

**Anchorage Independent Board of Education  
Board Meeting  
Minutes**

**March 20, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**

- Members Present: Hannah Barnes, Chair  
Rosanna Gabriele, Vice Chair  
Wilson Greene  
Andrew O'Brien  
Sara Tyler
- Call to Order: Mrs. Barnes called the Board Meeting to order.
- Approval Agenda: Mr. Greene moved that the Board approve the agenda as amended.  
Mrs. Tyler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Persons Addressing the Board: The following people addressed the Board:
1. Colleen Abate shared concerns that the master schedule changes being considered do not have broad community support and spoke in favor of waiting until the new superintendent arrives to consider significant changes.
  2. Jennifer Archibald spoke in favor of the board approving the master schedule recommended by the School Council.
  3. Erin Bixler requested that the board approve the master schedule recommended by the School Council.
  4. Whitney Cook urged the board to seek and listen to feedback from the middle-school teachers when considering the master schedule.
  5. Kristy Crouch spoke in support of a double block of English Language Arts for student in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to prepare them for high school.
  6. Jeff Dunn shared benefits of current essential arts class rotation and shared some concerns with grade mixing at the middle-school level.
  7. Vicky Johnston shared concerns that the schedule developed with board input shifts toward a departmentalized rather than team focus, increases class sizes in essential arts, increases teacher preps, and places kids within tracks. She urged the board to approve the master schedule recommended by the School Council.
  8. Phillip Kash requested that the board support the schedule recommended by the teachers and shared his concern with what seemed to be a national trend of parents believing they know more than teachers when making school-related decisions.
  9. Amanda Matter shared that the current 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> schedule with fewer classes per day benefits some students with anxiety and

ADHD and was in favor of the schedule approved by the School Council.

10. Melissa Sangster spoke in favor of a team approach within the middle school and shared advantages she believes it affords the students.
11. Laura Broyles spoke in favor of the board approving the current schedule and taking a year to study and consider any changes.
12. Laura Hammer spoke in favor of providing responsible transparency, exploring and deciding upon how we bring issues forward to management and the community and offered to volunteer to assist with building a process.
13. Steve Young expressed his support for increasing the arts, including music and band, and reminded everyone that we are all committed to the students regardless of viewpoints.

Adjournment:

Mr. Greene moved that the Board meeting adjourn.

Mrs. Gabriele seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

These minutes represent a fair and accurate record of the meeting held by the Anchorage Board of Education.

Chair of the Board \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary to the Board \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer to the Board \_\_\_\_\_