

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

October 6, 2015

President Haas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. Barnette Magnet School's Musical Theatre group led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the school board under the guidance of Gwendolyn Brazier, music teacher.

President Haas read the district's mission statement: "*Our mission is to provide an excellent, equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students will succeed and contribute to a diverse and changing society.*"

Present:

Heidi Haas, President  
Wendy Dominique, Vice President  
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer  
Sue Hull, Member  
Michael O'Brien, Member  
Sean Rice, Member  
Kobe Rizk, Student Representative

Absent:

Lisa Gentry, Clerk  
Richard Cole, Base Representative  
Sean Williams, Post 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  
Daniel Domke, Director of Career and Technical Education  
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**ESP of the Month** [0:13:41]

Thursha Jackson, special education secretary, was recognized as the Extra Special Support Staff Person for October 2015. Kathie Wassmann, executive director of special education, made the presentation.

**Spotlight: Barnette Magnet School** [0:17:41]

Barnette Magnet School Principal Dana Evans and Ashley Yeats, one of three Spanish program teachers, provided a spotlight and video on Barnette Magnet School's Spanish language program, currently serving approximately 150 students. The Spanish language program at Barnette was unique as it offered a year-long exploration class to students in grades 1-8, affording them the opportunity for in-depth language and cultural study. Research had shown that second language study offered many benefits to students in terms of improved abilities to communicate, cognitive development, better problem solving and creativity skills, cultural awareness, and job opportunities. Because the foundation for learning a foreign language required listening, speaking, and writing skills, it was also a huge benefit to students in regards to English literacy.

## **AGENDA** [0:24:39]

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

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the award for \$40,000 from Big Brothers Big Sisters for the Alaska Native Education grant through the U.S. Department of Education to support the Success through Education and Cultural Connections (SECC) project, per Fiscal Note 2016-12.

accepted the award in the amount of \$1,398,037 from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for the Alaska 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), per Fiscal Note 2016-14.

accepted the award in the amount of \$146,000 from the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Alaska for the Alaska Construction Academy grant, per Fiscal Note 2016-15.

accepted the award for \$4,824 from the Department of Education and Early Development for the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program grant, per Fiscal Note 2016-16.

accepted the award for \$5,582,174.09 from the Department of Education and Early Development for the Title VI-B grant, per Fiscal Note 2016-17.

accepted the award for \$99,889.28 from the Department of Education and Early Development for the Section 619 Preschool Disabled grant, per Fiscal Note 2016-18.

approved the minutes from the work sessions on August 31 and September 14; the regular meetings on September 1 and 15; and the special meeting on September 14, 2015, as submitted.

approved the Fairbanks BEST Curriculum Notice.

approved Budget Transfer 2016-013: Hutchison High School Activity Accounts in the amount of \$175,741.

approved Budget Transfer 2016-014: After School Programs in the amount of \$79,407.

approved Budget Transfer 2016-016: Career Technical Education in the amount of \$96,629.

approved Budget Transfer 2016-018: Special Education in the amount of \$1,058,608.

approved submission of the American Honda Foundation grant application in the amount of \$48,000 to the American Honda Foundation.

approved Denali Elementary School's request to raise funds to send students to Denali Park in spring 2016, with the exact date to be determined once the spring train schedule is released, where students will explore and expand their knowledge of the plant and animal adaptations unit, at no cost to the district.

accepted the gift of \$1,200 from Denali State Bank to Anne Wien Elementary School for the purchase of water bottles and tote bags for students and staff in celebration of the school's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

accepted the gift of \$1,339.20 from HUDL Fundraising LLC to Lathrop High School to support the school's football program.

