

Dana Owen

From: Comeau_Carol [Comeau_Carol@asdk12.org]
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2009 3:00 PM
To: Dana Owen
Cc: Sen. Kim Elton; Comeau_Carol
Subject: RE: SB 57

Dana,

Thanks for taking my call just now. I am sorry I am unable to testify tomorrow as I had planned due to participation in a conference call with the new Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. I would appreciate it if you could distribute these comments to the Senate Education Committee members tomorrow.

Dear Senate Education Committee:

The Anchorage School Board does not have a position on SB 57 specifically, but we strongly support our charter schools. We have much concern on the "draconian" funding situation for a charter school that does not make the 151 student count through the count period, particularly in the first year of operation. Many of our charter schools have struggled with this issue and the funding problems that ensue.

The Anchorage School District would like to work with your committee on this important issue. Last year, I suggested that maybe a working group could work on this issue over this session and into the summer. If that was ever possible, I would like to ask that the ASD participate. We have participated on many groups over the years and have some good suggestions on how to resolve funding and facility issues for charter schools. We believe that the public school choices, including charters, are important for parents and students.

I appreciate your commitment to education and the opportunity to provide input.
Carol Comeau, Superintendent
Anchorage School District

1/28/2009