

Monthly Update

Anchorage School District

Calendar

Jan. 19 — Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday, no school for students.

Jan. 24 — 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. ASD Alternative Programs Fair

www.asdk12.org/parents/choices or call 742-4242.

Announcements

School Board vacancy

School Board member Chris Tuck has been elected to the State Legislature and will be resigning from the board later this month. Under state law, the remaining board members appoint his replacement, who will fill that seat until the April election. Additional information about the appointment process will be published once Mr. Tuck's resignation is final. A description of the selection process is contained in School Board Policy 122.1.

Delayed school buses

On rare occasions, school buses may be delayed by traffic accidents, road conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances. If there is a significant delay in returning students to their bus stop at the end of the day, the bus driver will notify dispatch, who will, in turn, notify the school's principal. The principal will then use the School Messenger telephone system to notify parents of the late arrival. Parents should notify the school office of any changes to their telephone number(s), so that they can be contacted in such a situation.

Emergency school closures

www.asdk12.org/parents/closure.asp

Severe weather conditions or other emergencies can cause a change in school schedules or cancellation of the school day. Although rare, changes and closures do happen.

Safety of students and staff is the number one priority when the decision is made whether to close schools. The superintendent must also weigh the effects a potential closure may have on the community. For example,

- Many parents must find immediate childcare or stay home from work for the day. In turn, the workforce across the municipality may be drastically reduced.
- The district has a limited number of snow days available for use before it is forced to add days to the school calendar.
- A closure may affect the critical, high-stakes testing and assessment calendar set by the state.
- Many students close to graduation need credit hours and lessons completed to earn a diploma. A closure may have a negative impact on their efforts.

Closure notification

The decision to close schools is usually made between 4:30 and 5 a.m. on inclement weather days. Delayed start or closure information is immediately distributed using the following methods.

- www.asdk12.org.
- sent electronically to subscribers of ASD Direct.
- posted on ASD-TV cable channel 14.
- shared with local radio and television stations.

Snow plowing priorities

The Anchorage School District plows snow from parking and driveway areas based on the following priority level:

1. faculty and public parking, including fire hydrants at schools without internal sprinkler systems and primary fire lanes
2. bus lanes
3. handicap parking
4. student parking
5. secondary fire lanes
6. snow removal and hauling to dump sites
7. skating rinks and cross country ski trail assembly areas.

Following a snowstorm, student parking areas might not be plowed by the start of the school day. Students who normally drive themselves to school should consider taking the bus or car-pooling until the student parking areas are cleared.

Be prepared for the weather

www.asdk12.org/parents/winter.asp

Students should come to school dressed appropriately for weather conditions. Although popular fashion trends may not include winter hats, gloves, heavy coats and boots, parents should insist their children of all ages wear such items when the temperature or wind chill factor is low. Students must be prepared in case an emergency forces a building evacuation. Elementary school students will go outside for daily recess unless the temperature or wind chill factor reaches minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

For most of the winter, students will go to school before the sun rises. Help your child be seen in the dark and make sure all winter clothing and backpacks have reflective material.

A Word from Carol Comeau, Superintendent

Welcome to a new year and a new school semester! A new year means new beginnings, and I am filled with optimism for what 2009 will bring. I extend a special welcome to the nearly 240 students who have joined ASD this semester, and hope that you and your families make a quick and successful transition to life here in Anchorage.

This is a busy time for ASD staff. It is the season for numerous student assessments; tests that help determine how well ASD is meeting state and federal accountability requirements, and help guide school improvement plans. You can help by making sure your children are present on testing days, and that they get a good night's sleep before taking the assessments.

Through April, we will be working with the community and our elected officials on the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget. The School Board work session and meeting schedule for the budget process will be published in a separate ad.

