

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

November 17, 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. Anne Wien Elementary School's Band led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the school board under the guidance of Kendi Lesley, band director.

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  
Richard Cole, Base Representative  
Sean Williams, Post Representative  
Kobe Rizk, Student Representative

Absent:

Wendy Dominique, Member

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  
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations  
Dan Domke, Director of Career and Technical Education  
Tim Larrabee, Director of Business Information Systems  
Krista Lord, Director of Compliance and Training  
Alisen Paez, Director of Labor Relations  
Holly Cervin, Director of Alternative Programs  
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**Alaska Association of Career Technical Education 2015-16 Career Guidance Award** [0:05:36]

The Alaska Association of Career Technical Education recognized Wendi Graham, West Valley High School teacher, with the 2015-16 Career Guidance Award at their state conference in Anchorage in October. Shaun Kraska, West Valley High School principal, made the presentation.

**Alaska Association of Career Technical Education 2015-16 Outstanding New CTE Teacher of the Year and 2015-16 Outstanding CTE Teacher of the Year** [0:10:40]

The Alaska Association of Career Technical Education recognized Kelly Shaw, Hutchison High School teacher, as the 2015-16 Outstanding New CTE Teacher of the Year and Jerry Million, North Pole High School teacher, as the 2015-16 Outstanding CTE Teacher of the Year at their state conference in Anchorage in October. Daniel Domke, career technical education director, made the presentation.

**Spotlight: Anne Wien Elementary School** [0:20:00]

Michael Angaiak, Anne Wien Elementary School principal, presented a spotlight on Anne Wien Elementary School. Mr. Angaiak's presentation included many slides of Anne Wien students, staff, and families. He shared about many of the school's outstanding programs, activities, and events, such as the school's exceptional after school program, Kuspuk Wednesdays, autism Friday shirts, and their recent 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The school had three guidelines for success: work hard; play fair; and take care of each other.

Anne Wien was a Title I school, which was determined by the percentage of students that qualified for free and reduced-price school meals. As a Title I school, they received additional federal funds for support in all core content areas. The funds also helped the school provide supplemental academic support for students, additional professional development, and increased parental involvement opportunities, such as the Parenting Partners Group.

Mr. Angaiak extended an invitation to board members to attend the school's Alaska Heritage Night on Thursday, November 19. He thanked the board for the opportunity to showcase Anne Wien and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Board Questions/Comments**

On behalf of entire board, President Haas thanked Mr. Angaiak for his presentation.

**AGENDA** [0:37:48]

GENTRY MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS.

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the award for \$6,035,858.34 from the Department of Education and Early Development for the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Consolidated Grants application, per Fiscal Notes 2016-05 through 2016-10 and Fiscal Note 2016-23.

accepted the award in the amount of \$23,724 from the Department of Education and Early Development for the Title X, Part C, McKinney-Vento Homeless Competitive grant, per Fiscal Note 2016-19.

accepted the award in the amount of \$95,320 from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for the Title IA, Part D, Subpart 2 Neglected and Delinquent Competitive grant, per Fiscal Note 2016-20.

accepted the award for \$6,985 from the Department of Education and Early Development for the Migrant Education Book Program grant, per Fiscal Note 2016-21.

accepted the Monthly Management Reports for October 2015.

approved the minutes from the regular meetings on October 20 and November 3; the work sessions on October 24 and 29; and the special meeting on October 28, 2015, as submitted.

## **Consent Agenda (continued)**

approved Budget Transfer 2016-027: Board of Education in the amount of \$10,000.

approved Budget Transfer 2016-028: BEST in the amount of \$35,000.

approved submission of the Carl Perkins Competitive Grant: Postsecondary Career & Technical Education –Phase I Planning Grant application in the amount of \$50,000 to the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development.

approved submission of the Vocational Fund for Alaska's Future grant application in the amount of \$49,750 to the Alaska Community Foundation.

accepted the gift of \$1,500 from Ruth Segler to North Pole Elementary School to support the school's Library Beginning Readers.

accepted the gift of \$5,000 from Ann Tremarello to Lathrop High School to support the school's boys' and girls' basketball programs.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period October 24 – November 6, 2015.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period October 24 – November 6, 2015.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for November 17, 2015.

acknowledged the Long Term Suspension & Expulsion Report for the 2015-2016 school year, as of November 16, 2015.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (COLE, WILLIAMS, RIZK)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES  
(RICE, HULL, O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, GENTRY, HAAS)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS** [0:41:50]

Eli Simmons, 820 Schloesser Drive, a West Valley High School student, spoke to the issue of district Internet filters and how the filters limited students' ability to conduct outside research. Mr. Simmons recognized the need for filters; but the issue was how the filters functioned. His frustration stemmed from what he believed was indiscriminate filtering for elementary, middle school, and high school students – the needs of each group were different.

