

Monthly Update



Anchorage School District



Calendar

- **Oct. 15 – Nov. 29** – High school forums. Visit www.asdk12.org for list of dates and locations.
- **October 19** – End of first quarter. In-service day, no school for students.
- **November 7-8** – Parent conferences. School schedules and student-release times vary. Not all grades will have conferences on every day. Check with your school for specific schedule.
- **November 9** – In-service day, no school for students.
- **November 22-23** – Thanksgiving holiday. All schools and district offices closed.

Announcements

Earn additional high school credits

www.asdk12.org

The King Career Center's Third Session is an after-school program that offers .5 elective credit toward graduation for all ASD students in grades 9-12. Third Session classes are from 3-5:30 p.m. and run October 9 – December 6. The classes are free and so is transportation to KCC from the district's eight comprehensive high schools. Available winter session courses include:

- Automotive Maintenance
- Body and Fender
- Carpentry
- Construction Electricity
- Criminalistics
- Sports Medicine
- Movies, Music and Radio
- Photography
- Small Engines
- Web Design
- Welding
- Wilderness Recreation

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

Red Ribbon Week

www.asdk12.org/events/redribbon.asp

Red Ribbon Week provides an opportunity for our community to come together to help stop alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among our young people by delivering the message of "no use of illegal drugs, no illegal use of legal drugs" and providing positive and healthy activities.

From October 22-26, all ASD schools will participate in Red Ribbon Week by focusing on positive and healthy activities to keep kids drug, alcohol and tobacco free. Ask your child what's going on at his or her school.

Red Ribbon Week kick-off celebration

Monday, October 22

10 a.m.

Sand Lake Elementary

Return your Federal Impact Cards

Recently, all ASD students should have brought home a Federal Impact Card. Among other things, the survey card helps determine the number of military students enrolled in school. That important data may qualify your child's school for additional services and funding. Filling out and returning the card is a simple way to increase funding for our schools. Please take the time to complete the card and return it as soon as possible.

Expect the Best

On Tuesday, November 6, 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 goal of improved customer service. The report also details the steady increase in the district's graduation rate and decrease in the student dropout rate.

Point of Pride

West High School senior Kate Benedict recently spearheaded a children's clothing drive to benefit Alaska CARES, a child advocacy organization operated through Providence Health System. Kate connected with Cory Bryant at Alaska CARES through the ASD Gifted Mentorship program, where her focus was on child psychology. The clothing drive was part of her final project. Kate says it was a great way to give back to the community and an organization that voluntarily offered to mentor her.



Benedict

The Gifted Mentorship program provides opportunities for more than 150 students each year to receive school credit by partnering with volunteer community members for hands-on learning. More than 500 community leaders are signed up to be mentors. We applaud Kate and all of the ASD students and mentors who participate in the program to make a difference in our community.

A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

We officially welcomed 48,457 students to the start of what has already proven to be a great school year. That is within one percent of our projected enrollment.

The smaller than expected enrollment will not lead to layoffs or the cancellation of any programs. On average, it only amounts to about four fewer students per school. Later this month, we will begin putting together our enrollment projections for next school year. Those projections will play a role in our budget process to estimate how much state funding the district will receive. As we develop next year's budget, we will look back at recommendations from last year's budget review teams. There were many great suggestions that we will continue to explore while developing our 2007-08 financial plan. Public comments on program enhancements or budget saving suggestions are always welcome and can be sent through the district's online comment box at www.asdk12.org.

Also this month, we will begin holding a series of community discussions on high schools of the 21st century. We have great interest in hearing from the parents, students, staff, and community members on all aspects of high school education to create a vision for the next decade on how to educate 21st century learners. I am directing my staff to completely re-evaluate the graduation requirements, look at the impact of instructional technology and how to best educate today's high school students.

It's been more than ten years since we thoroughly reviewed the comprehensive high school education plan. Think about how much has changed since then. A decade ago, e-mail was just beginning to grow in popularity and there was no such thing as online learning or computer-assisted instruction.

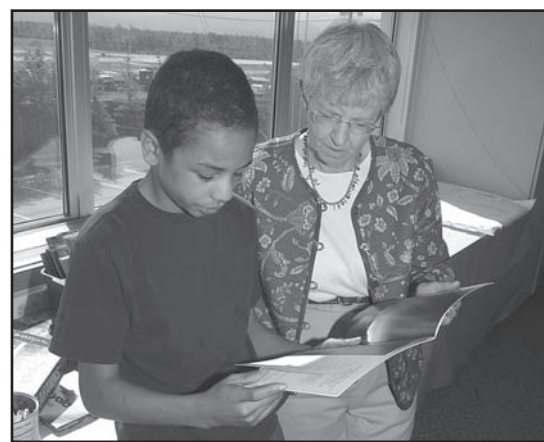
To prepare our students for a global economy, we know we need to make sure they're educated for the jobs and careers of this century. In addition to higher education, we also want to take a closer look at our efforts regarding career and technical education. We know there are a number of our students who will choose to further their vocational skills as opposed to attending traditional colleges and universities. We applaud and encourage any decision to pursue continuing education after leaving the Anchorage School District.

