

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

Work Session

MINUTES

November 16, 2015

President Haas called the work session to order at 7:42 p.m. in the boardroom of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The work session was called to hear the Citizen Budget Review Committee's 2016-17 Budget Report.

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
Lisa Gentry, Vice President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Michael O'Brien, Clerk
Sue Hull, Member
Sean Rice, Member
Kobe Rizk, Student Representative

Absent:

Wendy Dominique, Member

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Instruction
Dan Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction
Kathie Wassmann, Executive Director of Special Education
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Management
Tim Larrabee, Director of Business Information Systems
Krista Lord, Director of Compliance and Training
Alisen Paez, Director of Labor Relations
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Others Present:

Becky Williams, Citizen Budget Review Committee Member
Christopher Dean, Citizen Budget Review Committee Member
Tammy Dauma, Citizen Budget Review Committee Member
Charlotte Larue, Citizen Budget Review Committee Member

Citizen Budget Review Committee 2016-17 Budget Report [0:01:02]

Becky Williams, Citizen Budget Review Committee (CBRC) member, presented the committee's 2016-17 Budget Report. This year the CBRC was asked to provide community input for consideration by the administration prior to the formulation of the coming year's budget. The committee would reconvene after the administration's Proposed Budget was released to review and provide further in-depth recommendations on the 2016-17 budget.

Citizen Budget Review Committee 2016-17 Budget Report (continued)

The committee's six top priorities included supporting STEM/STEAM; increasing career technical education programs; increasing the district's homeschool program – BEST; increasing student achievement; supporting a full-time qualified health care provider per school; and taking advantage of all technology opportunities in support of the district's strategic plan. The committee provided its second priorities, including maintaining class size and combining position duties to provide for more of a generalist position at all levels. If class size had to be increased, the committee recommended efforts be used to decrease support staff and administration prior to increasing class size.

The committee also provided input and suggestions regarding the possibility of discontinuing, restructuring, or changing programs, such as restructuring the curriculum department to align to the strategic plan; examining creative solutions regarding extracurricular activities without diverting important fiscal resources from the district's core mission; looking for alternatives for the teen OPTIONS program; investigating alternative school models; and reviewing the hours of operation as a possible cost saving measure for the district.

Board Member Comments/Questions [0:07:19]

Board and committee member discussions ensued. Agenda topic for discussion only; no action required. Citizen Budget Review Committee members present thought the new process was valuable and would help the committee's work after the administration's Proposed Budget was released.

Board members expressed their appreciation to the committee and its work. The new process was more proactive than reactive. Board and administration discussion topics and questions included the possibility of an four-day school week and any associated cost savings; extracurricular activities and looking for ways to make them self-sufficient; the importance of business partnerships and parent organizations and their very generous cash and in-kind donations; the possibility of ATMs in schools; the possibility of consolidating school district facilities; studies on appropriate staffing levels and working with the legislature; and looking for innovative educational and instructional options.

Board Comments/Announcements [0:31:11]

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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