



1 including the general fund, the food service fund, the debt service fund and the local, state and federal projects fund. If  
2 the three bonds on the upcoming ballot were approved, the ASD would request to use those funds to pay into the debt  
3 service fund. To Mr. Coffey, Ms. Comeau responded the ASD fiscal year was from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. They had been  
4 successful with receiving state, federal and other grants, some of which were very restricted and had many requirements.  
5  
6 To Mr. Tesche, Ms. Comeau responded that the cost of fuel was included under 'purchased services' in the graph.

7  
8 To Chair Fairclough, Ms. Stokesbary responded that employees' medical costs were continuing to rise. They were using  
9 Aetna Insurance Company and were addressing becoming self-insured. To Ms. Ossianer, Ms. Comeau responded that  
0 health insurance was funded by the ASD, with employees co-paying \$700 per month. To Mr. Coffey, Mr. Roberts, Mr.  
1 Steele and Ms. Stokesbary responded that employees vested in the state retirement system were not allowed to draw  
2 both social security and ASD retirement.

3  
4 To Mr. Coffey, Ms. Comeau responded there were over 9000 Special Education students, with varying levels of need. As  
5 those numbers of students increased, so did the costs, and there were not enough federal or state funds to cover those  
6 costs. Gifted program costs came out of the general fund. She responded that Gifted Students were identified by  
7 intelligent quotients (IQs) and special enrichment programs were required for their academic needs. Ms. Comeau  
8 responded that the ASD wanted success for all students.

9  
0 To Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Stokesbary and Ms. Comeau responded that the ASD's non-departmental money was a holding fund  
1 for things like contract negotiations, building rentals and leases and had increased 50% because of the forecasts for  
2 bargaining negotiations. Ms. Comeau responded there were no costs included for new buses with this year's budget. Ms.  
3 Laute responded that utilities and maintenance were included in the school operation costs.

4  
5 Ms. Comeau stated that student enrollment was under 50,000 and had not changed significantly in the last two years.  
6 The budget was based on enrollment projections, which was difficult to do. The ASD, with assistance from the Student  
7 Advisory Board, the Minority Educational Advisory Committee, the community and from the ASD staff, was increasing  
8 rental fees to help cover operating costs.

9  
0 To Ms. Ossianer, Ms. Comeau responded that the labor contracts were expected to go to arbitration in April. Ms.  
1 Comeau responded they would continue to work diligently on the process of contracts and funding.  
2  
3 To Mr. Tesche, Ms. Comeau responded that many people, including ASB members, ASD Administration and union  
4 representatives were negotiating in Juneau for additional state funding.

5  
6 To Ms. Jennings, Ms. Comeau responded the summer school enrollment had increased significantly and additional  
7 summer programs were being added. They had increased fees for musical instrument rentals and summer programs and  
8 were now charging for students repeating classes. They were now offering some classes online. To Mr. Coffey, Ms.  
9 Comeau responded that state and local funding were being used.

0  
1 Ms. Comeau stated that budget reductions included the elimination of 26 positions, unless additional revenue was  
2 secured. One position was being added for the No Child Left Behind Program, to help fulfill federal requirements.  
3  
4 To Ms. Ossianer and Ms. Jennings, Ms. Comeau and Mr. Steele responded that counselors were already involved with  
5 recently added duties. There were 21 elementary school counselors and 5-8 high school counselors, based on student  
6 enrollment. The ASB and the ASD supported the additional responsibilities of counselors, which involved monitoring the  
7 students, student programs and communicating directly with students' families, to ensure students' needs.

8  
9 To Ms. Shamberg, Ms. Comeau responded that monitoring students' progress and growth was working. The intent and  
0 the curriculum developed from the No Child Left Behind Program were supported by the Administration. Because it  
1 involved a punitive law that only focused on test scores, the State of Alaska was challenging the requirements and had  
2 applied to be one of ten states involved with a pilot program, using a growth model, based on progress. This would  
3 change the importance of the exit exam. Ms. Comeau explained many of the added programs to assist students. With  
4 increased needs for special education, they were requesting increased funds. They continued to set goals of success for  
5 all students. The SAT and ACT scores were increasing and 96% of full-credit seniors pass the graduation exit exam.  
6 They were most concerned with graduation of bilingual and special education students.

7  
8 Ms. Comeau requested that all questions to be answered on the budget be submitted before March 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Coffey  
9 requested a worksession for March 24<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Requests for information could be directed to the  
0 Municipal Clerk's Office or to the School District, prior to the worksession.

### 6.B. Firearm Ordinance, AO 2006-39

1  
2 Ms. Ossianer solicited the concerns on how the new firearm ordinance would affect students. Ms. Comeau responded  
3 they were most concerned with safety and that firearms continued to be a concern on school grounds, at bus stops and to  
4 bus drivers. Ms. Ossianer urged them to make recommendations for amendments. Ms. Comeau concurred. Mr. Coffey  
5 stated that Mr. Traini, the sponsor, was out of town and had requested this matter be addressed after he returned. Mr.  
6 Sullivan recommended the matter be reviewed by the Municipal Legal Department.

