

# Monthly Update



# Anchorage School District



## Calendar

- **March 7** – End of third quarter. In-service day, no school for students.
- **March 10–14** – Spring Break. No school for students.
- **March 26–27** – Parent conferences. School schedules and release times vary, check with your child's school for specific schedule. See below for conference tips.
- **March 28** – In-service day, no school for students.
- **April 1–4** – Testing days. See below for more information.

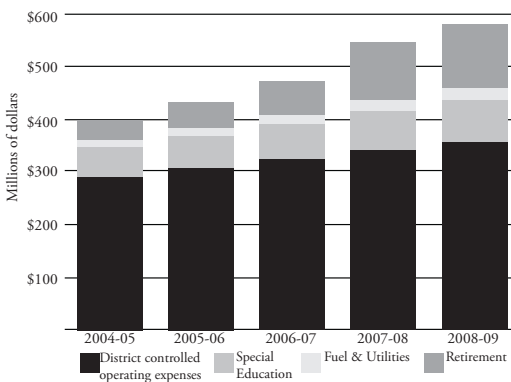
## Announcements

### Education funding

[www.asdk12.org/depts/budget](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/budget)

Education funding is at the top of the legislative agenda in Juneau. Already this session, there has been significant movement on proposed House and Senate education funding bills. ASD supports the recommendations of the Joint Legislative Education Funding Task Force (JLEFTF). Early indications show those recommendations have a good chance of becoming law. The district posted the recommendations, as well as the district's proposed 2008-09 budget on its Web site. House Bill 273, which provides increased education funding, was approved by the House last week and is headed to the Senate floor. It's not too late to contact your legislators and let them know your thoughts on state education funding.

This graph shows increases to the district's General Fund budget over the past five years. There have been significant increases to costs that are out of the district's control, such as special education, fuel, utility and retirement costs.



## Important test days coming soon

[www.asdk12.org/parents/test.asp](http://www.asdk12.org/parents/test.asp)

During the first week of April, students in grades 3-10 will take the state mandated Standards Based Assessments. The SBAs determine how well students have mastered state academic standards in reading, writing and math. SBA science knowledge will also be tested in students in grades 4, 8 and 10. SBA results are used to calculate Adequate Yearly Progress as determined by No Child Left Behind. All high school sophomores will take a combined SBA/High School Graduation Qualifying Exam. Students in grades 11 and 12 have the opportunity to retest in any or all three of the HSGQE sections they must pass in order to receive a high school diploma. For practice tests, test-preparation and pointers, and more information about the SBA and HSGQE, log on to the district's Web site.

## New and improved

[www.asdk12.org/depts/language\\_arts](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/language_arts)

[www.asdk12.org/depts/ELL](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/ELL)

Do you have questions about your student's language arts lessons? Or how about English language learners (ELL)? Both ASD departments have updated their Web sites to better serve the public. The language arts section has a large list of book recommendations along with a parents' page with links to community and online resources. ELL, formerly known as the Bilingual/Multicultural Department, provides an overview of what the department has to offer. There are more than 80 languages spoken by students in the Anchorage School District.

## Point of Pride

Chugiak High School's Family, Careers and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) group is receiving a \$5,000 grant from State Farm to implement educational programs focusing on safe driving for teens. FCCLA students will use the funds to develop information on graduated drivers licenses, driving under the influence and seatbelt safety. The group's work is part of an effort to reduce the number of motor vehicle crashes, which are the leading cause of death among teens. Chugiak's FCCLA members are also to be commended for the hundreds of volunteer hours they've given in support of service projects across the community in the past few months.

## A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Learning difficult subjects in school can sometimes be tough for students. It's even harder when outside influences from students' personal lives make it into schools. As adults, we know what it's like to have a bad day. It can carry over into our work lives and distract our daily routines. The same thing happens to our children when they're bothered by something that happened at home or in the neighborhood. Whether it's a custody issue that plays out in front of young children or peer pressure, it's our job to educate and protect our young people from harmful influences.

As parents and educators we must meet our obligation to protect and closely monitor students. My staff and I accept that responsibility and we make student safety our first priority. I fully support the 16 uniformed Anchorage police officers who work with our school staff every day to keep negative influences outside of our schools. Diligent efforts by our School Resource Officers, school staff and administrators are allowing educators to keep students focused on learning during the school day.

A continually improving partnership with the Anchorage Police Department occasionally puts ASD schools in the limelight when it comes to neighborhood crime. If police are working to apprehend a potentially dangerous suspect, news headlines flash about school lockdowns and emergency procedures. Parents and community members should be reassured that in these instances, our students are safe in school and the emergency action is taken solely as a precaution.

All schools have comprehensive crisis plans that detail actions for an emergency on or around school grounds. The emergency action may involve placing the school in a lockdown or stay-put situation until the school and its immediate neighborhood are deemed safe by public safety officials.

In the event of a **lockdown** all inside and outside doors and windows to the building are closed and locked; no one is allowed to enter or leave the building and all students and staff take cover away from windows and doors. Situations where a lockdown may be needed include a potentially dangerous intruder on school grounds or in the vicinity of school grounds.

