

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

September 1, 2015

President Haas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The district's Teacher Choir performed for the board under the guidance of Gwendolyn Brazier, music teacher.

President Haas 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:

Heidi Haas, President
Wendy Dominique, Vice President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Lisa Gentry, Clerk
Sue Hull, Member
Sean Rice, Member
Sean Williams, Post Representative
Kobe Rizk, Student Representative

Absent:

Michael O'Brien, Member
Richard Cole, Base Representative

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Dan Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
Kathie Wassmann, Executive Director of Special Education
Melanie Hadaway, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs
Dan Domke, Director of Career and Technical Education
Heather Rauenhorst, Director of Grants & Special Projects
Larry Morris, Project Manager
Holly Cervin, Director of Alternative Programs
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Staff Introductions [0:09:20]

President Haas introduced Colonel Sean Williams, the new Garrison Commander and board representative for Ft. Wainwright. Helen Clark, director of federal programs, introduced Mary Carlson, the new Title I professional development coordinator. Melanie Hadaway, executive director of curriculum and instruction, introduced April Scott, a new curriculum coordinator.

ESP of the Month [0:12:22]

Cindy Bravo, Anne Wien Elementary behavior intervention aide, was recognized as the Extra Special Support Staff Person for September 2015. Michael Angaiak, Anne Wien Elementary principal, made the presentation.

Spotlight: District Music Program [0:22:51]

Melanie Linton, Ticasuk Brown Elementary School music teacher, provided a spotlight on the district's strong music program and shared some of the wonderful accomplishments of the many student musicians from the 2014-15 school year. The mission of the district's music program was to provide students with a balanced, comprehensive and sequential program of study in music.

The district provided musical opportunities for elementary, middle school, and high school students and had 44 music teachers working throughout the district. Music was an integral part of the core curriculum in which students participated physically, socially, emotionally, intellectually, and aesthetically. Music provided a foundation where students learned to express themselves through singing, playing instruments, listening, moving, and composing. The skills attained through the study of music enhanced the performance of students in all areas of the curriculum.

Board Questions/Comments

On behalf of the entire board, President Haas thanked Ms. Linton and all music teachers throughout the district for their work with students.

AGENDA [0:30:45]

GENTRY MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS.

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the award for \$878,533 from the US Department of Education for the Title VII, Part A, Indian Education Formula Grant Part II, per Fiscal Note 2016-01.

accepted the award in the amount of \$1,496,376.20 from the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) for the Grants to Military Connected Local Educational Agencies for Academic and Support Programs (MCASP), per Fiscal Note 2016-02.

accepted the grant subaward in the amount of \$40,000 from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska for the "Mentoring for Educational Success" program, per Fiscal Note 2016-03.

approved the minutes from the special meetings on August 4, 10, and 18, and the regular meeting on August 4, 2015, as submitted.

approved submission of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 Grant application in the amount of \$310,630.

approved submission of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Consolidated Application Grant application in the amount of \$5,010,772.

accepted the gift of \$5,000 from Adient Orthopedic Physical Therapy to Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School to help fund an athletic trainer for the school.

accepted the gift of \$5,000 from Sportsmedicine Fairbanks to Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School to help fund an athletic trainer for the school.

accepted the gift of \$1,400 from the Alaska School Activities Association to Lathrop High School to support the school's softball program.

Consent Agenda (continued)

accepted the gift of \$4,900 from the Discover Brighter Future Funds of the Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund to Lathrop High School for the purchase of updated personal finance teaching materials for the school's Pathways to Financial Success program.

accepted the gift of \$6,596.50 from the Lathrop Baseball Booster Club to Lathrop High School to support the school's baseball program.

accepted the gift of \$3,000 from Pogo Mine to Lathrop High School to support the school's ACA-DECA program.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period July 23 – August 27, 2015.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period July 27 – August 21, 2015.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (WILLIAMS, RIZK)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES
(RICE, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS [0:34:42]

Kristine Buckland, 2435 Sundog Court, Crawford Elementary parent, spoke to the class sizes at Crawford. While Ms. Buckland had received notice from the principal an additional teacher for Crawford would be hired, she was still concerned about future class sizes. She encouraged the district to take a pro-active approach to staffing. Having students change classes after the start of the school year was disruptive for everyone. She appreciated the board's time and attention they had already given to the short-term problem.

