

# Monthly Update



## Anchorage School District

### Calendar

- **February 18** – President's Day – all schools and offices closed.

### Proposed budget highlights\*

\*Anchorage School Board members will make their last changes to the budget at a special meeting on February 7. It then must be approved by the Anchorage Assembly before it becomes final.

### Additional teaching positions

Next school year's proposed budget includes approximately 86 additional teaching positions in elementary, special education, world languages and math support services.

- Twenty-five **teaching positions** to allow for more elementary planning time. This extra time is essential for teachers to prepare their lesson plans. These additional positions will be for health and physical education teachers. Students will benefit from additional physical education and activity.
- Four elementary and middle level **math support teachers** to enhance math instruction, training and support.
- Two middle school **world language teachers**. The popularity of world languages continues to grow districtwide. These positions will help meet the demand.
- Fifty-five **special education teachers, specialists and teacher aides**. Seventeen percent of ASD students receive special education services. Because Anchorage is a medical hub of the state, many special education families migrate to Anchorage, and the public school system. The staff increase will also meet federal requirements for a free and appropriate public education.

### New for 2008-09

In addition to the **Alaska Native Cultural Charter School** slated to open next year, the preliminary budget includes several new programs.

- The district's comprehensive high schools will offer a new **swimming course**. The course will be offered during sixth period and is designed to help students learn about water safety. The district currently does not offer high school swimming courses.
- A **Web content technician** will assist the district's Webmaster in providing up-to-date information online. Many parents and members of the community receive much of their information from the Internet. This position will ensure the district's Web site is an effective resource tool for the public.
- A **Newcomers' Center** will be established at East High. The center will be modeled after the successful program for new, non-English speaking students at the King Career Center. East High was chosen to house the new program because of the school's high level of diversity.
- Support for the **language interpreter center**. The center is a joint venture among several agencies. Support of the center will allow the district to access language interpreters.

Eighty-eight percent of ASD families speak English at home. The remaining 12 percent speak more than 84 languages. In 2006-07 the most frequently spoken languages other than English were:

Spanish: 1,582 students (3.2% of all ASD students)

Hmong: 832 students (1.7%)

Tagalog: 697 students (1.4%)

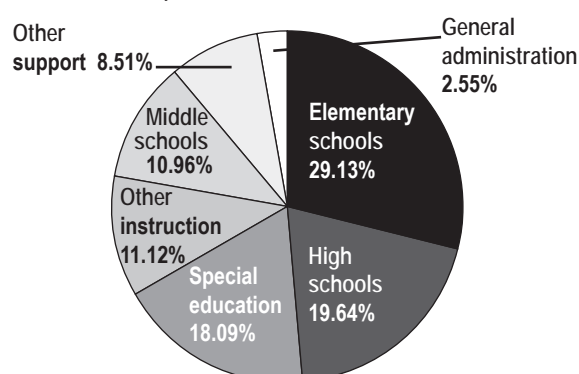
Samoan: 598 students (1.2%)

Korean: 429 students (0.9%)

For the current school year, the number of Yupik speaking students has grown to the fifth most popular language, replacing Korean.

### Where the money is spent

ASD has four funds that comprise the overall budget. The *General Fund* is the main operating budget. The chart below shows how the money in the General Fund is divided.



The *Debt Service Fund* is used solely for voter-approved bond projects. The *Local/State/Federal Projects Fund* is used for grants and contracts which provide for specific instructional programs. The *Food Service Fund* is used for the district's Student Nutrition Program. This fund is self sustaining through the sale of school breakfasts and lunches and receives some reimbursement through the USDA School Lunch Program.

Money from these three district funds cannot be transferred to other funds.

### A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

High oil prices, state revenue surplus and a genuine understanding of the importance of funding education put the Anchorage School District in a position to add much needed teachers to our elementary and middle school divisions. These enhancements will significantly boost the number of educators, increase physical education, allow for more planning time for elementary teachers, and augment math and world language courses.

The school board is set to make its second and final vote on next year's school budget on February 7, but the process is still far from over. The Anchorage Assembly must approve the overall budget amount

