

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Board Of Education
Legislative Committee Meeting

Legislative Committee

MINUTES

November 30, 2015

Heidi Haas, board president and legislative chair, called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

Chair 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, Chair & Board President
Lisa Gentry, Member & Board Vice President
Sue Hull, Member & Board Member

Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Sandra Kowalski, Elementary Assistant Superintendent
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

Others:

John Ringstad

Agenda Adoption with Consent Agenda Item [0:01:21]

**1. October 14, 2015 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

GENTRY MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT AGENDA ITEM.

Asking for and hearing no objection, Motion carried. (GENTRY, HAAS)

Public Testimony – *limited to items on the agenda only* [0:01:32]

Chair Haas called for public testimony. Hearing none, testimony was closed.

Funding [0:01:39]

Chair Haas noted Governor Walker's budget had not been released, consequently, nothing regarding funding was really known.

Educational Legislation/Strategies/Communications [0:02:30]

Mr. Ringstad, district lobbyist, and administration had reviewed legislation and bills held-over from the last session, but there did not appear to be anything of real substance yet; they believed it would be a year about money. Chair Haas shared areas the administration requested the committee follow: reduction in force – which prohibited laying off tenured teachers, unless there was a decrease in enrollment or a reduction of basic need of at least 3 percent from the previous year; the re-employment of retired members; and minimum wage – which affected bus drivers salaries – the contract required that bus drivers be paid not less than two times the minimum wage. There weren't specific bills currently tied to any of the items, but it would be important to watch the three areas and possibly lay some ground work for future legislation that could have significant impacts to the district. It was agreed the most important issue of the session would be funding.

Legislative Priorities/Strategies/Communication [0:10:52]

At the committee's October meeting, ideas and suggestions were provided to the administration in regards to a leave-behind brochure. Sharice Walker, director of public relations, provided the committee with a draft of the brochure.

Mrs. Hull arrived at 11:37 a.m.

Committee members reviewed the brochure and provided many suggestions and revisions, such as moving pages and rearranging text, editing language, and providing pertinent achievement data and budget information. Legislative priorities suggested included class size, the completion of Barnette Magnet School's renovation, and a transportation subsidy. Other items of discussion included the district cost factor for Fairbanks, graduation and dropout rates, health care costs, and negotiations.

Ms. Walker would revise the leave-behind brochure based on the committee's input and provide a new draft at the next meeting.

Strategies/Communications

Mr. Ringstad would be scheduling one-on-one meetings with legislators for the superintendent and board president. Chair Haas had inquired about scheduling a meeting with the full school board and Interior Delegation, but had been told the group would only be hosting 30 minute meetings during the work day and did not feel that would be productive.

Mrs. Hull shared the dates of the Association of Alaska School Boards' (AASB) legislative fly-ins in February and March 2016.

The committee thanked Ms. Walker for her work on the leave-behind brochure.

Chair Haas would look at scheduling upcoming committee meetings. Committee members suggested meeting on a regular basis during the legislative session and thought mid-day meetings worked well.

Board Comments/Announcements [1:17:50]

None

The committee meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

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