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THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY / THE ANCHORAGE SCHOOL BOARD

**Anchorage Assembly Conference Room
Room 155, City Hall**

Minutes for Joint Meeting of December 10, 2004

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Joint Meeting was convened by Chair Tesche at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Conference Room, First Floor of City Hall, 632 West 6th Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska.

2. ROLL CALL Quorums of each body were achieved.

2.A. ASSEMBLYMEMBERS

PRESENT: Chair Allan Tesche, Dan Coffey, Anna Fairclough, Pamela Jennings, Debbie Ossiander, Janice Shamberg, Ken Stout, Dan Sullivan, Dick Tremaine and Brian Whittle.

ABSENT: Dick Traini, excused.

2.B. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: President Tim Steele, Jeff Friedman, Crystal Kennedy, Macon Roberts and John Steiner.

ABSENT: Vice President Mary Marks and Jake Metcalfe, excused.

2.C. ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Anchorage School District (ASD) Superintendent Carol Comeau, ASD Chief Financial Officer Janet Stokesbery, ASD Assistant Superintendent George Vakalis, ASD Facilities Department Director Ray Amsteden, Mayor Mark Begich, Deputy Municipal Manager Michael Abbott, Assembly Budget Director Elvi Gray-Jackson, Municipal Clerk Barbara Gruenstein, and other members of the Administrations.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Anchorage School Board (ASB) President Tim Steele led the pledge.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS JOINT MEETING

4.A. Joint Meeting – Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2004 (Addendum)

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes
Mr. Steele seconded, of September 17, 2004.
and there were no objections,

5. ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

Chair Tesche called for additional items to be added to the Addendum. Superintendent Carol Comeau requested to share an update of the proposed consolidation of the administrative support facilities. Mr. Tremaine requested to address the issue of state and city maintained roads and intersections and their correlation with schools. Chair Tesche assigned to these items Agenda numbers 6.G. and 6.H, respectively, and there were no objections.

6. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

6.A. MOA Capital Improvement Program Impact on Schools

Ms. Ossiander stated that she and Ms. Fairclough had heard concerns of traffic congestion associated with the new Eagle River High School. They had requested proposals to the CIP for improvements to widen intersections and roads and to add gutters and sidewalks to roads in close proximity to the school. They also were addressing the backup of traffic accessing from the Glenn Highway. To Ms. Fairclough and Ms. Ossiander, ASD Facilities Department Director Ray Amsteden responded they had proposed improved bus routing and the traffic congestion was continuing to be addressed.

6.B. Creekside Town Center Project/Muldoon Middle School Site/ Kroc Foundation Grant

Chair Tesche read the project title. Mayor Begich explained there was a unique opportunity with the Kroc Foundation to secure grant funds to create a community center in association with the Muldoon Middle School construction. The Kroc Foundation, making donations for community centers across the nation, had offered to match school construction funds dollar-for-dollar to add community centers and was also offering endowment funds for facility operations and maintenance. The Mayor stated the MOA proposal involved the additions of a community library, hockey rink and soccer arena. He stated that the Administration was working hard with the Foraker Group, the Rasmuson Foundation, the Salvation Army and the ASD to become a Kroc Foundation Grant recipient, with preliminary selections being made in March. Ms. Comeau stated that the ASD also saw this as an opportunity and were moving ahead with construction plans of the school, with the goal of a 2007 fall opening. The Mayor added that they thought Anchorage was ahead with their school site and design planning and were hoping to be favored by the Kroc Foundation.