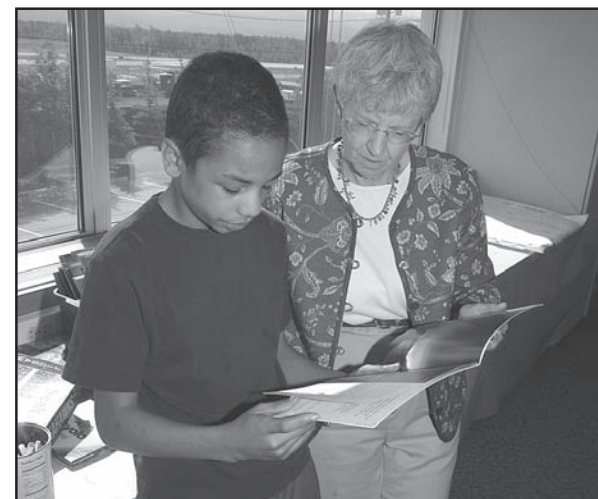
and the state legislature and governor must approve the proposed education funding plan. Next weekend members of the school board and I will travel to Juneau for a legislative fly-in. While in the capitol city, we'll meet with legislators to stress the importance of education funding, including cost sharing of the state PERS/TRS retirement system, debt reimbursement for construction projects, municipal revenue sharing and forward funding education so we can plan and budget for future years.

ASD's budget development process began this fall, it will continue until Governor Palin signs an education funding bill this spring. I'm confident that legislators will support the recommendations put forward by the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force. The task force put in long hours, gathered statewide input and delved into the details of education and funding needs across the state.

I'm proud to be an Alaskan and work in a community and state that truly values education. Please contact me or any school board member to talk more about the district's budget, student needs or any other questions or concerns you have about our schools. I also encourage you to speak with your legislator to share your thoughts on education funding. I do appreciate your support for our schools and students.

Most sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*



### Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 2/1/08

#### MEETINGS ARE BROADCAST LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 14; SEE REBROADCAST SCHEDULE BELOW SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA February 7, 2008 5 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Room

*Call To Order, Roll Call* – Tim Steele, Presiding  
*School Board Comments*  
*Persons to be Heard* – FY 2008-2009 Financial Plan  
*Consent Agenda*

1. **Memo 168** - FY 2008-2009 Proposed Financial Plan (Second Reading)  
*Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)*  
*Adjournment*

\*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast Feb. 9 at 12:30 p.m. and Feb. 10 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 February 25, 2008 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Room

*Call To Order, Roll Call* – Tim Steele, Presiding  
*School Board Comments*  
*Executive Session - (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)*

2. HSGQE Waivers
3. Negotiations  
*Superintendent's Update*  
*Adjournment*

1. Uncontested Student Hearings

#### REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA February 25, 2008 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. Alaska Youth Pipe & Drums, Heather King, director
2. **Memo 180** - Recognition of Amy Goodman for publication in "Middle School Journal"
3. Wendler Middle School 1:1 Project Presentation

*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 - December 3, 2007
  - b. Regular Meeting - December 17, 2007
  - c. Special Meeting - January 28, 2008
  - d. Special Meeting - January 31, 2008
  - e. Special Meeting - February 7, 2008
2. **Memo 214** - Approval of Change to Family Partnership Charter School's Chartered Enrollment
3. **Memo 192** - Approval of Rilke Schule Charter School Enrollment Adjustment
4. **Memo 199** - Appointment of Additional Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee Member
5. **Memo 193** - Acceptance of Grant Award: Dimond High School Engineering House
6. **Memo 197** - Acceptance of Grant Award: Fred Meyer Foundation for Creekside Park Elementary School
7. **Memo 201** - Acceptance of Grant Award: British Petroleum Funding

- for High School Mentorship Programs
8. **Memo 179** - Award of Contract: Student Nutrition Center Propane Fuel Conversion
9. **Memo 178** - Award of Contract: Student Records Scanning Services
10. **Memo 183** - Award of Contract: Lake Otis Elementary School East Wing Classroom Window Replacement
11. **Memo 194** - Award of Contract: Orion Elementary School Music Department Wing Ventilation Upgrades
12. **Memo 198** - Award of Contract: 403(b) Consulting Services
13. **Memo 200** - Amendment to Professional Services Agreement for West High School HVAC Upgrades
14. **Memo 184** - Personnel Report  
*Superintendent's Report*
1. **Memo 185** - Project Status Report
2. **Memo 182** - Second Quarter End-of-Month Membership Summary – January 31, 2008
3. **Memo 188** - Second Quarter Suspension/Weapons/Expulsion Report 2007-2008
4. **Memo 189** - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of January 2008
5. **Memo 164** - Operating Budget Transfers December Monthly Report FY 2007-2008
6. **Memo 186** - Operating Budget Transfers January Monthly Report FY 2007-2008
7. **Memo 187** - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: January 31, 2008  
*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 Feb. 27 at 5 p.m., Feb. 28 at 12:30 p.m., March 1 at 12:30 p.m. and March 2 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.

### For more information

**Anchorage School Board and Superintendent**  
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Crystal Kennedy, 696-2624, kennedy\_crystal@asdk12.org  
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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 99504-3135 • 742-4000 • www.asdk12.org • Tune in to cable channel 14