

**ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD/ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY  
JOINT MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 22, 1998**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was convened at 1:15 p.m. by School Board President, Harriet Drummond, in the Anchorage School District School Board Room, 4600 DeBarr Avenue.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

**ASSEMBLY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fay Von Gemmingen, Pat Abney, Dan Kendall, Kevin Meyer, Melinda Taylor, Charles Wohlforth and George Wuerch.

**ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ted Carlson, Cheryl Clementson, Bob Bell, and Joe Murdy.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Harriet Drummond, Debbie Ossiander, Dave Werdal, Kathi Gillespie, Rita Holthouse, and Bettye Davis.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Peggy Robinson-Wilson.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bob Christal, Superintendent; Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction; Janet Stokesbary, Chief Financial Officer; Grace Likeness, Executive Assistant; the press and other interested persons.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS JOINT MEETINGS:**

A. Joint School Board/Assembly Meeting – June 9, 1998

**ACTION:**

Moved by Debbie Ossiander  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

to approve Joint School  
Board/Assembly Meeting  
Minutes of June 9, 1998.

**VOTE:** Unanimously Passed.

5. **ADDENDUM TO AGENDA:**

Pat Abney amended the agenda to add discussion about a sign at Spring Hill Elementary School.

Debbie Ossiander amended the agenda to add a status report of the Out North grant.

ACTION:

Moved by Pat Abney to approve the agenda as amended.  
seconded by Kathi Gillespie

VOTE: Unanimously Passed.

6. **ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

A. Foundation Formula Presentation (SB 36)

Bob Christal announced that the District was asked at the last joint meeting to bring forward a presentation/overview of the re-write of the school foundation formula now that the Legislature has approved the re-write.

Janet Stokesbary reviewed highlights and changes of the new foundation formula under SB 36. She reported that the new formula has been simplified and is based on student count rather than on the instructional unit of calculating entitlements to districts.

Janet Stokesbary reviewed the new calculations associated with the new formula. She stated the new formula uses school size factors and district cost factors as determined by the 1998 McDowell Operating Cost Study. She explained that under the old formula there was an area cost differential and under the new formula there is a district cost factor. Ms. Stokesbary clarified that under the district cost factor only non-personnel services and administrative costs are taken into consideration because the costs related to schools are already built into the school size factors. Another change to the formula is that special needs funding is now block funded at a flat rate of 20 percent rather than having to identify the number of special education, bilingual and vocational education students. Ms. Stokesbary explained that an exception to that change is that intensive services funding is equal to intensive student count multiplied by five.

Janet Stokesbary stated that the new formula treats all correspondence programs at a flat rate of 80 percent. She added that another calculation change, not impacting Anchorage, was that the required local effort increased from 35 to 45 percent of basic need for some districts. Also included in the formula was a "floor" funding for transitioning into the new formula. Beginning in FY99-00 annual increases over the preceding year are reimbursed at 60 percent. The formula also provides for quality schools grant funding based on \$16 per adjusted student.

Janet Stokesbary reported that SB 36 also establishes quality standards and accountability for schools.

Bob Christal reviewed mandates the District will be required to perform in order to comply with Department of Education adopted guidelines.

Janet Stokesbary also reported that SB 36 requires Districts spend a minimum of 70 percent of their expenditures for instruction—up from 55 percent in the past.

Janet Stokesbary reviewed school size factors associated with SB 36.

A review of SB 36 public school State aid calculations was given along with information about critical variables impacting the amount of public school state aid. Ms. Stokesbary also reviewed a chart with examples of the effect of assessed valuation and local taxes on public school state aid.

Dan Kendall felt it was important to have figures for this year's budget numbers on a comparative scale in order to compare this year's information to data with the old formula.

George Wuerch commented that Anchorage will continue to wrestle with Statewide funding and emphasized that every Alaskan should pay their equal share. He suggested the School Board think about keeping this issue a priority.

Relative to SB 36's recommendation that there be a new comprehensive area cost differential study, Mr. Wuerch emphasized the importance of district cost factors not being abused by districts.

B. Zoning Issues

1. Charter Schools

Carol Comeau reported that she recently testified at a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting relative to AO 98-95(S). At the meeting the Commission unanimously passed an amended version of the ordinance which permitted conditional use in every category. Carol Comeau reported the ordinance will be forward to the Assembly for action.

In response to Dan Kendall, Carol Comeau reported that the School Board has not yet taken a formal position on conditional use vs. permitted use and added the Administration has no objections to the amended ordinance.

2. Site Selection

Kathy Christy reported that a recommendation was forwarded to the Community Planning Department for Muldoon Elementary School. The Department will be preparing an evaluation report that will be presented to the Site Selection Committee and then to the combined Joint School Board/Planning & Zoning Commission's public meeting.

Kathy Christy reported that the Muldoon Middle School RFP has been withdrawn. She reported the District and Municipal Parks and Recreation Department are working together on a joint site selection process. The Municipality will share a portion of the acquisition costs. Ms. Christy added it is likely that a conventional site selection process will be used.

Kathy Christy also provided information about a potential school site in south Anchorage.

Debbie Ossiander reported there will be some discussion at the Board level regarding a new high school site in the Eagle River area. She stated that the problem with the elementary site is that the growth is not clearly identifiable.

C. Projected Enrollment - September Report

Norm Holthouse reported that enrollment as of this date was 49,459 students. It represented a gain of 666 students over last September 30. The projected enrollment was 49,556. Current figures were 97 under projection with an error of two tenths of

one percent. Dr. Holthouse reported that all the student gains were in the secondary grades.