President Haas explained she had begun an email response to Ms. Buckland's previous email to the board, but would now also be gathering additional information to address Ms. Buckland's current concerns. President Haas went on to explain how the district previously had reserve teachers built into the budget, but due to budget reductions, most of the reserve teacher positions had been eliminated.

Mrs. Hull shared she had made a visit to Weller Elementary School and while that school had received an additional teacher to relieve class sizes in the primary grades, the intermediate grade numbers were still large. She agreed the board and administration should be looking at ways to minimize issues. Even with the fiscal constraints, the district needed to look at ways to maintain class size.

Astrid Larson, 1119 Tyrol Street, Weller parent, echoed Mrs. Hull's comments and concerns regarding the class sizes at Weller. Ms. Larson was aware an additional teacher was added to the primary grades, but that did nothing to change the large classes at the intermediate level. With such large classes, it was difficult for students to learn. Parents and the community had been clear that class size was a high priority, especially at the lower grades. Ms. Larson was before the board to advocate for students. The school board was responsible for the instruction of students and she wanted them to know students and families were affected by large class sizes.

President Haas asked the administration to provide the board an update on how staffing was determined and the threshold for adding additional staff.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy 236: Committees of the Board (Second Reading) [0:49:52]

The school board had requested a standing committee on parent engagement. The administration submitted the revision to Policy 236: Committees of the Board, amending the policy to include a standing committee on parent engagement. There were no changes from first reading.

Board Priority: Active partnerships with the parents and community are essential to support successful student learning.

GENTRY MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 236: COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Questions were raised about when the board acted as a committee of the whole.

HULL MOVED, GENTRY SECONDED, TO AMEND THE POLICY LANGUAGE ON LINE 10, AFTER EX-OFFICIO MEMBER, TO ADD, UNLESS THE BOARD CHOOSES TO OPERATE A COMMITTEE AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The board voted on the amendment.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (WILLIAMS, RIZK)
AMENDMENT CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.
5 AYES: GENTRY, LAMBERT, RICE, HULL, HAAS
1 NAY: DOMINIQUE

Board discussion continued.

The board voted on the main motion as amended.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (WILLIAMS, RIZK)
MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.
5 AYES: LAMBERT, RICE, HULL, GENTRY, HAAS
1 NAY: DOMINIQUE

Policy 263: Teleconference Participation in Meetings (Second Reading) [0:57:11]

The school board requested the administration draft a revision to School Board Policy 263: Teleconference Participation in Meetings, which as originally adopted in September 2014, authorized participation via teleconference at regular meetings. The administration submitted for the revision, which expanded the policy to authorize teleconference participation at special meetings as well. There were no changes from first reading.

Board Priority: Use technologies, including PowerSchool Premier, to enhance learning, monitor student progress, involve parents, enhance communication, and maintain efficient district operations.

GENTRY MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 263: TELECONFERENCE PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS.

Policy 263: Teleconference Participation in Meetings (Second Reading) (continued)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Concern was voiced about the quality of the boardroom technology making it sometimes difficult to hear and fully participate by phone. The administration would continue to work on the quality of the boardroom's technology. One board member stated that as elected officials, the public expected board members to be present at meetings. Others agreed to the importance of being in attendance, but noted there were times when it was valuable to be able to participate when not able to be present.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (RIZK, WILLIAMS)

MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

5 AYES: HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, RICE, HAAS;

1 NAY: DOMINIQUE

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2016-03: Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month [1:01:55]

School Board Resolution 2016-03 honored Hispanic Heritage Month and proclaimed the month of September 15, 2015, through October 15, 2015, for Hispanic cultural activities throughout the district.

Board Priority: Respect for the diversity and dignity of all individuals and groups is essential.

RICE MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2016-03:
HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH.