April is also election time, and after much thought, consultation with staff, and reviewing the community input received, I have chosen to recommend to the School Board that two bonds be put on the ballot this spring. The first is a \$69.9 million bond that would pay for the much-needed completion of the renovations at Service High School and for the design of a renovated school in Girdwood, and would fulfill our obligation for a water and sewer line extension at Eagle River High School. The second bond would provide \$27.5 million in preventative maintenance/systems renewal and safety upgrades such as sprinkler and security systems. More than \$90 million of these bonds are eligible for 60-70 percent debt reimbursement from the state, which would greatly reduce the taxpayer cost over the life of these bonds.

The decision to move forward with these bonds was a difficult one, particularly in light of the country's current financial situation. However, we as a community have an obligation to invest in and maintain our facilities to ensure our students have a safe learning environment that meets the demands of modern education. Rising construction costs mean that postponement would significantly increase the costs of these and numerous other critical projects identified in our 10-year Capital Improvement plan. Most importantly, a community survey conducted last month showed strong voter support for these bonds, indicating that this community understands the importance of these projects.

As always, I value your input during this process. Additional information on the budget and the bonds, including an opportunity to submit your comments, is available on our web site at www.asdk12.org.

This year is sure to hold many challenges and opportunities. I look forward to meeting each one successfully, and to continuing the Anchorage School District mission of educating all students for success in life.

Most sincerely,

Carol Comeau



Meetings of the Anchorage School Board

agendas current as of 1/8/09

MEETINGS ARE BROADCAST LIVE ON CABLE CHANNEL 14; SEE REBROADCAST SCHEDULE BELOW
***SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA** January 12, 2009 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Conference Room 150

Call To Order, Roll Call – Jeff Friedman, Presiding

Executive Session – (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)

1. Uncontested Student Hearings
2. Negotiations Update

School Board Comments
Superintendent's Update
Adjournment

***REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA** January 12, 2009 6:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute – Jeff Friedman, Presiding

Approval Of Agenda

Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

1. Begich Middle School Jazz Band, Don Cosgrove, director
2. **Memo 170** - Recognition of 2008 National Teacher Certification Recipients
3. **Memo 176** - Recognition of Janet Levin for Distinguished Service to Homeless Children and Youth
4. Language and Cultural Liaison Program Presentation

Announcements

Special Advisory Reports

1. Student Advisory Board
2. Military Delegate
3. M.E.C.A.C.

Public Testimony

1. Public Testimony Regarding Upcoming Bus Negotiations
2. Public Testimony Regarding Upcoming Food Service Negotiations

Persons To Be Heard On Non-Agenda Items (30-minute time limit)

1. **Memo 127** - Evaluation of the 2007-2008 Six-Year

Instructional Plan

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting - October 27, 2008
 - b. Joint Meeting - October 30, 2008 _ Revised
 - c. Regular Meeting - November 10, 2008
 - d. Regular Meeting - December 1, 2008
 - e. Special Meeting - December 15, 2008
2. **Memo 145** - 2009 General Obligation Bond Recommendations
3. **Memo 174** - Resolution in Support of Martin Luther King Day
4. **Memo 196** - Appointment of Minority Education Concerns Advisory Committee Members
5. **Memo 173** - Bond Information Program
6. **Memo 171** - Approval of School Board and Superintendent Out-of-State Travel for Third Quarter 2008-2009
7. **Memo 178** - School Board Policy Revision and Additions: Section 100 (First Reading)
8. **Memo 179** - School Board Policy Addition: Section 450.3 Age of Majority (First Reading)
9. **Memo 180** - School Board Policy Revisions: Sections 725.4 – 725.46 Conflict of Interest (First Reading)
10. **Memo 175** - Award of Contract: 43-Passenger Type C School Buses