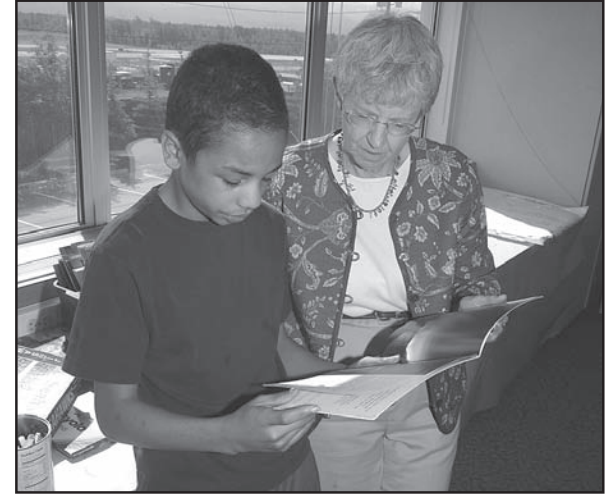
A **stay put** is a less severe emergency action. All students and staff outdoors are brought inside and exterior windows and doors to the building are closed and locked. The outside of the building is secure and inside, the day continues as scheduled. A stay put may be needed when police are searching for a criminal suspect in the area or there is an animal problem, such as a moose on school grounds.

Student involvement is critical to keeping our schools safe. If children feel uncomfortable, for any reason during school hours, they should voice their feelings to a trusted individual at school. School staff actively build trusting adult-student relationships. It's important that all children have at least one safe, responsible adult to confide in during the school day. Safe schools don't just happen, they require aggressive efforts. Please review your school's safety procedures and discuss them with your student to make certain he or she understands them.

I look forward to a safe and productive fourth quarter.

Most sincerely,

*Carol Comeau*



## Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 2/29/08

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

#### SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA March 3, 2008 4:45 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Room

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

#### Special Presentation

1. Fanning – Howey Presentation on West High School/Romig Middle School Pre-Planning Report

*Superintendent's Update*  
*Adjournment*

*The meeting will be aired live on cable channel 14 and will be rebroadcast March 5 at 5 p.m., March 6 at 12:30 p.m., March 8 at 12:30 p.m. and March 9 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.*

#### REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA March 3, 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. Williwaw Elementary Orchestra, David Hagen, director
2. Memo 218 - Recognition of State Farm for Donation to Chugiak High School's FCCLA in Support of Safe Driving Awareness for Teenagers
3. Presentation on the Cycle of Military Deployments & Related Issues

#### 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 - February 25, 2008
2. **Memo 204** - Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan Analysis and Recommendations: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2018
3. **Memo 221** - School Board Policy Revisions: Sections 841, Political Activities in the School; 841.1, Political Candidacy and Public Offices; 842, Gifts (First Reading)
4. **Memo 219** - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Project K11
5. **Memo 227** - Prior Approval of Discretionary Grant: Carol M. White Physical Education Program
6. **Memo 228** - Budget Transfers: Everyday Math and Handwriting Without Tears Curricula Purchase
7. **Memo 198** - Award of Contract: 403(b) Consulting Services
8. **Memo 216** - Award of Contract: Student Transportation Facility Reroof and Structural Upgrades

9. **Memo 226** - Sale of Surplus Property
10. **Memo 202** - Personnel Report

#### Superintendent's Report

1. **Memo 203** - Project Status Report
2. **Memo 215** - Graduate Survey Report
3. **Memo 190** - Monthly Update Student Information System - Zangle
4. **Memo 206** - Status Report: Submission of Discretionary Grants, Second Quarter 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.*

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#### WORK SESSION—AGENDA March 20, 2008 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd, Board Room

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

*Discussion with Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee*

*Superintendent's Update*  
*Adjournment*

#### SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA March 24, 2008 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. Uncontested Student Hearings
2. HSGQE Waivers

3. Negotiations

*Superintendent's Update*  
*Adjournment*

#### REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA March 24, 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. Eagle River Recorders, Tami Nunley, director
2. **Memo 191** - Recognition of United States Senate Youth Program Alaska Representative, Tonci Glavinic
3. **Memo 220** - Recognition of the AARP Ethel Percy Andrus Award Recipient, East High School

#### 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 17, 2007
  - b. Regular Meeting - January 14, 2008
  - c. Regular Meeting - January 28, 2008
  - d. Special Meeting - March 3, 2008
2. **Memo 209** - Resolution in Support of the Week of the Young Child

3. **Memo 221** - School Board Policy Revisions: Sections 841, Political Activities in the School; 841.1, Political Candidacy and Public Offices; 842, Gifts (Second Reading)
4. **Memo 205** - Award of Contract: Miscellaneous School Supplies
5. **Memo 210** - Award of Contract: Enterprise Applicant Tracking and Hiring System
6. **Memo 217** - Award of Contract: Heating System Repairs, Inlet View Elementary School
7. **Memo 223** - Award of Contract: Huffman Elementary School Domestic Water System Upgrades
8. **Memo 224** - Award of Contract: Romig Middle School Heating System Revisions
9. **Memo 225** - Award of Contract: Gruening Middle School Domestic Water System Upgrades
10. **Memo 222** - Award of Contract: Chugiak Elementary School Traffic Safety Upgrades
11. **Memo 229** - Award of Contract: Anchorage School District Warehouse Heating System Upgrades
12. **Memo 230** - Award of Contract: Campbell Elementary School Re-Roof and Structural Upgrades
13. **Memo 231** - Award of Contract: Trust Authority

14. **Memo 233** - Award of Contract: Multi-School CCTV Installation & Security System Upgrades
15. **Memo 232** - Approval of Funding for Legal Expenses Using Interest Earnings
16. **Memo 234** - Professional Services Selection for CCTV & Security Systems Upgrades Construction Administration
17. **Memo 207** - Personnel Report

#### Superintendent's Report

1. **Memo 208** - Project Status Report
2. **Memo 211** - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of February 2008
3. **Memo 212** - Operating Budget Transfers February Monthly Report FY 2007-2008
4. **Memo 213** - Treasurer's Report/Financial Report: February 29, 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.*

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## 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.

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