

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

Work Session

MINUTES

October 24, 2015

President Haas called the work session to order at 9:13 a.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The meeting was called to work with John Sedor, outside counsel with Sedor, Wendlandt Evans & Filippi, on collective bargaining and the role of the board; the Open Meetings Act; district (board and administration) and outside counsel communications and practices; board communications and meeting best practices; and possible executive sessions with outside counsel for information and direction as it relates to pending negotiations and/or relates to attorney/client communications.

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 (by phone)
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Lisa Gentry, Clerk
Michael O'Brien, Member
Sean Rice, Member

Absent:

Sue Hull, Member

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources
Alisen Paez, Director of Labor Relations
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Introductions [0:00:57]

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik introduced Alisen Paez, the district's new director of labor relations, and John Sedor, of Sedor, Wendlandt, Evans, & Filippi, outside counsel for the district. The administration and school board had retained Mr. Sedor's services for the work session.

Collective Bargaining and the Role of the Board [0:01:57]

Mr. Sedor noted the board would be negotiating with all three of its collective bargaining units – the Fairbanks Principals' Association (FPA), the Fairbanks Education Association (FEA), and the Education Support Staff Association (ESSA) in the upcoming year. He planned to discuss the board and administration's roles, strategies, and provide direction regarding the pending negotiations and suggested the board move into executive session.

GENTRY MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH BOARD MEMBERS DOMINIQUE AND HULL JOINING BY PHONE, THE SUPERINTENDENT, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, THE LABOR RELATIONS DIRECTOR, AND OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO DISCUSS PENDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ISSUES AND PROVIDE DIRECTION AS APPROPRIATE, THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHICH, COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE FINANCES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE CONSENT OF SIX MEMBERS
(RICE, O'BRIEN, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE (by phone), HAAS)

Collective Bargaining and the Role of the Board (continued)

The board convened to executive session at 9:18 a.m. [0:04:11]

The board took a brief break at 10:37 a.m. and returned to executive session at 10:46 a.m.

The board recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and returned to executive session at 12:25 p.m.

Ms. Pearce, Ms. Gatewood, and Ms. Paez left the executive session and meeting at 1:24 p.m.

The executive session adjourned at 2:01 p.m. [0:04:47]

President Haas noted for the record that Mrs. Hull was not available by phone for the executive session and did not participate and Mrs. Dominique left the meeting by phone at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Sedor guided board members and Superintendent Dr. Gaborik through discussions on:

- the Open Meetings Act [0:05:05]
 - overview and adhering to the Open Meetings Act
 - convening into executive session & noticing requirements
- district (board and administration) and outside counsel communications and practices [0:19:30]
 - contact with counsel
 - advice and legal opinions
- board communications and best practices for meetings [0:24:24]
 - authority of the board as a whole versus an individual member
 - emails & board responses
 - consensus versus direction and action items
 - definition of work sessions, executive sessions, and other meetings
 - suggested executive session policy be revised – direction to attorney could be given
 - direction to the superintendent
 - only from the board as a whole
 - policies and administrative regulations
 - committees
 - suggested legislative committee operate as a regular committee and not a committee of the whole
 - types of meetings
 - revising meetings for efficiencies
 - once a month meetings; reduce number of meetings
 - revise start times
 - revise format for meetings – board comments, recognitions, reports, etc.

Agenda topics for discussion only; no action required.

Board Comments/Announcements [1:53:58]

President Haas thanked Mr. Sedor and board members for their participation and input; it was a good meeting. She reminded board members of upcoming board meetings:

- Special Meeting: Oath of Office & Board Reorganization - Wednesday, October 28 at noon
- Work Session with Borough Assembly – Thursday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

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