## **Consent Agenda (continued)**

accepted the gift of a Miller Technology 2010 Toyota Hurth mining truck and an inventory of new parts, with a combined value of approximately \$99,288.85, from Sumitomo Metal Mining Pogo LLC, to Hutchison High School, to be used in the automotive technology and heavy equipment maintenance and operations classes.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period September 7-25, 2015.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period September 7-25, 2015.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for October 6, 2015.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

ADVISORY VOTES. 1 AYE: RIZK

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

6 AYES: RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, HAAS

## **Public Comment On Nonagenda Items** [0:29:31]

Nanieezh and Enei Peter, 1684 Skyflight Avenue, daughter and mother, spoke in support of Indigenous Peoples' Day. Ms. Peter was proud of her heritage and asked the board to recognize the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day. Mrs. Peter thanked the district and teachers for their work. She spoke to how the education system was harmful not too long ago and how it had come so far. Mrs. Peter believed if the board adopted a resolution in support of Indigenous Peoples' Day it would make a big impact. She thought the resolution had gone before the Board Diversity Committee and hoped it would come before the board.

President Haas explained the Board Diversity Committee had taken up the resolution at their last meeting and would be reviewing it again at their meeting later in the week.

Board member discussion ensued. There was confusion on whether the Board Diversity Committee had approved the resolution or whether it was being held for further consideration. President Haas and Superintendent Dr. Gaborik spoke to the approval process and timelines. Board members expressed their support to have the resolution come before the board at its next meeting.

Tanya Kaquatosh, 2015 Bridgewater Drive, parent and product of the school district and Alaska Native Education program, spoke in support of the Indigenous Peoples' Day resolution. Ms. Kaquatosh was passionate about the Alaska Native Education program and anything to do with Native students within the school district. She was very appreciative of how the Alaska Native Education program had helped her succeed in school and go on to obtain her degree from Stanford.

Geri Simon, 825 Ridgepointe Drive, West Valley parent, had attended the Chamber luncheon earlier in the day and heard Superintendent Gaborik speak to the district's graduation statistics and it worried her, specifically as it related to the graduation rate for Native students. Ms. Simon spoke in support of the Indigenous Peoples' Day resolution. The resolution would be one way to show Native students they should be proud of who they were and their heritage. It would also expand the learning of all other students about all cultures and the beauty of diversity. Ms. Simon also thanked the board and administration for allowing a student to wear a special sash at graduation that signified her culture and tradition of growing up as a Native student in the school district and honoring her heritage.

## **Public Comment On Nonagenda Items (continued)**

Princess Johnson, 1212 Sutton Loop, spoke in support of Indigenous Peoples' Day and thanked the board for their service. It was important for children to feel good about who they were and have high self-esteem. Ms. Johnson thought some of the inequalities seen in the cities at the local level could be addressed through the educational system. Each person needed to ask themselves how to create a culture of caring and respect. As a big fan of place-based education, Ms. Johnson thought if students cared about Fairbanks, its people, and its environment, buy-in would happen at a very young age and help for students to become engaged at a number of different levels. Ms. Johnson was moved to see so many people come out to the meetings to show their support. She thought the Indigenous Peoples' resolution would be a way to promote some different indigenous epistemologies.

Tessa Weeden, 1446 Grenac Road, Lathrop student, spoke to the issue of how the valedictorian and salutatorian were selected. Ms. Weeden stated the positions were currently selected on an average-based system, based on grade point average (GPA). She did not think the current system worked well as free periods and teacher assistant (TA) periods did not contribute GPA points, allowing regular and advanced placement (AP) classes to bring down a GPA. Ms. Weeden presented a resolution at the Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG) last spring where it was approved. She read a portion of the resolution for the board. Ms. Weeden believed the system should be changed to a sum-based system, so the system could not be "played" by taking free or TA periods. The current system did not encourage students to take more classes, but rather to take a couple AP courses and a couple of free periods, which would help increase their GPA. Ms. Weeden would like to see the current system addressed.

Chrya Sanderson, 3498 Rosehip Drive, North Pole High School Alaska Native Education tutor, voiced her support for the Indigenous Peoples' Day resolution. Ms. Sanderson also spoke to the challenging day she'd had. With a caseload of 92 students, approximately 12 percent were failing. Math, and the sciences were a challenge. Some students were totally frustrated, as were some staff; she was totally frustrated, but she was seeking a solution for her students. She was able to meet most of the other needs of her students, as if they needed shelter, clothes, food, or other assistance, she knew how to get them the help they needed, but there needed to be more and better supports available for students with academic challenges. She worked extra hours with students, but she was only one person. The diversity seen in the student population needed to be available across the district in all areas such as instructional supports; not all students learned the same way – there had to be options. This year had been a real challenge; classes were large and students were uncomfortable. Ms. Sanderson was before the board as a voice for students and their needs.