1 MAJOR BOB RUDD, the Salvation Army Division Commander for the State of Alaska, gave a brief history of the Kroc
2 Foundation. Salvation Armies in the Northwest had maintained a long standing working relationship with the
3 Foundation and their contributions to community centers. Ms. Kroc maintained the Foundation and was continuing to
4 make generous contributions to community centers, including an Olympic-class ice arena, aquatic complexes,
5 gymnasiums, hockey rinks, recreation fields, Olympic-sized soccer fields, a rock climbing tower, challenge courts, an
6 indoor skating rink, fitness areas, a church with a 600-seat capacity, a performing arts center, computer labs and
7 school officials to assist with teaching. Mr. Rudd thought this was a win-win situation for the community and the ASD,
8 partnering with the Kroc Foundation and the Salvation Army. He stated he would be joining the Mayor and the
9 Superintendent when they traveled to San Diego to discuss this matter with the Kroc Foundation.

10
11 To Ms. Shamberg, Mr. Amsteden responded that he would research and report back to confirm the baseball field
12 proposed for the Muldoon Middle School was regulation size for Little League.

13
14 To Mr. Coffey, Ms. Comeau responded that the map showed the current school site and design plan and changes
15 could be made to accommodate grant requirements. Mr. Amsteden added the ASD would be moving ahead with their
16 plans, and they had identified the site expanding to the west to accommodate tennis courts and a track area. The
17 Mayor added they would incorporate any required changes and he was positive the plan would work efficiently.

18
19 To Ms. Ossiander, Mr. Steiner responded that the approved plan could be modified with a change order to incorporate
20 any modifications required by the Foundation. He stated it was important to maintain their current design and
21 construction schedule while they were waiting to see if they would be selected as a grant recipient.

22
23 Mr. Steele stated that he enthusiastically supported the idea of partnering and developing a community-based site. He
24 stated the changes to accommodate the new requirements would need to be incorporated into the design before the
25 bids went out. Mr. Steiner responded that a change order could accommodate both the site and the design plans and
26 if a new covered rink was included to meet grant requirements, consideration would be given to the district for priority
27 use of that facility. Ms. Comeau responded that the district continually negotiated agreements with shared facilities
28 and did not view it as a problem. Mr. Steiner responded if recreational facilities were required, additional revenues
29 would be needed to operate and maintain the facility and fees collected from the hockey rink along with funds from the
30 Rasmuson Foundation would allow for a sustainable long-term project. To Mr. Steele, Mr. Steiner responded that no
31 definitive design or plan had been written that included the incorporation of a church.

32
33 Mr. Whittle thanked the Northeast Community Council for their participation with the vision of the community center
34 and for their help with the passage of the school bonds in the last election. The Administration, the School District, the
35 Salvation Army and the Rasmuson Foundation needed to be acknowledged for working together to make this
36 community concept a reality.

37
38 Mayor Begich stated that the architectural design of this facility was modern and creative, not simply a box design, and
39 would be a significant contribution to the community. Mr. Rudd concurred the design was exceptional.

40
41 Mr. Tremaine thought that consideration should be given to connectivity of the gym and multipurpose room with other
42 buildings, to prevent those buildings from being cut-off from the school. He thought a walkway might also offer cover
43 for parking or a hockey rink.

44
45 **6.C. School Site Size Standards and; 6.D. Joint Elementary and Middle School Sites**

46
47 Mayor Begich was concerned that site and facility standards were becoming more limited because of the availability of
48 vacant land and used examples of where they had already run into building limitations. Mr. Steiner responded that
49 additional land would be needed for parking and sports areas. Mayor Begich responded that new standards should be
50 considered when reviewing expansion and growth issues for schools. Mr. Coffey added that preferred properties
51 should be considered for future site selections.

52
53 Ms. Shamberg, Chair of the School Site Selection Committee, stated that the two major issues involved with selection
54 of a school site included the size of the land and the process of purchasing the property.

55
56 Mr. Tremaine thought there had been much discussion of the needed changes and urged that the necessary
57 improvements be made.

58
59 Mr. Friedman stated that land prices were a limiting factor when selecting property for sites. Ms. Comeau concurred
60 and urged continued open communication as parks and school sites were considered for the city. Mayor Begich
61 recommended that the School Site Selection Committee address all issues involving location in conjunction with
62 school and community needs for potential future facilities. He urged them to hold a worksession to address this issue.
63 Chair Tesche concurred.