11. **Memo 156** - Approval of Schematic Design for Sand Lake Elementary School Renewal
 12. **Memo 161** - Approval of Alternate Master Plan for Service High School
 13. **Memo 159** - Approval of Funding for Capital Projects Using Interest Earnings
 14. **Memo 169** - Personnel Report
- Superintendent's Report**
1. **Memo 168** - Project Status Report
 2. **Memo 191** - One Percent for Art – Selection of Artwork for Government Hill Elementary School and Clark Middle School Renewal
 3. **Memo 166** - Out-of-District Travel – Second Quarter Report FY 2008-2009
 4. **Memo 183** - Operating Budget Transfers November Monthly Report FY 2008-2009
 5. **Memo 167** - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: November 30, 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 Jan. 14 at 5 p.m., Jan 15 at 12:30 p.m., Jan. 17 at 12:30 p.m. and Jan. 18 at 7:30 a.m.

WORK SESSION—AGENDA January 14, 2009 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute – Jeff Friedman, Presiding

Announcements

Discussion

1. Meeting Student Needs

School Board Comments
Adjournment

***SPECIAL MEETING—AGENDA** January 26, 2009 4:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Conference Room 150

Call To Order, Roll Call – Jeff Friedman, Presiding

Executive Session – (Personnel/Finance/Negotiations/Litigation)

1. Uncontested Student Hearings
2. HSGQE Waivers
3. Negotiations – Bus/Food Service

School Board Comments
Superintendent's Update
Adjournment

***REGULAR MEETING—AGENDA** January 26, 2009 6:30 p.m. 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Board Room

Call To Order, Roll Call, Flag Salute – Jeff Friedman, Presiding

Approval Of Agenda

Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

1. **Memo 194** - Recognition of Charitable Giving Campaign Coordinator Darlene Smith
2. **Memo 202** - Recognition of the Chugiak/Eagle River Parks, Recreation and Community Development Board of Supervisors

Announcements

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)

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting - December 15, 2008
 - b. Regular Meeting - January 12, 2009
 - c. Special Meeting - January 12, 2009
2. **Memo 182** - Resolution Honoring Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

3. **Memo 178** - School Board Policy Revision and Additions: Section 100 (Second Reading)
4. **Memo 179** - School Board Policy Addition: Section 450.3 Age of Majority (Second Reading)
5. **Memo 180** - School Board Policy Revisions: Sections 725.4 – 725.46 Conflict of Interest (Second Reading)
6. **Memo 190** - Award of Contract: e-Rate Communications Services
7. **Memo 195** - Award of Contract: Symantec Enterprise Vault Mailbox Archiving
8. **Memo 199** - Award of Contract: West High School Security Door Hardware Upgrades
9. **Memo 201** - Professional Services Selection for Girdwood Elementary School Renewal – Planning & Design Services
10. **Memo 187** - Personnel Report

- System – Zangle
 5. **Memo 185** - Conflict of Interest – Second Quarter Report FY 2008-2009
 6. **Memo 184** - Semi-Annual Report of Professional/Consultant Services on Contracts over \$100,000
 7. **Memo 189** - Facility Contract Modification Report and Completed Projects for the Month of December 2008
 8. **Memo 200** - Operating Budget Transfers December Monthly Report FY 2008-2009
 9. **Memo 181** - Treasurer's Report/Financial Recap: December 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 Jan. 28 at 5 p.m., Jan. 29 at 12:30 p.m., Jan 31 at 12:30 p.m. and Feb. 1 at 7:30 a.m.

*The meetings will be closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. The agendas are 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

Jeff Friedman, President, 742-4699, friedman_jeff@asdk12.org
Pat Higgins, 742-5338, higgins_pat@asdk12.org
Crystal Kennedy, 696-2624, kennedy_crystal@asdk12.org
Macon Roberts, 742-5350, roberts_macon@asdk12.org

Tim Steele, 277-7663, steele_tim@asdk12.org
John Steiner, 696-2629, steiner_john@asdk12.org
Chris Tuck, 742-5343, tuck_chris@asdk12.org
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 on Aug. 28 and the third Thursday of every subsequent month at 4:30 p.m. 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