

**FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FY 2016– 2017 Citizens Budget Review Committee**

Thursday, February 25, 2016 ~ 5:30 – 7:30 PM Administrative Center – Board Room

**AGENDA**

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Board Committee Member

Allyson Lambert (Chair)

Heidi Haas (Board Member)

Citizen Committee Members (appointed by Board Member):

Joe Hayes (Dominique)

Chris Dean (Gentry)

Becky Williams (Hull)

Vacant (Rice)

Tammy Dauma (Col. Sean Williams)

Charlotte Larue (O'Brien)

Ms. Noelle Hohnecker (Col. Richard Cole)

Dawson Mann (Regional Student Council ~ Lathrop)

Staff Members

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent

Robin Mullins, Director of Business Services


Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer

Sandra Weaver, Budget Specialist

III. Adoption February 25, 2016 agenda

IV. Approval of minutes from the February 18, 2016 meeting

V. AGENDA

-  Committee discussion and completion of the CBRC FY 16-17 Recommended Budget Recommendations in case of projected revenue shortfall.

VI. Comments

VII. Adjourn

**FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Citizens' Budget Review Committee - Meeting Minutes  
Administrative Center – Room 426  
520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska  
February 18, 2016**

**I. Call to Order – 5:45 PM**

School Board Member Chairperson Allyson Lambert called the meeting to order a 5:45 PM.

**II. Roll Call**

Board Committee Members Present:

Allyson Lambert (Chair)

Board Committee Members Absent:

Heidi Haas (Board Member)

Citizen Committee Members Present:

Becky Williams (Hull)

Charlotte Larue (O'Brien)

Noelle Hohnecker (Col. Richard Cole)

Tammy Dauma (Col. Sean Williams)

Dawson Mann (Regional Student Council Member) Lathrop

Chris Dean (Gentry)

Citizen Committee Members Absent:

Joe Hayes (Dominique)

Vacant (Rice)

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent

Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer

Robin Mullins, Director, Business Svcs

Sandra Weaver, Budget Specialist

Sandra Kowalski, Asst. Supt. of Elementary Schools

Sharice Walker, Director of Community and Public Relations

**III. Adoption of the February 18, 2016 Agenda**

Dawson Mann moved to adopt the agenda, Becky Williams, second. Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Approval of the minutes from the February 11, 2016 meeting**

Chris Dean moved to adopt the minutes, Tammy Dauma second. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. AGENDA**

**New Business: Review of the 2016-17 Proposed Budget.**

**Committee Discussion – Develop FY 16-17 Proposed Budget recommendations in case of projected revenue shortfall.**

**Alaska Education Update – Juneau Report**

- Word filtering back is many legislators feel education, in the Governor's budget, is being held harmless, but "Education and Health Care must share in the reductions".
- A5% reduction - would mean 8.9 million less to our district
- At a 10% reduction- would mean 16.3 million less to our district
- Possibly by Friday, February 26 we'll hear more from Juneau
- Last year, funding announcements got progressively worse – as the session progressed.

**Borough –**

• Currently, we've asked for status quo level of funding, (~55M), we hope this will be forthcoming. An additional ~8.8M could be available before reaching the maximum local contribution allowed in the foundation formula.

Q – Has the Borough ever funded 100%?

A- No, but there are different interpretations on this, so it depends whom you ask.

The committee worked through the prior CBRC report, updating it as it pertained to the proposed FY16-17 budget. Discussion included:

- Static funding from the Borough Assembly
- Fund Balance is 1.8 Million
- Lapse Fund – request waiver again this year – so District can keep the \$800,000, if available at year end.
- Lisa will assist the committee with the language and information for the revenue
- Assumption that we will not receive the \$50 BSA
- Find reductions where possible, reallocate towards committee priority #1 – maintaining, or improving class size.
- Rest of committee recommendations may not necessarily be offered in any particular “priority order”.

**Budget Change costs:**

- Reduce PTR in Grades 1-3 from 24 to 18- estimate ~ 2.7 million
- Reduce PTR in kindergarten from 22.5 to 18 or less – estimate ~1.1 million

Additional areas of concerns:

- Low test scores 2013-14 - 4<sup>th</sup> grade not proficient,
- Graduation rates and achievement gaps are more pronounced for certain ethnicities – how does this budget address the specific problems of these struggling students?
- Large classes (over 30 students) make it more difficult for struggling students.
- Specific concern raised - need to address AK Native student achievement gaps.
- Elementary School Intervention Program – not eliminated, funds moved to a different page (K-8).
- Discussion – some principal discretion to handle larger class sizes, needs of struggling students.
- There are eleven Title 1 schools in the district this year
- Committee concern expressed – how to equitably adjust the proposed budget so as to provide additional support to schools that do not receive Title 1 funding.
  
- A list with many line items, representing potential budget savings from almost every page in the budget book was developed by one committee member. The list was copied and provided to the full committee for future discussion and potential committee recommendations to reallocate existing line items in order to find funds that could hopefully be made available for struggling students and for reducing class sizes. Example – perhaps the \$ 46,000 budgeted for a truck replacement (Admin Svs – Procurement & Warehouse page) could be reallocated towards committee goals?

Q – Do School Board members participate in the FNSBSD health plan?

A – Yes

Q – Could the School Board take action to eliminate their participation for savings?

A – Yes, if they choose to

Committee recommendation starting point will include being prepared for a potential decrease in state funding, due to the uncertainty at the State level, along with a list of priorities in case of decreased funding. Additionally, the committee report will also include some status quo funding level budget recommendations.

# 1 Re-evaluate targeted class sizes across all of the higher grades, with the goal of decreasing PTR in grades 1-4, (with a net budget impact of Zero).

Additional recommendations (not listed in any particular order):

- Increase support at non-title 1 schools for underperforming students.
- Empower principals to allocate their staff to best fit the needs of their school community.
- Restructure SPED to increase ELP services (1 ELP per school).
- Nurses – restructure to allow Qualified Health Care Providers, particularly if RN staff shortages continue.
- Continue to support student enrichment through Art, Music and Activities

CBRC – If the Board has to make 5 million in cuts, consider reducing:

eLearning Lab 750 K

Board Reserve – 300K

and consider implementing a 5% reduction focusing on the following departments:

- Administrative Services
- Human Resources
- Special Education
- Non-Departmental.
- Consolidate DW/Pass & SMART
- SPED – consider restructuring

M/S/A motion Chris Dean to adjourn at 7:33PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sandra Weaver