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## Comeau fills three administrative positions

**February 12, 2002**

Contact: Carol Comeau, 742-4312  
Superintendent

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Superintendent Carol Comeau has filled three administrative positions vacated by current and upcoming retirements. The appointments were approved by the School Board on Monday night.

### **Assistant Superintendent for Instruction – Jan Christensen**

Comeau promoted Chugiak High School principal Jan Christensen to assistant superintendent in instruction, effective July 1. Pat McDowell, the current assistant superintendent for instruction, will retire in June after 27 years with the Anchorage School District. Christensen has been at Chugiak High School since 1993. She has a school superintendent certificate and is close to completing her doctorate's dissertation in educational leadership from Gonzaga University.

"Jan and I have discussed her leadership potential for some time and I know that she will do an excellent job in this more critical district position. She has been a leader in bringing about change at Chugiak High School and has tremendous skill in working with parents, staff and students as change occurs. I expect that she will assist me in reaching out to the community and in focusing on increasing our student's achievement," said Comeau.

ASD, along with community, staff and student input, will soon begin a principal replacement selection process for Chugiak High School.

### **Executive Director for Human Resources – Mark Pasier**

Mark Pasier, currently ASD's director of contract administration, is Comeau's choice for executive director of human resources, effective July 1. Pasier will take over for Lee Wilson, who is retiring in June after 25 years with ASD.

"Mark is imminently qualified for this position and has many ideas on how to build on our current good labor relations and reorganization of the Human Resources Division," said Comeau.

An ASD employee in the 1990s, Pasier returned to Anchorage last year after spending two years working for a school district in Wassau, Wisconsin. Pasier is currently finishing his doctorate's dissertation in human resource leadership from Virginia Tech.

### **Controller – Dennis Ahrens**

Comeau went outside the district to fill the controller position vacated by the recent retirement of Bill Makawa. Comeau selected Dennis Ahrens, who has 21 years of business experience. Most recently, Ahrens was the business manager for ARCO's Alpine project. Ahrens left ARCO following the completion of the Alpine Project and Phillips Petroleum's buyout of ARCO. As controller, Ahrens will be in charge of the district's financial accounting department.

"We are losing a great deal of institutional memory and experience through retirements, but I am very pleased with the high caliber of candidates for these important positions," said Comeau. "I know that these three individuals will do an excellent job."

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