64
65 To Ms. Jennings, Mr. Amsteden responded that once a site was selected, there would be limitations to the potential of
66 that property. Ms. Comeau responded that as school facilities were renovated, they would be addressing community
67 and neighborhood needs and they would be meeting equity needs and standards.

68
69 Ms. Ossiander urged consideration of allowing voters to approve the acquisition of an Eagle River elementary school
70 site and thought costs could be controlled by purchasing lands now for future development.

71
72 Mr. Sullivan stated that elementary schools might easily incorporate change. He urged consideration of reconstituting
73 the School Site Selection Committee by including voting members of the Administration, to quickly move ahead with
74 expanding the criteria for site selection. Mr. Steele responded that the selection process also needed to be addressed.

75
76 **6.E. Future Funding of COPS in Schools Program (Addendum)**

1 Mr. Sullivan stated that he understood the importance of the COPS in Schools Program and he remained concerned
2 about the ending of federal funding and that the financial responsibilities would be falling on the city. He thought that
3 the ASD should consider participating with funding of the program, especially now, when they had identified it as a
4 benefit to the schools. Ms. Comeau responded they had discussed this issue at the worksession and with the police
5 department. The program had made a significant difference in ensuring school safety. While she and the Chief of
6 Police understood Mr. Sullivan's concern she stated that in January the District would be losing an additional ten-
7 million dollars from their budget. She stated that the ASD currently maintained the offices and expenses for the
8 program. She hoped the Assembly would be supportive, understanding there was a cost benefit with keeping the
9 program.

10 Mayor Begich stated that the city had the fundamental responsibility of maintaining the program year-round. He stated
11 that community policing was the most effective prevention program and he fully supported it. Ms. Comeau responded
12 these officers were truly on-duty police officers, stationed in the school, but also responded to events in the
13 community. Mr. Tremaine concurred with the importance of the program and stated that it would save money in the
14 long run. He stated it was difficult to monitor the crimes that would *not* happen because of the presence of officers in
15 the schools. Mr. Roberts concurred with Mr. Tremaine and the Superintendent that it was an excellent investment in
16 the schools. He also viewed it as a "pay-up-front" investment with police working in schools.

17 Mr. Coffey stated this involved tax money and the Assembly appropriated funds to give to the School District each
18 year. He wondered why this issue was not being address with the annual budget.

19 Mr. Sullivan appreciated the comments and stated that his intent was not to question the success of this program but
20 rather to set priorities. The police department was understaffed and officers were unable to respond to many crimes in
21 the city. He thought that as the city expanded their police force, staffing this program should become essential, but
22 meanwhile a compromise was needed to get more officers available to crimes in the community.

23 Ms. Jennings repeated Ms. Comeau's predicted loss of ten-million dollars to the 2005 ASD Budget. As a member of
24 the Youth Violence Task Force and the Public Safety Committee, she fully supported the COPS in Schools Program
25 as a municipal function, reducing juvenile crime.

26 Ms. Kennedy had accompanied a resource officer in the field and witnessed an offense and the resolve, involving
27 students and the community. She stated police officers often dealt with serious problems and were often the students'
28 link with the community and they had the opportunity to provide the needed safety to the students.

29 **6.F. Support of "Be Snow Smart", an Avalanche Awareness and Outdoor Safety Education Program**
30 **(Addendum)**

31 Chair Tesche gave a brief history of this issue. Ms. Comeau responded that she had not yet heard anything about this
32 program and she hesitated to respond without hearing the details. Chair Tesche received no response when he asked
33 if there was a representative of the Avalanche Awareness and Outdoor Safety Education Program present.

34 Ms. Fairclough stated that this group had requested an Assembly resolution supporting their program so they could
35 seek grant funds. Because the group was interested in becoming involved with safety instruction in classrooms, she
36 and Ms. Ossiander had urged the representative to first communicate with the ASD. Ms. Comeau, Chair Tesche and
37 Mr. Tremaine agreed that the Assembly and the School Board could address the issue as soon as the group
38 communicated with the School District Administration Office.

