

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD/ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY
JOINT MEETING
MAY 13, 1997

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was convened at 10 a.m. by School Board President, Debbie Ossiander, at the Goldenview Middle School, 15800 Goldenview Drive.

B. ROLL CALL

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Begich, Pat Abney, Fay Von Gemmingen, Bob Bell, Ted Carlson, and Kevin Meyer.

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ABSENT: Cheryl Clementson, Dan Kendall, Joe Murdy, Charles Wohlforth, and George Wuerch.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Debbie Ossiander, Harriet Drummond, Kathi Gillespie, Kelly Haney, Rita Holthouse, Peggy Robinson-Wilson, and Dave Werdal.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Christal, Superintendent; Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction; Janet Stokesbary, Chief Financial Officer; Ed Conyers, Executive Director, Physical Plant; Kathy Christy, Director, Facilities; Sue Moore, Executive Director, Elementary Education; Robb Boyer, Executive Director, Middle Education; Norm Holthouse, Executive Director, Technology/MIS; Grace Likeness, Executive Assistant; the press and other interested persons.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Addition to Agenda Requested by Peggy Robinson-Wilson: Healthy Futures Project.

Addition to Agenda Requested by Mark Begich: Municipal Revenue Sharing.

1. APPROVAL OF JOINT MEETING MINUTES

ACTION:

Moved by Kevin Meyer to approve August 13, 1996 and
seconded by Bob Bell October 1, 1996 minutes.

VOTE: Unanimously Passed.

2. BUSINESS SYSTEM ACQUISITION

Bob Christal distributed ASD Memorandum #278, Award of Contract: Business Management System Software, to Assembly members. He reported that an extensive needs assessment was conducted through a coordinated effort of Data Processing and the Business Division to determine how we do business in the District. Requests for information were sent to numerous vendors and many school districts and municipalities were questioned regarding their systems. In addition, a community group representing the financial and information systems fields were asked to serve on a committee to review and validate the process.

Janet Stokesbary reported that ASD Memorandum #278 is the award of contract to Bi-tech Software, Inc. The District is in the final stages of negotiating the contract. The implementation schedule will be adjusted according to the type of hardware that is selected.

Norm Holthouse presented information about the hardware RFP. He reported that a committee will evaluate the RFP responses during the month of May and that the District planned to make a decision by June 23.

Debbie Ossiander explained that this item was on the agenda because several Assembly members expressed concern during the budget hearings about the District not using Municipal hardware. She stated the Board needed to be responsive to meeting the District's needs. She added that the District was not precluded from using the Municipality's hardware.

Bob Christal noted that Pages 3 and 4 of the memorandum addressed the Municipality's concerns.

3. SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE PROCESS

Debbie Ossiander reported that this item was on the agenda because several Assembly members expressed concern about how the Northern Lights site acquisition process fit into the template that was developed through Municipal Ordinance. Ms. Ossiander reported that the District has worked closely with the Planning and Zoning Commission to come up with changes that would facilitate a more flexible site acquisition process.

Kathy Christy reported that she was serving as the District representative to a task force consisting of Cathy Hammond of the Municipal Planning Department and several members of the Planning and Zoning Commission that is looking at the current ordinance. She reported the task force has developed a semi-final draft of a revised ordinance that would allow for an RFP selection process for exposition of property. The item was tentatively scheduled to be on the May 20 Assembly agenda.

Kevin Meyer initiated discussion about how best to coordinate school construction with the necessary road structure.

Kathy Christy reported that the District is working closely with Municipal planning agencies to coordinate construction activities.

Mark Begich encouraged that the ordinance be introduced on May 20.

Discussion relative to the design/build process was initiated. Mark Begich volunteered to do what he could to keep the process moving along.

Harriet Drummond commented that she heard there was a great deal of interest from the community in having a middle school in Northeast Anchorage.

It was agreed the ordinance should be introduced on May 20.

4. USE OF HERITAGE LAND BANK FUNDS

Debbie Ossiander reported that this item was on the agenda as a result of comments made at an Assembly meeting relative to exploring ways the District's maintenance needs could be met.

Mark Begich provided background about the use of Heritage Land Bank funds. He reported that the ordinance is written to serve both government agencies.

5. CONSOLIDATION ISSUES REGARDING SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Bob Christal stated that he recently responded to a written request from Bob Bell. He reported he would provide Greg Moyer with a copy of the response so that copies could be available for other Assembly members to review.

Bob Christal expressed pride in the improvements/accomplishments of the District's construction practices within the past 4/5 years. He emphasized the District has listened to the community. He reported that 10 new schools have been built since 1990. In addition, a significant number of other projects/renovations have been successfully completed at other schools.