Rachel LaPlaunt, 1220 Spring Glade Road, Pearl Creek student, spoke in support of the International Day of the Girl. Ms. LaPlaunt spoke to the issue of girls not having equal educational rights across the world. She noted the tragedy of a young girl being shot because she wanted an education, which made her realize she'd taken her own education for granted. Ms. LaPlaunt also noted a news story from the past summer of a group of Pakistan girls who secretly formed a soccer team due to concern of being harmed for wanting to play soccer, a sport Ms. LaPlaunt stated she and her friends enjoyed. When she researched how to help girls' rights around the world, she became aware of the International Day of the Girl. The International Day of the Girl, on October 11, was supported by the United Nations and encouraged girls worldwide to celebrate themselves and stand up for their education. Through her research, Ms. LaPlaunt discovered there were kids within the school district who did not have the same resources as others. They came to school hungry, tired, and cold, which affected their learning. Ms. LaPlaunt proposed using the International Day of the Girl as an opportunity to bring awareness to the Fairbanks community that there were children in our district and town whose access to education was not equal.

## **Public Comment On Nonagenda Items (continued)**

Board members had an important role in making decisions that benefited students. Ms. LaPlaunt urged board members to use their position to support all students. World change could not happen without education. She wanted to start locally by raising awareness about kids in the Fairbanks community and other communities around the globe. Ms. LaPlaunt shared a quote, "One teacher, one student, one book, one pen, can change the world." She believed if those words were put into action, the world could be changed, starting in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Jody Potts, 1214 Hampstead Avenue, parent of four children in the district, spoke in support of the Indigenous Peoples' Day resolution. Ms. Potts stated she was pleased with the majority of the education her students received in the school district. But as a Native parent she had concern about Columbus Day. Every year her children questioned why the day was being celebrated in school. They asked why was there only one point of view taught; one celebration of the success of a particular individual that was the beginning of a near-end for a large group of people; essentially the beginning of genocide. Ms. Potts shared how hurtful it was to have her son come home from school very upset with so many questions and having to have a very honest and serious conversation with a third grader, as well as her other children as they got old enough to understand. The conversations were very difficult when the facts of history were not accurately taught in school. Students were not always respected in the classroom when they tried to talk about the subject in school. Ms. Potts thought Indigenous Peoples' Day would not only benefit Native students, but all students. All students needed to know the truth. She thought it would also help with relations within the community to see other cultures celebrated, not just one point of view and one history. Ms. Potts appreciated the board's work and encouraged them to support the resolution. She thought it would mean a lot to children to receive the recognition and appreciation of their culture through Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Mrs. Lambert asked if the resolution could be pushed through the process and if the board could hold a special meeting on Monday, October 12, 2015 at noon to take action on the resolution.

The board established it could have a quorum for a Monday meeting at noon. Superintendent Gaborik worked on the notice deadlines, board room availability, and process timelines.

Mrs. Gentry joined the meeting by phone at 8:07 p.m.

Kyle Hackett, 1465 Flat Mountain Road, Lathrop student, spoke in support of changing the selection process for the valedictorian and salutatorian to a sum-based system. Mr. Hackett stressed the differences in the systems. The current GPA method used an average system, taking the score for all classes and dividing it by the number of classes. With the current system, someone taking three AP classes and three regular classes would have the same GPA as someone taking five AP and five regular courses. Under the proposed new process of a sum-based system, GPA would hopefully be setup so AP classes would count as 5 points for an A, 4 points for a B, etc. Regular classes would be 4 points for an A, 3 points for a B, etc. Elective courses would be 3 points for an A, 2 points for a B, etc. Mr. Hackett was currently taking five AP classes and five regular classes and felt he was putting in more work for the appearance of the same or lesser result of a student who might have taken five AP classes and a free period. Mr. Hackett hoped the system would be changed soon.

