

**MINUTES**  
**BUDGET ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**AUGUST 11, 2011**

**Members Present:**

Tam Agosti-Gisler	Bob Griffin
David Alexander	Shirley Nelson
Andy Clary	Bill Webb
Amy Demboski	

**Guests:**

MOA: Cherly Frasca, OMB Director

ASD: Superintendent Carol Comeau  
Chad Stietler, CFO  
Marie Laule, Budget Director  
Crystal Kennedy, School Board  
Don Smith, School Board

Meeting Called to order by Chair Clary at 12:02pm.

Purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed recommendation of the BAC subcommittee regarding the request of the Anchorage School District to increase their revision of the ASD Financial Plan for FY 2011-2012.

Proposed motion was handed out to members in attendance and it recommended the Anchorage Assembly limit the Anchorage School District upper spending authority to no more than \$824,700,000. This is a \$6 million reduction in the amount requested by the school district and represents the money authorized by House Bill 108; a one-time fuel opportunity grant.

Bob Griffin gave the summation of the subcommittee findings, and expressed the committees concerns on future impacts of the use of this money. It appears the \$6.1 million for fuel reimbursement will go to fund existing programs and may create a future cost to the community.

Crystal Kennedy and Superintendent Comeau stressed this is one time money and the school board and district were not planning on this money for future budgets. Furthermore, the Superintendent stated the 1<sup>st</sup> priority is to refund the unfunded 20 teaching positions within the district.

Bob Griffin voiced concerns about the verbiage in ASD Memorandum #354 which states in bold letters that “No additional taxes are being requested to support this increase”; and while that may be the case right now, there is concern that may not be the case in the future. There is further concern about the growth rate of the school districts funding and the increase in facility space with nominal increase of students over the past number of years.

Tam Agosti-Gisler voiced opposition to the recommendations of the subcommittee. She felt the school district and board is well aware this is one-time money, they are treating it as such, and they could use the money for much needed technological improvements.

Shirley Nelson- Voiced concern about one-time money and other costs associated with the way the money is spent which may incur future obligations.

Chad Stietler- Next year the school district is anticipating working with an \$814 million budget; they are “looking at a \$34 million gap.”

Chair proposed amending lines 29-31 of the subcommittee recommendation to soften the language. Amendment was unanimously approved.

Amy Demboski- Expressed community concern over the size of the budget, the desire to see that money used to pay down the existing budget, and to work within the budget limit previously set by the Anchorage Assembly. Further discussion was focused on expanding a bloated bureaucracy and the community interest to have the school district refocus on core services and work within the means they have.

Crystal Kennedy- Expressed the desire to refund programs that were not previously funded, rather than referring to these expenditures as an expansion.

Bill Webb- Was interested in how this money must be spent.

Superintendent – Stated that allocation was up to the school board, some of the vocational education grant from the state had to be used for that; however, it was stated that even with no upper limit increase in the school districts’ budget for FY 2011-2012 this money would still be accepted by the district.

David Alexander- Expressed opposition to the subcommittee recommendation.

Chair – Raised concern about using this money to put 20 teachers back in the budget when they likely could be cut again next year.

Chair called for a vote of members:

The vote on the subcommittee recommendation to the assembly was as follows:

Bob Griffin – Yes

Shirley Nelson- Yes

Andy Clary- Yes

Tam Agosti-Gisler- No

David Alexander- No

Amy Demboski- Yes

Bill Webb- Yes

The recommendation to the Anchorage Assembly passed 5-2 and will be presented to the assembly on Tuesday August 16, 2011. All members interested in addressing the assembly on this matter were encouraged to testify.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.