One unique vocational opportunity all high school students can take advantage of now is the Third Session at the King Career Center, which begins on Tuesday. The after-school courses provide opportunities for freshman through seniors to participate in hands-on learning. The Anchorage Construction Academy is also a popular program that is helping place 200 Alaskans in construction jobs each year.

More than 40 years ago, Bob Dylan penned the song, "The Times They Are a-Changin'." It's a simple phrase that always rings true. In order to ensure our students receive the best education possible and are prepared to enter the ever-changing world, we must change the way we teach. I hope you will join me in reviewing our practices and finding ways to improve. Our future depends on it.

Most sincerely,

Carol Comeau



Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 10/5/07

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

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA October 8, 2007 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Conference Room 150

Call To Order, Roll Call
Tim Steele, Presiding
School Board Comments

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

Superintendent's Update
Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA October 8, 2007 6:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute
Tim Steele, Presiding
Approval Of Agenda

Announcements
Awards/Recognitions/Presentations
1. Bartlett High School Choir, Liesl Davenport-Wheeler director
2. Memo 60 - Recognition of National Principal of the Year Finalist, Cheryl Guyett

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. Special Meeting - September 24, 2007

2. **Memo 61** - Resolution for School Bus Safety Week
3. **Memo 62** - Resolution Designating October 23 – 31, 2007 as Red Ribbon Week for Anchorage School District
4. **Memo 63** - Resolution In Support of Keeping the Lights on After School - October 18, 2007
5. **Memo 83** - ASD Board Policy Revision: 332.3(d) Time Period for Lotteries (Second Reading)
6. **Memo 92** - ASD Board Policy Changes due to Anchorage Equal Rights Commission Recommendations (First Reading)
7. **Memo 64** - Acceptance of Continuation Grant Award: Reading is FUNdamental, Inc.
8. **Memo 85** - Approval for East High School and Eagle River High School - One Percent for Art
9. **Memo 87** - Sale of Surplus Property
10. **Memo 57** - Personnel Report

Superintendent's Report

1. **Memo 58** - Project Status Report
2. **Memo 74** - Enrollment Status Update for September 28, 2007
3. **Memo 65** - 2007-2008 Certificated Recruitment Report
4. **Memo 80** - Monthly Update Student Information System – Zangle
5. **Memo 93** - Anchorage School District Improvement Plan for the 2007-2008 School Year
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 Oct. 10 at 5 p.m., Oct. 11 at 12:30 p.m., Oct. 13 at 12:30 p.m. and Oct. 14 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. Meeting podcasts are available at www.asdk12.org.*

SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA October 22, 2007 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Conference Room 150

Call To Order, Roll Call
Tim Steele, Presiding
School Board Comments

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

Superintendent's Update
Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA October 22, 2007 6:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute
Tim Steele, Presiding
Approval Of Agenda

Announcements
Awards/Recognitions/Presentations
1. Rogers Park Preschool Musical Performance, Anna Bondarenko, Director
2. **Memo 68** - Recognition of Partners in Homeless Education
3. **Memo 77** - Recognition for 2007 H.U.G.S.S. and Coats for Kids
4. **Memo 41** - Recognition of CASE Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Recipient Xiaogeng Sun

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 14, 2007
b. Regular Meeting - August 27, 2007

c. Special Meeting - October 8, 2007
2. Memo 69 - Resolution in Support of Alaska Native/American Indian Heritage Month
3. Memo 86 - Naming of the Mirror Lake Communications Room for Augie Hiebert
4. Memo 79 - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) Fiscal Year 2006-2007
5. Memo 92 - ASD Board Policy Changes due to Anchorage Equal Rights Commission Recommendations (Second Reading)
6. Memo 66 - Acceptance of Grant Award: US Department of Defense Project SOAR
7. Memo 94 - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Social and Emotional Learning
8. Memo 90 - Professional Services for West High School HVAC Upgrades
9. Memo 91 - Professional Services for Mechanical Upgrades at Three Schools
10. Memo 72 - Personnel Report
Superintendent's Report
1. Memo 67 - Project Status Report
2. Memo 70 - Profile of Performance
3. Memo 71 - Conflict of Interest Report – First Quarter Report FY 2007-2008

4. Memo 73 - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of September 2007
5. Memo 88 - Annual Report of Exempt Purchases
6. Memo 89 - Student Membership Projections for September, 30, 2008
7. Memo 75 - Operating Budget Transfers – July - September Report FY 2007-2008
8. Memo 76 - Out-of-District Travel – First Quarter Report FY 2007-2008
9. Memo 84 - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: September 30, 2007

Persons To Be Heard On Non-agenda Items
Communications & School Board Comments
Executive Session – (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)
Adjournment

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For more information

Anchorage School Board and Superintendent

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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 99504-3135 • 742-4000 • www.asdk12.org • Tune in to cable channel 14