Mr. O'Brien asked if with the new proposed system, if someone with a lower GPA could still end up being the valedictorian and salutatorian because it would give greater weight to the total number of classes taken, opposed to the absolute GPA. Mr. Hackett stated Mr. O'Brien was correct in that it would be giving more weight to the classes, but additionally, the types of classes would be given weight as well. AP classes would be worth 5 points for an A; core classes would be worth 4 points for an A; and elective classes would be worth 3 points for an A.

## **Public Comment On Nonagenda Items (continued)**

In regards to the board holding a special meeting on Monday, October 12, 2015 at noon to consider the Indigenous Peoples' Day resolution, there was consensus from the board to hold the meeting. The current draft of the resolution would be advertised, noting there could be changes to the resolution after the Board Diversity Committee (BDC) met on Thursday. The administration would work to get the BDC document vetted through Management Team on Friday and if possible, provide the board with an updated version on Friday afternoon.

Mr. O'Brien invited and encouraged those in attendance to attend the meeting on Monday, October 12 at noon.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Strategic Plan Revision to Consider the Expansion of BEST** [1:15:35]

The administration recommended the school board consider an explicit objective under the strategic goal of Personalized Learning that addressed the expansion of the school district's BEST program.

*Core Value/Goal: Personalized Learning: Provide students with options to meet their needs and achieve academic success.*

LAMBERT MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED, TO APPROVE REVISION OF THE FY15-FY19 FNSBSD STRATEGIC PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN COMMUNICATION DOCUMENT TO INCLUDE THE EXPANSION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BEST PROGRAM.

Dr. Gaborik recommended adding a bullet under personalized learning to address expanding the BEST program. Expanding the BEST program had a full host of possibilities depending upon available resources. Adding the objective would make it clear expanding the program was a board priority.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Rosalee Bertram, 3560 Ida Lane, a student in the BEST program, spoke in support of the BEST program. Having suffered a concussion and suffering from the effects of it, many accommodations were needed for her to continue in school. After having researched many other homeschool programs and options, she and her family found the only program that met her educational goals and needs was the BEST program. The program allowed her to take classes at her own pace, arrange her own curriculum, have it taught in a way that would not aggravate her concussion, and allow her to graduate in four years from West Valley, which was very important to her. Ms. Bertram took two courses from West Valley, unfortunately, another class she tried to take there did not accommodate her needs and she was now taking it through BEST. Ms. Bertram was very passionate about the BEST program and would appreciate the board continuing the program.

Kathy Bertram, 3560 Ida Lane, mother of Ms. Bertram who just testified, also spoke in support of BEST. BEST was a cost effective way for the district to provide access to students who needed accommodations. Mrs. Bertram stated when her daughter was injured at school, two and a half years ago, her traumatic brain injury was so severe, she qualified for an IEP. If her daughter was not able to attend BEST, West Valley would have to make extensive and expensive accommodations in all of her classes. Not being a traditional home school family, Mrs. Bertram noted they were not interested in attending a program outside the district. Her daughter had made great academic progress through BEST and the guidance of its staff. The program was definitely meeting its goal of offering personalized learning by offering her daughter options she needed to meet her needs and achieve her academic success, which included being a graduate of the Fairbanks school district.

## **Strategic Plan Revision to Consider the Expansion of BEST (continued)**

Arlene Koenig, 3001 Tekapo Court, mother of seven children, spoke in support of the BEST program. Ms. Koenig shared how the BEST program had helped each of her individual children at different times throughout their academic careers. Her family appreciated the ability to choose the right mix of home, district, and college courses for each student and the flexibility to come and go from the brick and mortar schools, while maintaining consistency in higher level math and sciences classes. Ms. Koenig believed the BEST program was uniquely suited to meet the home school needs of kids in the district because of the partnership between the home school and regular schools. She believed it could become a profit center for the district and she would promote it to others looking for a home school.