Kathy Christy reviewed and distributed a document on the District's position on Assembly Resolution 97-60: Transfer of School Construction from ASD to MOA. Highlights of Ms. Christy's presentation were:

- 1) Coordination between the District's Facilities and Maintenance Departments;
- 2) Development of the current procedure manual and recommendations of the Quality Construction Practices Advisory Committee (QCPAC);
- 3) Coordination with School Board;
- 4) Department of Education interface;
- 5) Construction activity;
- 6) Timeliness of projects;
- 7) Budget control process;
- 8) Product Awards/recognitions;
- 9) Cost of transferring Capital Projects from District to Municipality;
- 10) Negative impacts of Consolidation of Capitol Projects.

Ed Conyers complemented the Facilities/Maintenance team. He reminded the group that the QCPAC recommendations were incorporated into the District's policies and procedures.

Bob Bell reported that his intent was to build more schools for less money. He reported that if we can't get more value at less cost, then the Assembly wouldn't pursue consolidation. He

commented that low or below bids often have to do with poor estimates.

Bob Christal responded that the resulting low bids was not an issue of over-estimating. Rather the staff followed procedures recommended by outside entities and ought to be applauded for accomplishing what the community has asked them to do. It was not that the District overestimated, but rather a matter of using resources wisely.

Bob Bell questioned non-construction costs associated with Kincaid. He felt that the principal, librarian and clerk should not be charged against bond money but rather to the operating budget. Mr. Bell voiced there was a more efficient way to do business. He reiterated that he desired to build more schools by saving money.

Bob Christal reviewed the reasoning behind having the principal and library book costs charged to capital bond funds.

Kathi Gillespie reminded the group that the District needed to justify school funding to the Department of Education.

Kevin Meyer felt that rather than looking at consolidation, purchasing power should be reviewed. He inquired about looking into the possibilities of combining the District's and the Municipality's purchasing power and/or discounts.

Bob Christal reported that there are many things the District does jointly with the Municipality.

Mark Begich asked if the Assembly could be provided with a memorandum that outlined those items that are jointly purchased by the District and Municipality. He also asked that during future quarterly meetings information be provided about recent joint efforts.

Fay Von Gemmingen pointed out that the proposed ordinance needed both Assembly and District approval.

Kathi Gillespie encouraged Assembly members to visit Gruening, the last school built by the Municipality, to compare a Municipal construction project with a District project.

Bob Bell encouraged Assembly members to also look at other schools built by the Municipality in order to gain a fair comparison.

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Debbie Ossiander announced that this item was put on the agenda to let the Assembly know about issues the District has been working on relative to gaining additional funding. She reported the District will be working diligently next year to work with legislators to raise the foundation formula. She added that the District had high hopes for a capital match that would be retroactive for this bond proposal.

Kathi Gillespie addressed concerns relative to Charter schools.

7. HEALTHY FUTURES PROJECT

Peggy Robinson-Wilson reported that the people that are making the decisions aren't actually part of the process. She stated that the groups working on visioning have no idea whether people making the decisions are going to buy into their ideas. She stated there was a need to look at ways of bringing the Board, as elected officials, and city officials into the process.

8. MUNICIPAL REVENUE SHARING

Mark Begich distributed a letter from the Mayor to the Legislature relative to how cuts to the Municipal revenue sharing budget would impact the Municipal operating budget.

Debbie Ossiander thanked the Assembly for passing the Earthquake Insurance Resolution.

Pat Abney inquired about the savings from PERS and the earthquake insurance.

Bob Christal reported that the issues were currently being evaluated and were scheduled for discussion on Monday's School Board agenda.

Harriet Drummond asked if the District could come up with a similar document as the Mayor's that would explain funding of inflationary increases.

Mark Begich discussed Assembly retreat items. He announced that the District was invited to lunch during the Assembly's retreat.

Fay Von Gemmingen announced that she will introduce an ordinance on May 20 to change the way School Board members are elected. The ordinance recommend that Board members be elected at large. Candidates receiving the three highest number of votes would be elected.


It was announced the next meeting will be held August 19, 1997.

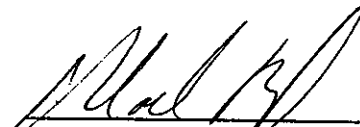
E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

F. TOUR OF GOLDENVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

A tour of Goldenview Middle School was conducted.


Debbie Ossiander
Anchorage School Board


Mark Begich, Chair
Anchorage Assembly

June 9, 1997
Date

11-4-97 by Assembly