### 6.C. Superintendents' Report

1  
2 Ms. Comeau reported there were three proposed school boundary changes involving the Bear Valley area, Willow area  
3 and the area for the new Muldoon middle school that would open in 2007. Ms. Ossianer responded that she supported  
4 moving the military students north. Ms. Comeau concurred. To Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Comeau responded that Diamond High  
5 School would need an addition in the future, which was their preference, rather than a boundary change.  
6  
7 To Mr. Coffey, Mr. Vakalis responded they were reviewing new school sites, including the Sand Lake gravel pit, the  
8 Goldenview area and the Eagle River area. Chair Fairclough responded there were new developments that would

1 increase the needs for schools in Eagle River. To Mr. Stout, Ms. Comeau responded that a task force was addressing the  
2 boundary changes and there would be public hearing with the School Board, scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Stout requested  
3 the Assembly be kept informed of the schedules.

4  
5 Mr. Tesche requested additional information on the percentages of fund sources in the district's budget, including the past  
6 five years of state contributions. Mr. Steele responded that his research had indicated state funding had dropped 10% in  
7 the past ten years. Ms. Comeau stated that the local tax cap restricted lawmakers' willingness to provide increased state  
8 appropriations. Mr. Tesche responded that representatives needed to better understand the need for appropriations. Ms.  
9 Shamberg concurred.

0  
1 To Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Steiner responded the demographer had indicated that the large numbers of high school students  
2 would decrease in the future. As the dropout rate was being addressed, high school graduation numbers would increase.  
3 Ms. Marks responded it was difficult to determine the numbers of students who were home-schooled or attended private  
4 schools and it was difficult to track students who moved across school boundaries and attended other schools.

5  
6 **6.D. Mayor's Report - None.**

7  
8 **6.E. Cost of Phasing of New Construction (Addendum)**

9  
0 Ms. Shamberg commented on the high costs of phasing for the new Service High School, which was \$110 to \$122 million.  
1 Much of the existing structure should be usable. Mr. Amsden, Mr. Vakalis and Ms. Comeau responded they were using a  
2 phasing process, which was understood to be more expensive and take longer. It was costly to protect the students'  
3 safety and the existing facilities from contamination, while construction was underway.

4  
5 To Mr. Coffey, Mr. Amsden and Ms. Comeau responded that parents and the community did not like double-shifting,  
6 which involved many challenges and inconveniences. Mr. Steele responded there were renovations and expansions  
7 scheduled for West High School.

8  
9 Ms. Ossiander stated that if she had known the costs, she would have opposed the renovations of Service High School  
0 and supported new construction.

1  
2 To Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Amsden responded that the ASD had addressed reconstruction versus new construction. Mr.  
3 Sullivan stated the Assembly wanted to be involved with the discussions of school improvements, including renovations  
4 and new construction. Chair Fairclough concurred and stated that there were many considerations to discuss.

5  
6 Ms. Comeau stated that debt reimbursement was important to be able to continue to build and maintain schools and she  
7 urged Assemblymembers to speak with State Legislators on appropriations. Mr. Steiner responded that their recent data  
8 showed 5% of students went to private school, which was far below national averages. Ms. Comeau responded this  
9 number did not include home-schooled students and the actual numbers were difficult to calculate.

0  
1 **7. SCHEDULING OF NEXT JOINT MEETING**

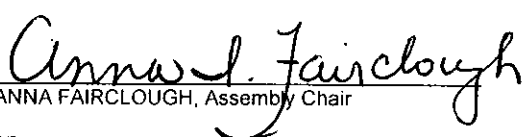
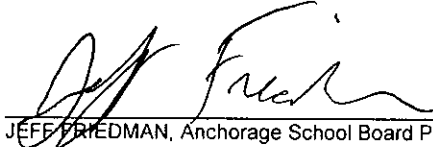
2  
3 To Chair Fairclough, Municipal Clerk Barbara Gruenstein responded this would be scheduled in the near future.

4  
5 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

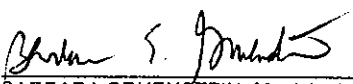
6  
7 Chair Fairclough called the Question on a motion to adjourn the meeting.

8  
9 Mr. Coffey moved, to adjourn the Joint Meeting,  
0 Ms. Jennings seconded,  
1 and this motion was passed without objection.

2  
3 The Joint Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

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ANNA FAIRCLOUGH, Assembly Chair JEFF FRIEDMAN, Anchorage School Board President

1  
2 ATTEST:

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5  
6  
7   
8 BARBARA GRUENSTEIN, Municipal Clerk  
9 Date Minutes Approved: June 2, 2006.  
0 MC/BG

1  
2 (Approved Meeting Minutes are available in the Municipal Clerk's Office, 632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska;  
3 telephone (907)343-4505)  
4

