26, 2007 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Conference Room 150

<b>Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute</b> Jeff Friedman, Presiding <b>School Board Comments</b>	<b>Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)</b> 1. Student Hearings 2. HSGQE Waivers	3. APA/AEA Negotiations Update <b>Superintendent's Update</b> <b>Adjournment</b>
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#### REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA March 26, 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. Clark Middle School Socratic Program presentation 2. Memo 221 - Recognition of Spirit of Youth Service to Peers Award for "Every 15 Minutes" program <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>Consent Agenda</b>	1. Approval of Minutes a. Regular Meeting - November 13, 2006 b. Regular Meeting - December 4, 2006 c. Regular Meeting - December 11, 2006 d. Special Meeting - March 12, 2007 2. Memo 214 - Resolution in Support of the Week of the Young Child 3. Memo 203 - Award of Contract: Nicholas Joseph Begich Middle School Closed Circuit Television System 4. Memo 213 - Personnel Report <b>Superintendent's Report</b> 1. Memo 215 - Project Status Report 2. Memo 204 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of February, 2007	3. Memo 207 - External Review of the Student Information System Project 4. Memo 210 - Operating Budget Transfers – February Monthly Report FY 2006-2007 5. Memo 211 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: February 28, 2007 <b>Persons To Be Heard On Non-agenda Items 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 March 28 at 5 p.m., March 29 at 12:30 p.m., March 31 at 12:30 p.m. and April 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)  
 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