Mr. Rice read the resolution for the public record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Board members expressed their appreciation for the resolution and the importance of honoring and recognizing heritage and looked forward to seeing and addressing revisions to the district's graduation attire/regalia policy.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (WILLIAMS, RIZK)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES

(HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, RICE, HAAS)

Hutchison High School 2015-16 School Calendar Revision Request [1:06:48]

The Hutchison High School community requested an adjustment to the 2015-16 calendar to allow the school to host the 2016 Aurora Conference Basketball 3A Tournament, March 10-12, 2016.

Principal Robyn Taylor requested permission to move the February 15-16, 2016, parent-teacher conference days to March 10-11, 2016, in order for the school to host the conference. All Hutchison students would attend school during the districtwide parent-teacher conference days, as regular student-contact days, on February 15-16, 2016, but not on March 10-11, 2016, when the school would host the tournament. In order to meet the terms of the teacher contract, the shift would also require that March 9 be an early dismissal day. Transportation to Hutchison would not be provided on the districtwide parent-teacher conference days of February 15-16 and if approved, Hutchison High School would be responsible to notify all parents regarding the adjusted schedule.

Hutchison High School 2015-16 School Calendar Revision Request (continued)

Board Priority: Student learning is at the center of everything we do.

GENTRY MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO APPROVE HUTCHISON HIGH SCHOOL'S REQUEST TO REVISE THE 2015-16 SCHOOL CALENDAR IN ORDER TO HOST THE 2016 AURORA CONFERENCE BASKETBALL 3A TOURNAMENT.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Board members questioned the issue of transportation and how families would be notified and what would be done for students without transportation. They also questioned how students who attended Hutchison for one or two classes from other schools would be affected.

Superintendent Gaborik suggested the board postpone the issue and the administration would bring back the action item after more information was obtained regarding transportation, the number of students affected, and how the communication to parents would be handled.

HULL MOVED, GENTRY SECONDED, TO POSTPONE HUTCHISON HIGH SCHOOL'S REQUEST UNTIL THE BOARD'S NEXT MEETING.

President Haas asked for any objection to postpone Hutchison's request to the board's next meeting and hearing none, so moved.

FY15-FY19 Strategic Plan Communication Document [1:16:05]

The district's FY15-FY19 Strategic Plan Communication Document was developed from the board's work on the strategic plan. If approved, the document would be distributed to schools and departments.

Board Priority: Develop long-term sustainability of overall district operations.

LAMBERT MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE FY15-FY19 STRATEGIC PLAN COMMUNICATION DOCUMENT.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. There was some disagreement on whether or not the issue of expanding the BEST program had been determined through the board's work on the strategic plan. It was stated the board met on April 18 to work on the strategic plan where expanding the BEST program was part of the discussion. There was agreement the board discussed the issue of expanding BEST; the disagreement centered on whether or not the board approved expanding BEST.

The board voted to approve the strategic plan at its June 2, 2015 Regular Meeting, but the expansion of the BEST program was not specifically noted in the strategic plan. There was discussion on whether the expansion of BEST was agreed to as part of the goal of Individualized Learning; included in the development of the Independent Learning Center; or not agreed to at all. There was also disagreement on whether resources were allocated to expand the program through the board's work on the budget.

FY15-FY19 Strategic Plan Communication Document (continued)

It was determined the issue of whether or not the board approved the expansion of BEST did not affect the strategic plan document currently before the board for action, so the board could continue their consideration of the document.

President Haas would review the audio from the meetings and determine whether or not the expansion of the BEST program was part of the board's approval of the overall strategic plan and if not, bring it back before the board at a future meeting.

Board members expressed their pleasure with the strategic plan and thought it would move the district in the right direction for many years to come. The full strategic plan was posted on the board's webpage and would soon have its own dedicated page. The communication document would also be posted to the website and distributed to schools.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (WILLIAMS, RIZK)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES
(LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, RICE, HULL, GENTRY, HAAS)

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Superintendent Report [1:34:10]

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik provided a superintendent report.

Board Priority: Student learning is at the center of everything we do.

