

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

February 2, 2016

Vice President Gentry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The Joy Elementary School Band led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the board under the guidance of Eileen Gillette, music director.

Vice President 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:

Lisa Gentry, Vice President  
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer  
Michael O'Brien, Clerk  
Wendy Dominique, Member  
Sue Hull, Member  
Sean Rice, Member  
Richard Cole, Base Representative  
Sean Williams, Post Representative  
Kobe Rizk, Student Representative

Absent:

Heidi Haas, President

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  
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology  
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations  
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs  
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**ESP of the Month** [0:08:10]

Debi Rogers, Star of the North classroom tutor, was recognized as the Extra Special Support Staff Person for February 2016. Diana Childs, Star of the North head teacher, made the presentation.

**Spotlight: Joy Elementary School** [0:10:33]

LaLaunie Whisenant, Joy Elementary School principal, along with staff members Doug Lange and Kelly Thrun, presented the spotlight on Joy Elementary School. Mr. Lange spoke to the Green Star program and Ms. Thrun shared about the school's Parenting Partners program; both programs were designed to engage students and families. Mr. Lange noted Joy Elementary was the first school in the Fairbanks district to receive a Green Star Award in May 1997. Students and staff worked hard on energy conservation and waste reduction, with recycling as a focal point of the program.

## **Spotlight: Joy Elementary School (continued)**

Ms. Thrun explained Joy's Parenting Partners' workshops combined parenting and leadership skills to empower parents to become vital contributors to their children's academic success. The program consisted of eight comprehensive workshops presented by trained facilitators. Ms. Thrun was excited to have Ladd families and staff join an upcoming workshop. She facilitated board members and the superintendent through a workshop activity that focused on creating confident kids. Ms. Thrun invited board members to attend an upcoming Parenting Partners workshop.

### **Board Questions/Comments**

Vice President Gentry, on behalf of the entire board, thanked Ms. Whisenant, Mr. Lange, and Ms. Thrun for their spotlight presentation.

### **AGENDA** [0:19:30]

LAMBERT MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS.

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the award in the amount of \$26,100 from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for the Suicide Awareness, Prevention & Postvention grant, per Fiscal Notes 2016-22 and 2016-28.

accepted the award in the amount of \$50,000 from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for the Carl Perkins Post-Secondary Planning Grant, per Fiscal Note 2016-27.

accepted the Monthly Management Reports through December 31, 2015.

approved the minutes from the special meeting on January 19, 2016, as submitted.

approved Ladd Elementary School's request to raise funds for the replacement of library materials and to bring in authors for literacy programs.

approved Tanana Middle School's request to send students to Anchorage, Alaska, April 21-23, 2016, to participate in Project Citizen, with the district covering substitute costs.

approved the district's Alaska Native Education Program's request to raise funds to send teams from Effie Kokrine Charter School (high school), and Hutchison, Lathrop, West Valley, and North Pole High Schools to Anchorage, Alaska, April 20-24, 2016 to participate in the state Native Youth Olympics, at no cost to the district.

approved Denali and Arctic Light Elementary Schools' request to raise funds to send extended learning students to Kenai, Alaska, May 6-8, 2016, to explore and expand their knowledge of space exploration and Alaska's Tongass Forest, at no cost to the district.

approved Tanana Middle School's request to raise funds to send students to Washington, D.C., March 26-April 1, 2016, to participate in the Close Up Capital Experience and visit historical sites, with the district covering substitute costs, and if the State Department issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

approved North Pole High School's request to raise funds to send Key Club students to Seattle, Washington, March 17-20, 2016, to participate in the Northwest District Key Club Convention, at no cost to the district, and if the State Department issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

## **Consent Agenda (continued)**

accepted the gift of \$5,000 from GCI Connect to the curriculum department to support the Interior Alaska Spelling Bee.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period January 11-22, 2016.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period January 11-22, 2016.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for the period January 1-15, 2016.

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, DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, GENTRY)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS** [0:23:47]

Seth Darling, 2596 Boulder Avenue, Ladd teacher, spoke to the issue of watching R rated movies in high school classrooms. While district policy allowed the showing of an R rated movie with an educational purpose with parental permission, Mr. Darling did not believe the policy was being followed as written. He shared examples where his children were shown R rated movies in school without his knowledge; obtaining parental permission was not happening in a lot of cases, and some movies were being shown as rewards, not for its educational value. Mr. Darling asked the board to review the district's policy and look at other options.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Included in the Consent Agenda.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Included in the Consent Agenda.

## **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

### **Superintendent Report** [0:28:00]

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

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik thanked Mr. Darling for his testimony and noted Mr. Schmidt was following up with him to get specifics to address the issue. The administration would also be reviewing the policy and administrative regulation regarding showing R rated movies.