Kelly Dobinson, 5045 Palo Verde Avenue, mother of three children, spoke in support of the BEST program. Due to a chronic health condition, Ms. Dobinson currently home schooled her oldest son through the BEST program. Prior to utilizing BEST, Ms. Dobinson did not know much about the program. She had found out more about it from a district school principal and discovered her son could be part of the school, along with taking courses at home. Ms. Dobinson shared how having the option of BEST was incredible for their family. Her son was able to be with his friends and have part of his classes at school, while still being able to stay home to get the rest his body needed. Her son enjoyed and was very excited about going to school. Ms. Dobinson thought the BEST program provided families with options and hope.

Kristan Kelly, 4536 Melan Drive, BEST education specialist, had been with the program since the program began. Ms. Kelly recognized and appreciated the district's budget situation, but questioned the idea that BEST had lost money. She encouraged the board to look at the year-end budgets. Ms. Kelly also spoke to BEST's student base. Enrollment was almost to 300 students and was comprised of students following their dreams whether through sports, music, art, travel, etc.; students who were dealing with situations at the regular brick and mortar schools; students who were serving overseas missions; students who were ill or receiving medical treatments; and more. Ms. Kelly shared some of the accomplishments of BEST students and its alumni. She believed if the district advertised the program and promoted it, students and families would show up.

A question was asked to Ms. Kelly if she thought if changes were made to the program and it was well advertised, if there would be significant enrollment growth. Ms. Kelly stated yes. She had people who had never heard of BEST. The program had done very well and grown by word of mouth, but to really grow it, the program had to be marketed. She thought there was an incredible demand for the program.

Chrya Sanderson, 3498 Rosehip Drive, North Pole High School Alaska Native Education tutor, made it clear she had always been an advocate of the BEST program. As past president of ESSA she had many opportunities to advocate for funding and programs with the legislature. Ms. Sanderson always worked to inform legislators about the many diverse opportunities for learning available to district students. If the district wanted to keep the BEST program, especially in the current budget climate, there needed to be a lot of marketing outreach to families about the program. Ms. Sanderson did not want to draw students to BEST who had found their place in other district programs. Parents needed to know how to utilize the BEST program to meet their needs. The district did many things well, but it did not always do a good job of telling its story so people knew what was offered throughout the district. The district needed to develop a campaign to inform students and families of the many programs offered through the district.

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Board discussion ensued. Board members' questions and discussion pertained to the board's previous conversations and meetings on the program and the strategic plan, along with the program's sustainability, enrollment, funding, and expansion options.

## **Strategic Plan Revision to Consider the Expansion of BEST (continued)**

President Haas had to leave the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and handed the gavel to Vice President Dominique.

Board members clarified for the record the action before the board at the current time was in relation to expanding BEST, not closing it.

ADVISORY VOTES. 1 AYE: RIZK  
MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.  
4 AYES: LAMBERT, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY (BY PHONE)  
2 NAYS: RICE, DOMINIQUE

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution 2016-04: Support for *Lights On Afterschool!*** [2:16:48]

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Community Afterschool Programs had been celebrating "Lights On" with communities across the nation for the last fourteen years. The event was sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance and drew attention to the programs available, as well as the need for more programs. The resolution called on leaders of the district and community, on the day of October 22, 2015, to assure awareness of the need for every child to have access to a safe, friendly place where the lights were on afterschool and to support *Lights On Afterschool!*

*Core Value/Goal: Collaborative: Actively collaborate with students, family, and community to support student success.*

LAMBERT MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2016-04: SUPPORT FOR *LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!*

Julie Wild-Curry, after school program director, announced Hunter Elementary School would be site of the National *Lights on Afterschool!* Kickoff event on October 12, 2015 from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Senator Lisa Murkowski and Jody Grant, with the Afterschool Alliance, would be guest speakers. Local *Lights on Afterschool!* events would be held throughout the district at CCLC program sites on October 22, 2015.

