



Agenda Item Details

Meeting Nov 01, 2021 - School Board Meeting

Category F. Action Items

Subject 3. ASD Memorandum #026 - Charter School Renewal: Alaska Native Cultural Charter School

Access Public

Type Action

Recommended Action To approve the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School charter renewal application for an additional 10 years through the 2032/2033 school year. It is further recommended that a strategic planning team be established, to work in partnership with the Alaska Native Charter School Academic Policy Committee and administration, supporting their efforts for a successful school to honor our Alaskan indigenous population.

Public Content

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #026 (2021-2022) November 1, 2021

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: DR. DEENA BISHOP, SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: CHARTER SCHOOL RENEWAL: ALASKA NATIVE CULTURAL CHARTER SCHOOL

ASD Core Value: Public education should be responsive to an ever-changing world

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends the approval of the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School charter renewal application for an additional 10 years through the 2032/2033 school year.

It is further recommended that a strategic planning team be established, to work in partnership with the Alaska Native Charter School Academic Policy Committee and administration, supporting their efforts for a successful school to honor our Alaskan indigenous population.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The Alaska Native Cultural Charter School (ANCCS) is one of the District’s most diverse lottery schools and a point of pride within the Anchorage School District.

While the school has struggled on several levels recently, the District recognizes the school’s success with Alaska’s indigenous students and families. ASD strongly supports ANCCS’s mission to teach Alaskan Native values, culture, and language to students.

State Statute 14.03.2559(c)(11) limits charter school contracts to a term not to exceed 10 years.

Anchorage School Board policy and Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) regulations require charter schools to reapply for approval of their charter within 12 months of the expiration date of their current charter.

The Alaska Native Cultural Charter School's charter will expire on June 30, 2022.

The District utilizes the DEED application format for the charter school review and application process.

There are currently nine charter schools in ASD. Each charter school is governed by an elected board called an Academic Policy Committee (APC). Each APC hires its principal who is in turn the administrator of the school.

The charter school's application to the District will include any requested waivers outside of School Board policy and administrative regulations. If approved by the School Board, these waivers will be included in the school's charter and contract.

The ANCCS renewal application was open through Google Docs to the Administrative Review Team ("Team") for two weeks, during which time the Team added suggestions and feedback for the charter renewal proposers. The Team was made up of representatives from many departments in the District including, but not limited to: ELL, STEM, OEC, Human Resources, Ed Tech, Curriculum, Special Education, Gifted, Finance, Risk Management, Operations, Maintenance and Elementary Education. The Team met with the proposers for an administrative review on September 21, 2021.

ANCCS then had the opportunity to make any further changes or modifications to their application based on the above-mentioned meeting. This memorandum presents the final charter school reapplication and contract to the School Board.

ANCCS is reapplying to the Anchorage School District School Board and DEED for a 10-year renewal of its charter.

ANCCS is an ASD charter school that was founded in 2007. It currently serves grades PreK through eight.

The ANCCS APC is comprised of dedicated staff, community members, parents, founders and elders who continue to provide positive governance over the school.

ANCCS is a school whose mission is to support indigenous Alaskan students and families. A primary goal is to integrate strong Alaskan native values, culture and language into all aspects of its students educational experience through traditional cultural learning. Some unique features of ANCCS are:

- The only Title I and most diverse charter school in the ASD
- One of the most diverse lottery school or lottery program in the ASD
- Respectful, culturally responsive instruction
- Alaska Native values are the guiding framework and give meaning to the academic program.
- Implementation of the Yuuyraq (Way of Being) Framework
- Restorative justice practices

During the 2020-2021 school year classes at ANCCS were conducted remotely due to the COVID Pandemic. An inspection by professionals of the facility ANCCS was leasing from Pacific Northern Academy (PNA) during the 2020-2021 school year found that the HVAC system was not operating as designed. Due to this, it was determined that the school could not be occupied during the 2021-2022 school year. The District then worked in partnership to relocate ANCCS into a wing of Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School. ANCCS and ASD are actively seeking a permanent facility solution. (Attachments C-F)

ANCCS has had several opportunities to secure a new facility over the past six years. One of the most promising options included a partnership with Alaska Pacific University (APU). The university offered for ANCCS to build a facility on campus land that they would lease from APU at a reduced rate. To date, the non-profit, Friends of ANCCS (FOANCCS) which was founded in 2014 has raised less than \$1,000. Far below what is needed to begin the process.

ANCCS's current enrollment is 254 students. In the past 3 years ANCCS has seen a steady decline from 323 in 2019 to their present enrollment number of 254. This trend should be watched closely as this pattern repeated between 2015 and 2018 when the enrollment numbers declined from 334 students to 289 students

Attachments: A - DEED Charter School Renewal Application Form
 B - ANCCS Charter Renewal Contract
 C - ANCCS/ASD Contract
 D - Event Timeline & Work Plan
 E - Escrow & Cost Schedule
 F - Exhibit - BDEHS/ANCCS Diagram

Prepared by: Chris Barr, Director, Charter Schools and Alternative Programs

Approved by: Mark Stock, Deputy Superintendent
Jim Anderson, Chief Financial Officer
Mike Fleckenstein, Chief Information Officer
Tom Roth, Chief of Operations
Kersten Johnson, Senior Director Secondary Education
Dan Barker, Senior Director Elementary Education
Dave Whiting, Senior Director Purchasing
Andy Ratliff, Senior Director Management & Budget

M026a_Alaska Native Cultural Charter School RENEWAL APPLICATION FINAL 3.pdf (74,346 KB)

M026b_ ANCCS Contract Charter Renewal.pdf (874 KB)

M026c_ANCCS - ASD-ANCCS-CONTRACT - ANCCS SIGNED2 copy.pdf (774 KB)

M026d_ANCCS -EVENT TIMELINE WORK PLAN copy.pdf (702 KB)

M026e_ANCCS - ESCROW SCHED copy.pdf (701 KB)

M026f_ANCCS - EXHIBIT 1 BDEHS ANCCS DIAGRAM copy.pdf (1,467 KB)

Administrative Content

Executive Content

Motion & Voting

To approve the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School charter renewal application for an additional 10 years through the 2032/2033 school year.

It is further recommended that a strategic planning team be established, to work in partnership with the Alaska Native Charter School Academic Policy Committee and administration, supporting their efforts for a successful school to honor our Alaskan indigenous population.

Motion by Andy Holleman, second by Kelly Lessens.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yea: Margo Bellamy, Dave Donley, Pat Higgins, Andy Holleman, Carl Jacobs, Kelly Lessens, Dora Wilson

Last Modified by Katy Grant on November 2, 2021