

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Special Meeting

MINUTES

June 1, 2015

Vice President Dominique called the special meeting to order at 6:28 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The special meeting was called for the board to approve Resolution 2016-01: Adoption of the FY 2015-16 School District Approved Budget.

Vice President Dominique read the district's mission statement: *"Our mission is to provide an excellent and equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students can become productive members of a diverse and changing society."*

Present:

Wendy Dominique, Vice President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Lisa Gentry, Clerk
Sue Hull, Member
Michael O'Brien, Member
Sean Rice, Member

Absent:

Heidi Haas, President

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources
Kathie Wassmann, Executive Director of Special Education
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Management
Jennifer Glorioso, Director of Nursing
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs
Melanie Hadaway, Acting Director of Alternative Education
Daniel Domke, Director of Career Technical Education
Katie Sanders, Director of Library Media
Robin Mullins, Director of Business Services
Sandy Weaver, Budget Analyst
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Public Testimony – *limited to items on the agenda only* [0:00:47]

Vice President Dominique called for public testimony. Hearing none, testimony was closed.

Resolution 2016-01: Adoption of the FY 2015-06 School District Approved Budget [0:00:57]

On March 25, 2015, the board approved the Recommended Budget totaling \$274,886,416. Now, Resolution 2016-01 adopting the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's FY 2015-16 Approved Budget was before the board for adoption. The Approved Budget reflected an increase in fund balance of \$4,615,230 – which accounted for the additional funding appropriated by the borough assembly, for a total Approved Budget of \$279,501,646.

Resolution 2016-01: Adoption of the FY 2015-06 School District Approved Budget (continued)

HULL MOVED, GENTRY SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2016-01: ADOPTION OF THE 2015-16 SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVED BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$279,501,646.

Lisa Pearce, chief financial officer, provided an update on the current status of the legislature in regards to the state's budget and education funding. By state statute, the district was required to submit a balanced budget to the state by July 15. To meet the statutory requirement, the administration would need a minimum of three days to prepare the budget for submission to the state, but it would take approximately two weeks to produce the full budget document.

The district's level of state funding would not be known until the legislature approved the state's budget. Therefore, the administration recommended the board approve the district's Recommended Budget, with the addition of the borough funding, to meet the state's deadline. The extra funding provided by the borough – approximately \$4.5 million, was accounted for in unallocated funds/fund balance, for a total of approximately \$4.6 million in unallocated funds. Once state funding was determined the board could come back and make adjustments/add-backs to the budget as needed.

Board Questions/Comments

Board member questions and comments included the possibility of extending the budget statute deadline; the process and timing regarding adding back funding for positions and programs; the notice ramifications of waiting to make add-backs until August; the need to build a responsible fund balance; the district's assessment program; the restructuring of the RTI program; and looking for grants to help sustain programs.

The administration stated the board could make adjustments to the budget at the current time or wait until the state determined final funding. The board discussed timing options for add-backs depending on when the legislature took final action. The administration suggested the board's conversation on add-backs would be better in August when the public could weigh in on proposals if the legislature did not pass a budget in the next week or two.

Board members noted legislators were asking districts to be more proactive and look at better instruction delivery methods and other efficiencies. It was mentioned that adding back all the reductions that had already been made would be putting the district back to where it was originally, rather than being more proactive and looking for efficiencies. It was also noted that having no fund balance could put the district at risk. The borough assembly's message was also clear the district should be looking for efficiencies and not to expect the borough to subsidize the district's budget each year. Board members agreed on the need to be proactive.

There was general agreement among board members to adopt the Recommended Budget, with the addition of the borough funding, as the Approved Budget, and to meet again regarding add-backs as soon as possible after the legislature adopted a state budget, as to not keep staff hanging all summer. There were no amendments offered and the board voted on the motion as originally stated.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES
(RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE)

Other Comments/Announcements

The administration planned to begin the budget process and conversations much earlier next year. Dr. Gaborik stated the board's first work session in September would be around a strategic assessment program. Mrs. Hull asked for an update on the superintendent evaluation process at the Regular Meeting the next evening.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Tuttle, executive assistant to the Board of Education.