D. Proposed New Schools - Dimond Report

Bob Christal reported that over the next two months the Administration will be coming forward to the Board with a recommendation on Dimond and Chugiak High Schools. He added there will be a recommendation relative to a bond for next Spring.

Harriet Drummond announced that reports on these two schools were available in the School Board office. Kathy Christy stated they were also available on the internet at the District's web address.

Kathi Gillespie reported that the Board is planning on having a Joint Work Session with the Assembly on this topic.

Bob Christal added that the District hasn't had any discussion with the Municipality yet on this issue.

Debbie Ossiander desired the Assembly's input on this as early as possible.

Bob Christal reported that during either the end of October or early November the Administration planned to have another discussion with the Board on this issue. He announced the Administration will be working through the process within the next couple of months.

Debbie Ossiander reiterated her desire to get the Assembly's thoughts before the Board takes any votes on this topic.

Dave Werdal agreed with Ms. Ossiander.

Harriet Drummond thought it would be helpful if the Board and Assembly held a single meeting once a month rather than once every three months.

George Wuerch agreed with having a special joint meeting to discuss the high school planning process. It was agreed that the School Board President and the Assembly Chair schedule the meeting.

E. Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Debbie Ossiander reported that Cheryl Clementson asked for this item to be placed on the agenda. Ms. Ossiander stated that the Board was looking at a policy change that follows both State and Federal law. However, the issue relative to what constitutes private family affairs was still being reviewed. Ms. Ossiander explained that the Board received conflicting Attorney General opinions. She clarified that the question before the Board is whether to allow passive permission rather than active permission. Ms. Ossiander opened the floor to questions from the Assembly.

In response to Dan Kendall, Debbie Ossiander stated that the widespread perceived benefit of participating in the survey is that it is good to know what our students are up to. The benefit would be that it is helpful to know how many kids carry weapons, drink alcohol, or use drugs. She added there was no financial gain.

Bob Christal reported that the Municipal Health Department and the State of Alaska are the primary beneficiaries of this survey. He stressed that it is an issue the District gets very little benefit from. Mr. Christal added that if the survey is done, it will be at the request of groups outside the District that need this information.

Kathi Gillespie added that the questions before the Board are: what is the interpretation of the law; and what is State law and do we want to challenge it?

George Wuerch noted that there appeared to be more downside than upside to doing the survey. He expressed concern about charging ahead without parental input.

Dave Werdal outlined the two main arguments to this issue. One is the legal risk. The other is the significant lobbying effort going on by the State and local people. He reported that the Board is under a significant amount of lobbying pressure.

F. South Anchorage High School Location

Pat Abney inquired whether or not the District has been contacted relative to moving the South Anchorage High School site to parklands on the north side of Minnesota Drive and O'Malley Road. She reported that the District should be

receiving a request from a community council to discuss this idea.

Bob Christal reported the District is seeing tremendous growth in the Rabbit Creek and hillside areas.

G. Sign At Spring Hill Elementary School

Pat Abney reported that she had been contacted by the Spring Hill Elementary School PTA relative to their desire to have a lighted sign in front of their school similar to signs at other elementary schools.

Kathy Christy reported that the Public Works Department has been working over the summer with the District to put up a flashing sign at the school. She stated that the District was also working cooperatively with the Municipality.

In response to Pat Abney's question whether there was anything further Ms. Abney needed to do, Kathy Christy responded that the project was under control.

In response to Kathi Gillespie's inquiry whether the project was funded by a reappropriation of existing money, Kathy Christy reported that the Municipal Public Works Department was funding the project.

Bob Christal reported that the Ocean View PTA raised the money for their sign. He cautioned that if one school has a lighted sign, soon additional schools may begin requesting these signs.

H. Out North Contract Status

Bob Christal reported that the Out North contract has not been signed. He stated that the Administration is currently working through the process to clearly delineate how they will spend the money needed to have something spelled out prior to signing a contract.

7. COMMENTS

Dan Kendall supported the District's hiring of a contract Safety Officer to work with workers compensation claims as referenced in the Quality Education Review Committee Report of Central Office and Risk Management.

Assembly members thanked the District for allowing the Municipality to set up a trial skateboard park at Central Middle School. It was reported that the skateboard park was a success and was now moved to Mulcahy Park.

Kathi Gillespie reported that she, along with Bettye Davis and Debbie Ossiander, were members of the School Board Legislative Committee. She asked for the name of the Assembly member who served on the Assembly's Legislative Committee. It was reported that George Wuerch served on this committee.

Pat Abney announced that the Municipality was making an effort to improve air quality. She reported the Municipality would be receiving approximately \$4 million for the clean air process. She asked the Board to provide input into increasing City bus service in order to accommodate those students attending alternative schools or those students unable to qualify for school busing.


George Wuerch reported that the Alaska Municipal League is having their annual meeting at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks on Saturday, November 7, through Tuesday, November 10. He encouraged School Board representation. He stated that a registration form and agenda were available from the Assembly staff office.

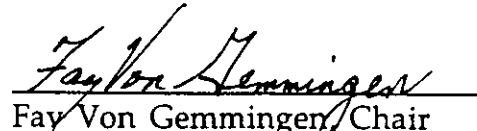
8. SCHEDULING OF NEXT JOINT MEETING

A date for the next meeting was not scheduled.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

  
Harriet Drummond  
Anchorage School Board

  
Fay Von Gemmingen, Chair  
Anchorage Assembly

April 6, 1999  
Date