Justin Hannah, 1651 Taroka Drive, a West Valley High School student, shared the frustration of both teachers and students in regards to the district's Internet filtering. The filters limited teacher access for lessons and the ability to offer a variety of resources to students. Mr. Hannah was also frustrated by the lack of policies and parameters regarding the filters. It didn't seem anyone could provide guidelines for what was filtered.

Derek Romanovsky, 2137 Penrose Lane, a West Valley High School student, added his frustration regarding the district's Internet filters. Mr. Romanovsky did not think the filters were so much the issue, but rather the way they were implemented and the guidelines, or lack thereof, of any guidelines or transparency regarding the filters. Teachers and administrators he, Mr. Hannah, and Mr. Simmons had contacted could not point them to policies regarding what content was blocked; the practice seemed arbitrary.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS (continued)**

Board members thanked the students for their testimony and bringing the issue to their attention. The board asked the administration for a report on the district's Internet filters, including guidelines and/or policies regarding what and why content was blocked; how teachers could unblock access for specific assignments; and if there was a tiered approach to the filtering for elementary, middle, and high schools.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Included in the Consent Agenda.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Included in the Consent Agenda.

## **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

### **Superintendent Report** [0:51:33]

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

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik reported on the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) results, which had finally been released. Paper copies would be available in late November-early December. Dr. Gaborik spoke to a recent newspaper article on AMP and thought there might be a bit of a misperception regarding the purpose of the assessment. There were issues with data, but any summative assessment that took place in the spring would have limited capacity for informing teachers and driving student instruction.

Dr. Gaborik noted that in light of the recent tragedy in Paris, the administration was keeping a close eye on student groups who were scheduled to travel overseas. Most trips were scheduled for spring break; the administration would continue to monitor the situation.

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

None. Informational item only; no action required.

### **Official Enrollment Report** [0:55:59]

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

Lisa Pearce, chief financial officer, provided a report on the district's 2015-16 official enrollment. The report's numbers reflected rounded numbers. The official enrollment count for the 2015-16 school year was 13,851 students, 191 students over projected enrollment – up 182 students at the elementary level; down 9 students at the middle school level; and up 17.5 students at the high school level. The count of 13,851 students included 286.83 students at BEST; the projection for BEST was 235. Ms. Pearce had been told the enrollment for BEST was currently up to 316 students. Also included in the 13,851 enrollment count were 707 charter school students; 404 students in alternative schools; 1,949 students enrolled in “base” schools; and the remaining 10,791 students enrolled in “in-town” schools. The district's enrollment was sent to the state for verification and the district would receive final enrollment certification in March.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Board discussion ensued. Informational item only; no action required. Board member questions and comments included the enrollment for BEST; the official class size report and timing of that report; the 10-day count; and alternatives for information and data if the class size report was delayed.

## **BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS** [1:05:45]

On behalf of the entire board, President Haas thanked the Anne Wien Elementary School Band for their wonderful performance and Mr. Angaiak for the spotlight on the school. She congratulated Ms. Graham, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Million on their CTE awards. She extended the board's appreciation to the West Valley students who had testified on the district's Internet filters.

President Haas announced upcoming meetings:

- Legislative Committee Meeting – November 30, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.
- Special Meeting: Student Discipline Matters – November 30, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.
- Work Session: K-8 Options & High School Options – November 30, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
- Regular Meeting – December 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Colonel Williams appreciated Mr. Angaiak's spotlight on Anne Wien Elementary School; it really motivated him. He was proud to know the school housed approximately 11 percent military-connected families. He was also proud of the school's partnership with Ft. Wainwright's 25<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion. Colonel Williams appreciated and attended the recent Veteran's Day Celebration Festival Fairbanks. The Ben Eielson JROTC program did a great job with the flag ceremony and the presentation from the Weller 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class was awesome. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Rice thanked the Anne Wien Band for their performance. He enjoyed the spotlight on the school and liked the school's guidelines for success. Mr. Rice provided a report on the recent Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Annual Conference. He had enjoyed many of the workshops on topics such as suicide awareness and prevention, bullying, and the large schools forum. He appreciated the opportunity to attend the conference.