Dr. Gaborik announced the district was still waiting to get the district's AMP information from the state. The district had sent hard copies of individual results to every family. The administration would be working on a distribution process for next year, as it was very labor intensive this year.

She also announced Hutchison High School was piloting an ATM machine at their school. The funds from the ATM fees would go to the school's student activities.

The administration updated the enrollment dashboard on PowerSchool and parents could now review and submit demographic updates online. The update did not work on the mobile app.

## **Superintendent Report (continued)**

Dr. Gaborik shared the district was working on training staff on anti-bullying strategies through the Safe and Drug Free Schools program. An email regarding the recent Dare to Dream assembly would be coming soon from the public relations department with more information on the assembly and how it was vetted; it would also include a link to a two-minute video parents could see the promotional video. The district did have a process for vetting assemblies; with the principal as the front line. Principals were not initially aware of the flyer available to students; once it was known, it was stopped. The administration would review its assembly approval procedures.

Janet Cobb, executive director of technology, provided an update on the district's Internet filters. The administration was able to filter by school and was working on filtering by grade level. After Ms. Cobb researched Wikipedia, she did not find it appropriate for students and did not support it being unblocked. Staff could request a specific site be unblocked and the request would go through the principal and a downtown committee for approval.

### **Board Questions/Comments**

Mr. O'Brien asked about tiered filtering – elementary, middle school, and high school accessibility, as had been discussed at a previous board meeting. Ms. Cobb stated the administration was working on that idea.

### **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Overview** [0:35:42]

Helen Clark, director of federal programs, presented an overview of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

*Core Value/Goal: Student-Centered: Center everything we do on the student and student learning.*

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law on December 10, 2015. It was a four-year reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and replaced the 2002 reauthorization, No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

### **Implementation**

- July 1, 2016: Formula Program requirements take effect
- August 1, 2016: NCLB Accountability requirements expire
- October 1, 2016: Competitive Program requirements take effect (unless otherwise provided)
- FY17: Impact Aid provisions take effect
- 2017-2018 SY: ESSA Accountability requirements take effect

To consider: The U.S. Department of Education had one year from the date of enactment to issue its final regulations. State laws, regulations and guidance would change in response to the changing structure of significant state authority and responsibility related to ESSA. Districts would adjust as regulations and guidance shifted—ESSA requirements would be a bit of a moving target for, at minimum, 18 months.

The U.S. Department of Education had already begun soliciting input and hosting constituent forums related to its regulation-making responsibilities in defining certain aspects of ESSA for implementation. Three new aspects of the law had been marked for negotiated rulemaking: standards, assessments, and the Title I, Part A “supplement not supplant” provision. Other areas of the law, including accountability, would go directly through the department's normal regulatory process.

Ms. Clark reviewed what had changed in regards to standards; assessments; Title I, Part A “Supplement Not Supplant”; accountability; teacher evaluation; educator equity; highly qualified; supplemental educational services; state plans; and district plans.

## **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Overview (continued)**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tammy Smith, 4201 York Avenue, district teacher, sat on the state committee and the committee was scheduled to meet next week. Ms. Smith was very excited about the changes and what was coming up. She thought the changes associated with the teacher evaluation would be beneficial and thought things would be better than before as things moved forward.

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Report for information only. No action required. Board members appreciated the report; it was important to stay informed about the changes. It would also be important to provide input related to the ESSA negotiated rulemaking and the state's movement towards a new assessment program. Alaska was fortunate to have Senator Lisa Murkowski in the senate, as she was a huge advocate of education. Board members had questions and comments on the state's current assessment program - AMP and the decision to go with a different assessment; the number of assessments needed and the possibly of reducing the number of tests; the costs associated with assessments and the timeframe for shifting to a new model; training and infrastructure needed to support a new assessment program; Student Learning Objectives (SLOs); ethnic reporting; the MAP assessment; and funding for assessments.

### **Average Class Size Report** [1:14:55]

Janet Cobb, executive director of technology, presented the Average Class Size Report.

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

The report this year was condensed from previous years and included historical data for the past five years. The report provided data on the average class size by grade level and school, and enrollment by grade level, as well as by department in the middle and high schools. The report included graphs on the grade level target trend versus the average class size by year. The 2015-16 target class sizes were:

Grade Level	Target Class Size	Target Class Size Threshold
K	22.5	27.0
1-3	24.0	28.8
4-6	26.0	31.2
7-8	26.5	31.8
9-12	28.5	34.2

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Report for information only. No action required. Board members debated the usefulness of the report data and the decisions it informed.