- Enrollment: current enrollment was 13,850, approximately 190 over projections, but the official count would take place in October. The administration was monitoring class sizes and making moves as needed.
- Gender identity: the administration would be reviewing procedures around gender identity. The district had governing administrative regulations, but no policy.
- Network services: the department had a backlog of work orders. They were working hard to keep up.

Board Questions/Comments

Board discussion ensued. Item for information only.

Transportation Update [1:49:33]

Lisa Pearce, chief financial officer, provided a transportation update.

Board Priority: Develop long-term sustainability of overall district operations.

Ms. Pearce spoke to the current situation with buses, drivers, and routes. First Student was still experiencing a shortage of drivers, but was working to address the shortage. The district was working hard on responding to calls and concerns. At the direction of the board, the district would be determining liquidated damages in regards to its contract with First Student. The statewide RFP pre-proposal contract was due tomorrow. The RFP addressed tracking damages but there was language not to seek them for the first 20 days, knowing there were challenges at the beginning of the school year. The district asked to have the 20-day stipulation removed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Transportation Update (continued)

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Item for information only. Board members expressed concerns about late bus notification system and not having accurate and up-to-date information.

Construction Update/Capital Projects [2:02:35]

Dave Norum, executive director of facilities management, and Larry Morris, projects and grounds manager, provided a construction and capital projects update.

Board Priority: Maintain excellent school facilities and manage capital improvement projects.

Mr. Norum and Mr. Morris presented a PowerPoint presentation and updated the board on the construction of Ryan, North Pole High School's CTE wing renovation, and several flooring, roof and exterior upgrades. In regards to the construction of Ryan, Mr. Norum explained the original school had seismic issues and it was determined it would cost more to address and repair the issues than to rebuild. The existing building had a concrete roof with no existing support. The district and borough provided some short-term re-enforcements for the interim, but the repairs were not a long-term permanent solution. Funding for the construction was obtained through a bond passed by the community, with a 60 percent reimbursement from the state.

The facilities department had been able to complete several summer projects in-house. The four-day work schedule seemed to be well received and successful. Although the exact amount was not yet known, the four-day work week provided some cost savings in utilities and transportation costs and seemed to increase work productivity. Projects planned for 2016 included continued work on Ryan, more roof and exterior upgrades, energy and lighting upgrades, and some classroom and technology upgrades.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Item was for discussion and information only. Board members expressed their appreciation for all the work of the facilities department. Some would like to see the four-day work week implemented in other areas. Board members hoped funding for the final phase of Barnette Magnet School's renovation could be found.

BEST Research Report [2:27:57]

Melanie Hadaway, executive director of curriculum and instruction, and Holly Cervin, executive director of alternative instruction, provided an overview of the BEST Research Report.

Board Priority: Provide educational options to families and students.

The board appropriated funds to conduct research into expanding the BEST program. The district hired Katrina Miller, who produced the *FNSBSD Homeschool Comparison Report*. Ms. Cervin provided a brief overview of the report. It provided a comprehensive comparison of the district's program and other programs throughout the state. Based upon the research, recommendations included:

- Advertising – revise the budget to provide an advertising allowance, including radio, television, and print ads.
- Statewide Expansion – expand the BEST program into a statewide program.
- Parent-Advisory Committee Development – a Parent Advisory Committee should be developed and modeled after Mat-Su Central.

BEST Research Report (continued)

- Location Expansion – move the location of BEST to provide a more appealing space for parents who wish to explore BEST’s curriculum/book resources, meet with teachers, participate in activities or workshops, and utilize updated computer labs. Suggested areas to relocate include the empty space on the second floor of Ryan Middle School or an entirely new area.
- Staffing – develop positions for a family representative to provide feedback, recommendations, and staff support; a part-time activity development coordinator; and a part-time public relations specialist.
- Performance Evaluations – adopt a bi-yearly parent evaluation form, similar to Mat-Su Central.
- Additional Incentives – at the beginning of the expansion, model after Mat-Su Central by offering a buy-out opportunity for parents who are considering leaving their current program. To incentivize re-enrollment in BEST, the program should be modeled after Raven Correspondence by offering entry into drawings for gift cards, laptops, and iPad minis after parents have submitted early re-enrollment forms.
- Activity Expansion – need to expand activity opportunities to be competitive with alternative programs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Item for information only. Board members asked about funding for the program, the cost of the program through the years, student enrollment and the break-even point, allotment incentives, and the additional costs associated with possible expansion. Board members debated the pros and cons of expanding the program. It was clarified the BEST program was part of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District public school system.