Mrs. Hull read the resolution for the public record.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

#### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Vice President Dominique thanked Ms. Wild-Curry for her work with the after school programs.

ADVISORY VOTES. 1 AYE: RIZK  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.  
5 AYES: LAMBERT, RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, DOMINIQUE  
(GENTRY UNAVAILABLE ON THE PHONE)

#### **Hutchison High School 2015-16 School Calendar Revision Request** [2:23:49]

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



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

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. As originally proposed, 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.

The board, at its September 1, 2015 Regular Meeting, postponed action on Hutchison High School's 2015-16 school calendar revision request awaiting additional information regarding transportation concerns and parental notification.

*Core Value/Goal: Student-Centered: Center everything we do on the student and student learning.*

HULL MOVED, LAMBERT 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.

Mrs. Gentry rejoined the meeting by phone at 9:27 p.m.

Dan Schmidt, assistant superintendent of secondary instruction, and Robyn Taylor, Hutchison High School principal, addressed the board's concerns from the previous meeting.

Ms. Taylor provided an overview of the Aurora Conference. She reported on the transportation concerns. The school had researched other student transportation options including paying for and providing normal school bus route service, relying on families and students to provide their own transportation, and providing tokens for public bus transportation for students/families unable to provide their own transportation. The option of providing bus tokens was a much more affordable option than providing and paying for regular school bus routes. School administrators had found the public transportation routes would get students to school within 5-10 minutes of the start and end of school. It was suggested the school check with the borough about the possibility of waiving the fees for students riding to school or providing a reduced rate.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Board discussion ensued. It was suggested the school determine the number of students who might utilize the public transportation system prior to purchasing tokens. Board members voiced their support for the tournament and appreciation to Ms. Taylor and her staff for their work on organizing it.

ADVISORY VOTES. 1 AYE: RIZK

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

6 AYES: HULL, GENTRY (BY PHONE), LAMBERT, RICE, O'BRIEN, DOMINIQUE

### **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

## **Superintendent Report** [2:40:34]

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik provided a superintendent report.

*Core Value/Goal: Effective Communication: Establish transparent and consistent communication to increase student, parent, staff, and community connectedness with the district.*

Dr. Gaborik reported on House Bill 44 (HB 44) and referenced Commissioner of Education Mike Hanley's memo included in the board packet. A significant number of HB44's statutory changes would take effect on October 7, 2015 and would impact district mandated trainings and the administration of surveys in schools. The memo provided an overview of the upcoming changes and noted EED resources available to assist districts in complying with HB44's requirements.

Dr. Gaborik also reported on the recent school closure and utilizing alternative routes to avoid closing school. The administration was working with First Student on the alternative routes and communication procedures for students and parents. There had been a few hiccups with the alternative routes, but this was not a new program and the administration would continue to work with parents, drivers, and schools to get a workable system in place.

Mrs. Gentry left the meeting by phone at 9:41 p.m.

At 9:51 p.m.: [2:50:51]

HULL MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO EXTEND THE MEETING UNTIL 10:30 P.M.

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

Dr. Gaborik would continue to push out communication regarding the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) student assessment program. Her upcoming message would focus on results and how to read them. The curriculum department would be providing information to principals and teachers – the program was new to everyone. Results were expected to be released to districts at the end of October, so it could be early November before parents received the results. Dr. Gaborik was going to inquire about electronic copies of the results.

Dr. Gaborik continued her report, speaking to class size. Anderson, Nordale, and Woodriver Elementary Schools still had some class size issues. The administration was diligently monitoring the situations and was looking at options including provided aides to some classrooms.

## **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Board discussion ensued. Board members appreciated Dr. Gaborik's report. Regarding HB44, the state board was looking for ways to reduce work to districts. Board members had questions about online training options, staffing at schools when school was closed in the event students showed up, alternate bus route drop-off and pick-up locations and times, and transportation including bus efficiencies and funding. Dr. Gaborik stated principals and other key staff reported to schools on school closure dates, in the event students showed up. The administration was continuing to work on the alternate bus routes and transportation.

