

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

Legislative Committee

MINUTES

January 11, 2016

Lisa Gentry, board vice president and legislative member, called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

Ms. Gentry 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
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 [0:00:24]

**1. November 30, 2015 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

HULL MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT AGENDA ITEM.

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

Public Testimony – *limited to items on the agenda only* [0:00:42]

Ms. Gentry called for public testimony. Hearing none, testimony was closed.

Legislative Priorities [0:00:50]

The committee received and reviewed the latest version of the draft Legislative Priorities pamphlet. Committee members provided input regarding external challenges such as the Fairbanks cost factor, transportation costs, and healthcare costs.

Chair Haas arrived at 11:23 a.m.

The committee suggested language revisions and layout changes for the pamphlet. The administration would make the committee's revisions and get a final copy ready for review and distribution.

Funding [0:12:28]

The committee reviewed the draft resolution in support of a state fiscal plan to resolve the state budget gap. There was some discussion regarding adding language regarding how to address the budget gap, such as use of the Permanent Fund Reserve Earnings, but no decision was made. The committee would submit the resolution to the full board for consideration at the January 19 Regular Meeting and board members could make an amendment to add language on how to address the budget gap if they desired.

Funding (continued)

Committee members discussed the administration's upcoming proposed budget that was due to be released at the beginning of February. The administration planned to base the 2016-17 Proposed Budget on the Governor's budget, which included a \$50 increase to the BSA. Committee members were hopeful there might be some direction from the legislature provided early in the session. It was suggested the administration might consider a version A and version B of the proposed budget – a best case and worst case scenario, or provide the best case scenario with a list of possible cuts and reductions. People should have the opportunity to provide input regarding reductions, and without information on possible reductions and cuts, there may not be opportunity for public input prior to the budget going to the borough by April 1.

Committee members briefly discussed the recent Big 5 conference call, where representatives from the Big 5 districts – Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, and Mat-Su – discussed current issues and strategies. The committee also spoke about conversations with legislators. It was important to reiterate Fairbanks wanted to be part of the solution.

The committee discussed the upcoming AASB conference and legislative fly-in. Chair Haas would review the school board's travel budget.

Committee Comments/Announcements [0:38:18]

The legislative session would begin January 19. The next Legislative Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2016.

The committee meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

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