Association of Alaska School Boards’ (AASB) Call for Resolutions [2:42:46]

The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) solicited resolutions from local school boards for consideration at the 2015 Annual Conference in November. School boards were asked to discuss the resolution changes and/or submit resolutions of their own. The administration supported AASB’s efforts to positively impact education decisions and procedures statewide.

Board Priority: Student learning is at the center of everything we do.

Mrs. Hull, as an AASB board member, spoke to the AASB resolution process. She specifically addressed Resolution 2.38: District Cost Factor. The district cost factor process had issues and put Fairbanks at a disadvantage. The resolution spoke to updating the cost factors on a regular basis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Mrs. Hull asked the administration to look at the cost factor language. There was consensus from the board to have the administration review and revise AASB Resolution 2.38: District Cost Factor for the board’s consideration at the September 15 Regular Meeting. Suggested revisions included language related to the data being 10 years old and stressing the importance of the factors being reviewed on a regular basis.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS [2:48:06]

Colonel Williams appreciated the opportunity and looked forward to serving on the school board.

Mr. Rice announced the upcoming Board Curriculum Advisory Committee on Thursday. He spoke to the importance of being fiscally responsible to the public in regards to the district's funds and spending.

Mrs. Hull spoke to the issue of the district fund balance. She asked the administration to provide some information on the importance of the fund balance. She provided board members with a handout from NSBA's Summer Leadership Seminar, *Knowledge Based Decision Making*. Mrs. Hull encouraged board members to consider attending the Experienced Board Member Training at the upcoming AASB Fall Conference and also to consider running for a seat on the AASB board of directors so there could be a time of transition before she left the board.

At 9:54 p.m.

HULL MOVED, RICE MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND EXTEND THE MEETING FOR 15 MINUTES TO 10:15 P.M.

Asking for and hearing no objection, President Haas continued the meeting.

Mrs. Dominique's concern regarding the expansion of the BEST program was based on the fact information was not provided to the public and the public did not have an opportunity to comment or provide input on the possibility of expanding the program. If the issue was put before the board and the public had a time to provide input and it passed, that would be fine, but felt strongly the public needed the opportunity to provide input on the matter. Mrs. Dominique did not think it was prudent to put additional money into a program that had lost money.

Mr. Rizk appreciated the musical presentation by district music teachers at the beginning of the meeting. He also appreciated the public testimony regarding class size; it was a big issue in the community and with students. Mr. Rizk shared how students were pleased with the increased use of Canvas; it was a very useful tool. He encouraged board members to attend the Regional Student Council meetings. He asked to have the Regional Student Council meeting schedule sent to board members.

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik thanked staff districtwide for all their work in regards to the many open house events. She announced the start of the United Way Campaign.

On behalf of the entire board, President Haas thanked the district music teachers for their performance and Ms. Linton for the spotlight on the district's music programs. She thanked the parents who had testified on class size and the staff for their work on the reports and presentations.

President Haas requested the administration explore the possibility of video streaming board meetings with a delayed start so meetings could begin at 6:00 p.m. She had several upcoming meeting announcements:

- Career Technical Education Advisory Committee Meeting – September 9 at 5:30 at the Administrative Center.
- Board Diversity Committee Meeting – September 10 at 5:30 at the Administrative Center
- Special Meeting: Student Discipline – September 15 at 5:30 in the board room
- Work Session: Strategic Plan Update, including Parent Engagement Committee; and the 2016-17 Budget, including the Citizen Budget Review Committee – September 15 at 6:00 in the board room

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

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