Board questions on AMP included how parents would be notified and the new terms for ratings. Dr. Gaborik stated parents would be notified about AMP through her messaging, parent-teacher conferences, and the website. It was suggested schools hold meetings regarding AMP for parents who might not have access to the Internet or other means of accessing the information.

Board members expressed their concern about class sizes. During school visits, board members had been able to witness classes in action and some were large, which was troubling to board members. A suggestion was made about the possibility of using reserve monies to fund the needed teachers, as some board members were not certain an aide would solve the problem. The administration would continue to monitor the situation.

### **Summer Programs Report** [3:06:02]

Julie Wild-Curry, director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Programs, Virva Elliott, coordinator of the English language learner program, Helen Clark, director of federal programs, Kathie Wassmann, executive director of special education, and Holly Cervin, director of alternative programs, provided a report on summer programs.

*Core Value/Goal: Personalized Learning: Provide students with options to meet their needs and achieve academic success.*

The district operated several programs over the summer. Ms. Wild-Curry reported on the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center and district fee-based programs, which included the Elementary Academy of Science and Technology, which served 60 students; the North Pole Elementary Summer Program, which served 50 students, and the Joydale Summer Program, which served 80 students.

Ms. Elliott spoke to the English Language Learners Program, which served 49 students over the summer. Mrs. Clark reviewed the Migrant Education Program, the McKinney-Vento Education Program, and the Title I: Cross Age Tutoring Program which was offered through a contract with the Literacy Council of Alaska. The three programs served a total of 132 students.

Mrs. Wassmann highlighted the Special Education Extended School Year Program which served 253 students. Ms. Cervin reported on the BEST Summer School Program which served a total of 179 students from nine schools across the district.

The goals of summer programs were to prevent summer learning loss, offer credit recovery and enrichment courses, and provide assistance to students in a variety of needed areas. A total of 831 students from throughout the district participated in the district's 2015 summer programs.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Board discussion ensued. Item for information only; no action required. Board members asked about qualifications for some of the summer programs. Qualifications for programs were different and varied by program.

At 10:23 p.m.: [3:23:47]

HULL MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO EXTEND THE MEETING UNTIL 10:45 P.M.

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

### **Career Technical Education (CTE) Report** [3:24:18]

Daniel Domke, career and technical education director, provided an update on the district's career and technical education programs.

*Core Value/Goal: Personalized Learning – CTE: Expand CTE pathways to ensure equitable options and access to all high school students.*

Mr. Domke provided a snapshot of the district's extensive CTE offerings by high school. The district was serious about work-based education. The district had made great strides in growing its CTE programs and continued to work with unions and other organizations to line up apprenticeships and internships for students. Work would continue on CTE and other personalized learning opportunities. Several district representatives had recently visited the Anchorage and Mat-Su districts to observe and learn about their programs.

## **Career Technical Education (CTE) Report (continued)**

At 10:39 p.m.: [3:39:33]

HULL MOVED, RICE SECONDED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO EXTEND THE MEETING UNTIL 11:00 P.M.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Board discussion ensued. Item for information only; no action required. Board members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Domke for his work on growing the district's CTE programs. Board members asked about certifications and licenses earned by students, the importance of teaching to the employment opportunities of the future, and growing internship and apprenticeship opportunities for students.

At 10:48 p.m.: [3:48:53]

RICE MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO EXTEND THE MEETING UNTIL 11:15 P.M.

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

### **9-12 Math Curriculum Update** [3:49:00]

Melanie Hadaway, executive director of curriculum and instruction, provided an update on the 9-12 Math Curriculum.

*Core Value/Goal: Student-Centered: Center everything we do on the student and student learning.*

Mrs. Hadaway reviewed the curriculum implementation process for the K-12 Math Curriculum. It had been guided in all phases by the Content Leadership Team, which consisted of administrators, teachers, and parents/community members. She spoke to the current challenges including the difficulty of the new curriculum and skill gaps. Not only had the standards changed, but the approach to instruction/lesson design had also changed. The implementation of the Alaska State Standards had caused skill gaps at the high school level.

