

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

ANCHORAGE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monday, December 11, 2023



The board recognized Nicky Ahn for his recent chess achievements, winning back-to-back scholastic tournaments in the K-8 division and remaining undefeated over ten rounds! Congratulations, Nicky!

During the meeting, the board heard from staff on 2024-25 enrollment projections, school and council reports, written curriculum, and Quality of School Climate & Safety follow-up.

In addition to consent items, the board approved the 2024 APTA Auction “Ask” and committed \$55,000 in funding toward the project’s budget.

The board also reviewed bids and accepted a proposal from Julius Schnurr & Sons, Inc. to repair plaster walls, ceilings, ornamental moldings, and stairways in the Carolyn Siuer Browning Auditorium. This work is planned to commence in June 2024.





Auditorium Project Update:

Auditorium renovation has been listed on the draft Anchorage Independent District Facilities Plan since adoption by the board in November 2019. During the 2023 fiscal year, a group of stakeholders provided initial input into a list of items to be considered in the scope of the revitalization project. Funding contributed last school year by Anchorage Children's Theater (ACT) and the Anchorage Parent Teacher Association (APTA) allowed G. Scott & Associates, Architects PLC to prepare preliminary project priorities and suggested an order of operations for the stakeholder group to review.

The school board held two called meetings on September 25th and November 27th to become informed of the work of the stakeholder group and architect. District staff continue to work with the architect and vendors to obtain detailed drawings and material samples. The board plans to finalize the "vision" for the auditorium project this spring and move forward with a portion of the work immediately after 8th-grade graduation.

The priorities guiding the decision-making process on the scope of the auditorium project include:

- **Preserving the historical character of the space.**
- **Improving access and usability within the space for all APS students and staff to result in increased school-day and extra-curricular program offerings to support student learning.**
- **Capturing technology advancements that can enhance the audio and visual experience for those on stage, behind the scenes, and in the audience.**
- **Maximizing efficiencies during construction to ensure district resources are properly stewarded while being mindful to minimize interruptions when school is in session, whenever possible.**

Because the **plaster repair work** to the ceiling is known to be one of the first and dustiest portions of the process, the board accepted a contract for this portion of the work during the December meeting to ensure a place in the contractor's schedule so the work can begin immediately after this school year ends. The board plans to include **stage modifications, backstage storage room updates, and painting in**

this initial phase of work. The [Facilities Support Program of Kentucky](#) (FSPK), a portion of the property taxes committed for the district's building fund, will be used to pay for the work.

Upon completion of the first phase of work, the auditorium will reopen to students and community groups in the fall of 2024. During the summer of 2025, **flooring and seating replacement** as well as **audio, visual, and electrical updates** are planned to occur.



Testing out the prototype seating.

This project is a major undertaking for the district and will certainly require a community collaborative effort to achieve, from a financial perspective as well as flexibility with interruptions to the “norm” at times when the space is closed for construction. The board is grateful for community partners, ACT and APTA, which have helped move the project to this point, and thanks them in advance for their future efforts as well that will help ensure the success of this project.

The board looks forward to sharing more details on the vision for this exciting project with you as it is developed. With this being a community effort, your input is welcome. If you have expertise, ideas, or contacts to share that may be of use for the project (fundraising, contractor, interior design, materials, audio/visual equipment, etc), please complete [this form](#), and district staff will follow up with you.

**The next monthly Board Meeting is scheduled for
January 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

Please contact [Superintendent Solise](#) if you have any questions or for more specific details please see the monthly board minutes.

Thank you,

Anchorage Independent School District Board of Education

Hannah Barnes (Chair)
Rosanna Gabriele (Vice Chair)
Wilson Greene
Sara Tyler
Andrew O'Brien

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