39 **6.G. Consolidation of Anchorage Schools Administration Support Facilities (Laid on the Table)**

40 Ms. Comeau stated the consolidation of the School Administration Support Facilities did not require action or approval
41 from the Assembly, but she thought it was appropriate to communicate the details of the issue. To Ms. Comeau,
42 Assistant Superintendent George Vakalis responded they had received a single, unsolicited proposal to their bid from
43 J&L Properties to consolidate the facilities into the Boniface Mall. The issue had already been reviewed by the
44 Planning and Zoning Commission, and involved a five-year lease, with options for three additional leases. He
45 explained the facilities did not involve the administrative offices or personnel. Mr. Amsteden stated the School District
46 would be taking their recommendations to the School Board Monday evening.

47 Mr. Tremaine stated that he supported consolidation and thought this move would save the city time and money.

48 Mayor Begich supported this project and would send a letter of support.

49 To Mr. Coffey, Mr. Amsteden responded it would involve less cost in rent than they were currently paying.

50 Mr. Whittle presented a resolution he sponsored for Assembly supporting this proposal. Chair Tesche responded the
51 School District could take Mr. Whittle's resolution with the Planning and Zoning resolution to the School Board in
52 support of this proposal. Mr. Tremaine stated that he would like to be added as a cosponsor to Mr. Whittle's
53 resolution.

54 **6.H. State and City Maintained Roads and Schools (Laid on the Table)**

55 Mr. Tremaine stated that there were concerns about state maintained roads and intersections within close proximity to
56 city schools that were not receiving snow removal or sanding in time for the schools to open. He stated that this had
57 been a problem the previous week and it had forced the closure of schools for the day. He felt the Assembly and the
58 School Board could unite and communicate with the state to fix this problem. Mr. Friedman added that the issue had
59 been addressed at a recent community council meeting, and they had asked the state to reevaluate their priorities of
60 plowing. He stated it was time for both the state and the city to address plowing priorities. Ms. Fairclough responded
61 that the state set their priorities so the main highways would be cleared first, to allow access for emergency vehicles.

1 She thought the city might take more responsibility for collector streets. Mr. Tremaine commented the problem
2 involved more than collectors and gave examples of hills that needed sanding and were impassable.
3

4 Ms. Comeau responded that following the heavy snowfall the Limited Rural Road Service Areas (LRSAs) in Eagle
5 River had not had time to open their roads. She added that not only did the roads need to be passable for students to
6 reach their bus stops and for the busses to access those stops, but every fire lane needed to be cleared at all of the
7 district's ninety-two schools before school could be in session.
8

9 Mayor Begich stated that the Administration had presented the draft of a legislative package involving a joint effort
10 between the city and the state, reviewing different ways of partnering to address this concern, including communicating
11 with the Department of Transportation.
12

13 **7. COMMENTS** None.
14

15 **8. SCHEDULING OF NEXT JOINT MEETING**
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17 There was a recommendation from the ASD Staff for the next meeting to be on March 18th. Mr. Coffey requested that
18 the meeting not interfere with Spring Break. Ms. Comeau responded this date worked with Spring Break and other
19 School District events scheduled during that time. Chair Tesche set the next Joint Meeting for March 18, 2005.
20

21 **9. ADJOURNMENT**
22

23 Chair Tesche called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Ossiander so moved, it was seconded by Mr. Tremaine and there
24 were no objections. *(Clerk's Note: The Joint Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.)*
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30 _____
31 ALLAN TESCHE, Assembly Chair
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30 _____
31 TIM STEELE, School Board President
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35 ATTEST:
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39 _____
40 BARBARA GRUENSTEIN, Municipal Clerk
41 Date Minutes Approved: March 18, 2005
42 MC/BG
43

44 Agenda Published in THE ANCHORAGE CHRONICLE
45 December 2, 2004 P.O. 429-04
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