Mrs. Hull added to Mr. Rice's report on the AASB Conference; it was well worth the time. She noted next year's conference would be centered on personalized learning and although she would no longer be on the board, encouraged other board members to attend. She also encouraged board members to participate in the resolutions process at the conference.

Mrs. Hull said Senator Murkowski had spoke about the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and thought the reauthorization could come before the end of the year. Mrs. Hull spoke about the AMP results. The State Board of Education would be discussing AMP.

Mrs. Hull announced the first meeting of the Parent Engagement Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, December 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the board room. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Lambert reiterated the board's earlier request to look into the Internet filters. She reported on the board's work session with the Citizen Budget Review Committee (CBRC) the previous evening. The committee presented its initial priorities on the 2016-17 budget. Mrs. Lambert, as CBRC chair, thanked all the committee members for their work on the committee. She hoped the report would help Superintendent Gaborik in the development of the budget.

Mrs. Gentry reiterated Mrs. Lambert's sentiments regarding the great work of the Citizen Budget Review Committee. The committee's priorities were aligned to the strategic plan. Mrs. Gentry was honored to have helped present the awards at the district's recent Business Partners' breakfast. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Mr. O'Brien reported on a couple of recent events he had attended – the Alaska Native Education event at Denali Elementary and TCC's Interior Education Summit. He enjoyed the ANE event at Denali and thought Ms. Kowalski had done a great job representing the school district at the Interior Education Summit. He found it very interesting to see how the district fit into education with the rest of the state.

Mr. O'Brien announced the Policy Review Committee would be meeting on Monday, November 23 at 5:00 p.m. He thanked the Citizen Budget Review Committee for its work. Having served on the committee last year, he knew the dedication of the group. They were well informed and dealt with the budget at a master's level.

Mr. O'Brien spoke to the board's tradition of holiday gift giving and how he was touched last year by Mrs. Haas's donation to a local organization in his name. While he enjoyed the gifts, he would be making a donation in board members' names and suggested other board members consider doing the same.

President Haas echoed Mr. O'Brien's comments and planned to donate again this year in the names of board members. She too encouraged other board members to do the same.

Mr. Rizk enjoyed Mr. Angaiak's spotlight on Anne Wien Elementary and hearing all the great things happening at the school. He thanked the students for their testimony on the district's filters. He too had personally been affected by the filters; they seemed to be barriers rather than a help. Mr. Rizk reported on the High School Options Work Group and the great discussion the group had regarding increasing options for students. He reminded board members of their lunch with Regional Student Council scheduled for December 8.

Mr. Rizk noted the Alaska Association of Student Governments (AASG) was interested in building a partnership with the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB). The two groups were scheduled to meet in December to work on building the partnership. Mr. Rizk spoke to AASG's great youth suicide prevention program, specifically the video, "Railway of Hope – The Movie" which he thought might be good to share at a meeting. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

President Haas thanked the Regional Student Council for agreeing to reschedule their luncheon with the board to December 8.

Dr. Gaborik attended the Alaska Superintendents' Academy in Anchorage last weekend and was asked to present on a panel with Norm Wooten and Jerry Covey on board-superintendent relationships. She thought it had been good for her to reflect on the last 18 months in her role as interim superintendent and superintendent and working with the school board. She had experienced great growth and thanked board members for their work with her. It was nice to share her experience with people.

In response to the board's discussion at a recent work session regarding streamlining board meetings and working on meeting efficiencies, President Haas hoped to bring forward a new meeting schedule in December. Mrs. Gentry had provided a great suggestion on meetings and hoped to have the proposal on the December 1 agenda.

President Haas also reported on the recent AASB conference. She really enjoyed the keynote speaker and his presentation. In his message, he related board service to a whaling expedition and the importance of having all the oars in the water, working, and moving together to move forward. If one stopped oaring or stopped contributing, it affected the overall progress. It was important for everyone to work together to move the district forward.

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

President Haas agreed with Mrs. Hull on the importance of the AASB resolution process and suggested AASB consider recruiting people to participate in the resolutions process earlier to help navigate travel arrangements. She thought it would also be helpful to have information sheets/instructions for members new to the resolutions process.

President Haas announced the Golden Heart Academy graduation scheduled for Thursday at 1:30 p.m. She asked board members to RSVP to Ms. Cervin.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

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