### **BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS** [1:39:41]

Colonel Williams thanked the Joy Band for their performance.

Mr. Rice announced the Board Diversity Committee would meet on Thursday, February 11 at 5:30 p.m.

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

Mrs. Hull announced the Parent Engagement Committee would also meet on Thursday, February 11 at 5:30 p.m. The committee would be providing a parent survey during parent-teacher conferences. Mrs. Hull was very excited about the committee; it had the potential to provide some good recommendations.

Mrs. Hull was interested in the testimony regarding the district's media policy. She had compared the district's media policy to Anchorage's policy and found some gaps. She would like to see the policy go before the Policy Review Committee for review and asked them to also consider non-rated materials. She spoke about a program that might be helpful in deleting swear words and other graphics from movies and other media.

In anticipation of the budget, Mrs. Hull also requested data on the growth of classroom teachers and support staff at the building level, along with the growth in exempt positions.

Mrs. Lambert echoed Mrs. Hull's request to have the Policy Review Committee review the district's media policy. Mrs. Lambert had been able to watch the Robotics competition. She really enjoyed it and congratulated Barnette Magnet School for taking both first and second place in the competition.

Mrs. Lambert announced the Citizen Budget Review Committee would be meeting on Thursday, February 4 and each Thursday during February. The public was encouraged to attend.

Mr. O'Brien, chair of the Policy Review Committee, said he would add the media policy to the committee's work. He thanked Mr. Darling for his testimony on the issue. He agreed with Mr. Darling, the media issue went beyond ratings, it was also about the educational value the movie or media brought to the lesson. Mr. O'Brien was looking forward to the administration's update on the Dare to Dream assembly. He spoke about the university's green-dot program, promoting safety and awareness regarding domestic and sexual violence, bullying, stalking, etc.

Mr. O'Brien wished Mr. Rizk a happy birthday – his birthday was the following day.

Mrs. Dominique thanked everyone for their thorough presentations. She thanked Mr. Schmidt for his work and was sorry to hear he would be leaving the district at the end of the year.

Mrs. Dominique announced several Black History Month events happening throughout the community:

- Soul Food Luncheon on Eielson AFB on February 5 from 11:00 am-12:30 p.m.
- NAACP Valentine's Day Bash on February 13 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the LaQuinta Inns & Suites (Alpine Lodge)
- Diversity Meeting on Eielson AFB on February 23 at 10:30 a.m.
- NAACP hosting the *1,001 Black Inventions* Play on February 27

In honor of Black History Month, Mrs. Dominique shared the accomplishments of many great African Americans, such as:

- William A. Harper, 1873 – African American artist, was one of the most gifted artists of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- David Ruggles, 1849 – abolitionist, protest leader, hydro therapist, and writer, was the editor of first African American magazine
- Jack Johnson, 1908 – gifted athlete, was the first African American to win the world heavyweight boxing title

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

- Deford Bailey, Sr., 1924 – harmonica player and country and blues musician, was the first African American star of the Grand Ole' Opry
- Lonnie Elder, 1931 – screenwriter, was the first African American nominated for an Academy Award for the movie *Souther*
- John Amos, 1939 – actor, starred in *Good Times*, *Coming to America*, and *Roots*
- Denzel Washington, 1954 – actor, starred in countless films and received an Academy Award for *Training Day*
- NAACP, 1956 – awarded the Jackie Robinson Award to the first African American in the major leagues for his conduct on and off the field

Mr. Rizk thanked Mr. O'Brien for the birthday wishes. He announced Regional Student Council had met on January 20 where they heard from Mrs. Hadaway regarding the valedictorian and salutatorian selection process. He would like to see information on the process sent to board members. Mr. Rizk would like to see student representatives attend AASB conferences.

Superintendent Gaborik announced the district's budget website was live. It would continue to be updated as information was presented or became available. The website also offered a place for public comments and the community was encouraged to provide input. The administration had scheduled three public budget forums – February 24 at North Pole Middle School, March 10 at Tanana Middle School, and March 29 at West Valley High School – all forums were scheduled for 6:00-7:30 p.m. Friday, February 5 was scheduled as a professional development day for staff, so there would be no school for students. Parent-teacher conferences would take place Monday and Tuesday, February 15 and 16; parents and guardians were encouraged to attend. There would be no school for students during conferences.

Dr. Gaborik announced it was National School Counselor Week and thanked all school counselors for their work and all they did for students and families.

Vice President Gentry announced it was also Career Technical Education (CTE) Month. On behalf of the entire board, she thanked school counselors, congratulated Ms. Rogers as the ESP of the month, and thanked the administration for all their work on the reports and presentations.

The board and audience sang Happy Birthday to Mr. Rizk.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

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