Mrs. Hadaway reported on the many supports available.

1. Curriculum department staff was available to work with teachers regarding new curriculum and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs).
2. Class *Teaching the New Curriculum* would be offered for interested teachers. Class was modeled after successful support offered for *GoMath* and *Envision*; the one credit class met in two-hour blocks spread over 18 weeks. Goals included familiarizing teachers with textbook and online materials, teaching with the mathematical practices and meeting students at all ability levels.
3. Support resources posted online including alignment of standards, comparisons of previous curriculum/grade level expectations (GLEs) to new Alaska State Standards, and online components.
4. At the building level, Professional Learning Community time could be utilized for working through math transition issues.
5. Professional leave could be offered at the building level, with support from the curriculum department.

## **9-12 Math Curriculum Update (continued)**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Board discussion ensued. Item for information only; no action required. Board members expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Hadaway for the report. Mrs. Hull provided board members with a handout with math information. Board member questions and comments included math requirements, math course titles, bridging gaps between grades, and research and best practices for the district's diverse student population,

### **BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS** [4:06:01]

Mrs. Hull provided a State Board of Education report which included information on AMP, the state board's strategic plan and goals, teacher certification requirements, and a possible resolution regarding boards taking political stances. Mrs. Hull thought Dr. Gaborik made a great presentation to the Chamber earlier in the day. She also voiced concern about the district's budget challenges and the idea of making budget reductions across the board. She suggested looking at more vertical cuts, rather than horizontal. Regarding the elections and in speaking to people, Mrs. Hull had heard one drawback to running for a school board seat was the number of meetings – there were too many meetings. She suggested looking at the option of going to one meeting a month. She had also heard someone mention an idea of eliminating standing committees and going to work groups.

Mrs. Hull asked about the parent input form for teacher evaluations. Dr. Gaborik stated the input form was in the final stages of editing and should be available soon. Mrs. Hull had enjoyed visiting the schools and attending the Mayor's Forum sponsored by West Valley High School. She was pleased the board would be considering the resolution on Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Mrs. Lambert reported on the Citizen Budget Review Committee. It had begun its meetings and had welcomed four new members. The committee would continue to meet for the next several Thursdays and planned to make its presentation to the board in November. She was glad the board would be able to consider the Indigenous Peoples' Day resolution.

Mr. Rizk thanked the high school students who had testified. He spoke to the issue of changing the valedictorian-salutatorian selection to a sum-based system. He thought the current system discouraged some students from getting the position. In regards to BEST, Mr. Rizk hoped people would think of it as an extension of the school district; it was a school, although he thought the name of the BEST program might be misleading.

At 11:15 p.m.: [4:15:15]

LAMBERT MOVED, HULL SECONDED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO EXTEND THE MEETING UNTIL 11:25 P.M.

Asking for and hearing objection, Vice President Dominique called for a vote to extend the meeting.

ADVISORY VOTE. 1 AYE: RIZK  
MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.  
3 AYES: HULL, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE  
2 NAYS: O'BRIEN, RICE

## **BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)**

Mr. Rizk announced the Alaska Association of Student Government (AASG) had a three-day conference next week. There would many district students attending. As Mrs. Hull had mentioned, the West Valley High School sponsored Mayor's Forum was great. He had also enjoyed the Anne Wien Elementary 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Mr. Rizk thanked everyone who voted today.

Dr. Gaborik stated she would email her comments to the board.

Mrs. Dominique announced the board was recruiting for at-large members for the Board Diversity, the Board Curriculum Advisory, and the Parent Engagement committees. Applications and information could be found on the district's website, as well as at the Administrative Center. The deadline for applications was Friday, October 23.

The board had a Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the board room.

Mrs. Dominique, on behalf of the entire board, thanked the Barnette Magnet School Theatre Group for their performance and Ms. Evans and Ms. Yeats for the Barnette spotlight. She congratulated Ms. Jackson for her ESP award.

Mrs. Dominique reiterated the district needed to be certain it had the funds needed to expand the BEST program. She hoped it worked out.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 p.m.

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