

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

March 1, 2016

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. University Park Elementary School's Musical Club led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the board under the guidance of Bridget Machida, music teacher.

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  
Wendy Dominique, Member  
Sue Hull, Member (By Phone)  
Sean Rice, Member  
Kobe Rizk, Student Representative

Absent:

Sean Williams, Post Representative  
Richard Cole, Base Representative

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  
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance  
Melanie Hadaway, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology  
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations  
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs  
Heather Rauenhorst, Director of Grants & Strategic Partnerships  
Tim Larrabee, Director of Business Information Systems  
Holly Cervin, Director of Alternative Education  
Dr. Ellis Ott, Research Associate and Accountability Coordinator  
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**2015 ASAA/First National Bank Alaska 123A, 4A & Girls Wrestling State Championships** [0:10:51]

Five district wrestlers captured state titles in the 2015 ASAA/First National Bank Alaska 123A, 4A & Girls Wrestling State Championships held in December. Junior Lambert, North Pole High School coach, and Wes Bockert, Lathrop coach, made the presentation.

**2015 ASAA/First National Bank Alaska 123A, 4A & Girls Wrestling State Championships**  
**(continued)**

<b>Student</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Weight Class Title</b>
Micah Ee	Lathrop	98-pound Boys
Kailey Fowlkes	North Pole High	106-pound Girls
Jacob Spencer	Lathrop	106-pound Boys
Andrew Rogers	North Pole High/BEST	145-pound Boys
Josh Miller	Lathrop	220-pound Boys

**ESP of the Month** [0:16:57]

Phyllis Reid, Ryan Middle School counseling secretary, was recognized as the Extra Special Support Staff Person for March 2016. Heather Stewart, Ryan Middle School principal, made the presentation.

**Spotlight: University Park Elementary School** [0:21:08]

Kyra Aizstrauts, University Park Elementary principal, and Anna Jacobs, sign language interpreter, presented the spotlight on University Park Elementary School. University Park Elementary School was a high-performing K-6 Title I school with approximately 500 students and a very stable and dedicated staff. The school offered students and families a wide range of programs and intramural activities, including the school's fee-based after school program and ski club. One program, unique to University Park was its deaf program. Ms. Jacobs explained the program utilized American Sign Language (ASL), in which facial expressions played a big part in the language. Ms. Jacob's led the board through a few examples of signing.

**Board Questions & Comments**

President Haas asked if all students learned ASL. Ms. Jacobs explained it depended upon the classes. At times, the school offered ASL clubs.

Mr. Rice, a former University Park student, appreciated Ms. Aizstrauts and the school maintaining many of the same traditions from when he was in school.

**AGENDA** [0:29:38]

GENTRY MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS.

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the award in the amount of \$1,000 from the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) for the YALSA/Best Buy Teen Tech Week Program Grant, per Fiscal Note 2016-30.

accepted the Monthly Management Reports for the month ended January 2016.

approved the minutes from the regular meetings on February 2 and 16, and the special meeting and work session on February 15, 2016, as submitted.

approved submission of the Indian Education Formula Grant Part I.

approved the submission of the Suicide Awareness, Prevention, & Postvention Grant (SAPP) to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development for \$25,000.

## **Consent Agenda (continued)**

approved Barnette Magnet School's request to send its MathCounts students to Anchorage, Alaska, March 25-27, 2016, to participate in the state MathCounts competition, with the district paying for one day of substitute costs.

approved Randy Smith Middle School's request to send a MathCounts student to Anchorage, Alaska, March 25-27, 2016, with the Barnette Magnet School team and coach, to participate in the state MathCounts competition, at no cost to the district.

approved Lathrop High School's request to send students to Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, and Sagamihara, Japan, June 2-16, 2016, where students will study the life and culture of Japanese people, and build on the friendship between Lathrop High School and its sister school Hashimoto, at no cost to the district, and if the State Department issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

approved Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School's request to raise funds to send its Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) team to Nashville, Tennessee, April 23-27, 2016, to compete in the International Career Development Conference, with the district providing CTE funding to help with travel costs and paying for three days of substitute costs, and if the State Department issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

accepted the gift of \$1,200 from the Denali Elementary PTA to Denali Elementary School to support the school's Artists in Residence program.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period February 8-19, 2016.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period February 6-19, 2016.

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

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

ADVISORY VOTE. 1 AYE (RIZK)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES  
(RICE, HULL, DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, GENTRY, HAAS)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS** [0:33:22]

Vanessa Jackson, 3947 Boysenberry Avenue, district parent and district employee, expressed her concern regarding the proposed increases in the PTR (pupil-teacher ratio) at the high school level, as proposed in the administration's level 2 and 3 budget reductions. She thought increasing class size was counterproductive to increasing graduation rates.

As a proud band director at North Pole Middle School and as part of Music in Our Schools Month (MIOSM), Ms. Jackson invited board members to the North Pole MIOSM All Levels Band Concert on March 4 at Oehring Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. The concert would include students in grades 4<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> from Ticasuk Brown, Badger Road, and North Pole Elementary Schools, as well as North Pole Middle, Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School, North Pole High School, and Two Rivers School. Ms. Jackson announced several other upcoming MIOSM concerts scheduled throughout the district. She hoped board members would be able to attend the concerts.

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

Mr. Rice announced the North Pole High School Choir Concert was scheduled for March 7 at Oehring Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

Dane Nemec, 379 Division Street, and Janae McBroom, 528 Lily Drive, Tanana Middle School and Project Citizen students, spoke to the proposed K-8 school model. The students, as part of their Project Citizen work had surveyed Tanana Middle School teachers, parents, and students regarding the proposed K-8 model. The results from their survey did not find much support for the new model, including opposition voiced regarding the loss of the actual Tanana Middle School facility and concerns of younger and older students being housed in the same building.

Jenifer Cameron, PO Box 117, districtwide art coordinator, presented a sculpture from the Up With Art Show, which would be opening on Friday at the Bear Gallery in Pioneer Park. The art would be displayed through March 26. The art show showcased over 250 pieces of art work from elementary and secondary students throughout the district. She invited board members to the opening ceremonies and hoped they would be able to view the artwork. Ms. Cameron thanked the Fairbanks Arts Association for their support with the show.

Stefani Borrego, Ryan teacher and Lathrop Ballroom Dance coach, thanked the school board for their support for the dance team and their recent trip. Ms. Borrego invited board members and presented them with tickets to the LHS Ballroom Dance Team Show on Saturday, March 12 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Hering Auditorium.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Policy 428.4: Supplemental Funding (Second Reading)** [0:46:57]

Revisions to Policy 428.4: Supplemental Funding aligned the policy to district practice.

*Core Value/Goal: Organizational Support: Create an environment that supports the needs of staff to enable a school and organizational climate where students thrive.*

DOMINIQUE MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING,  
PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 428.4: SUPPLEMENTAL  
FUNDING.

Dr. Gaborik explained the proposed policy language was unchanged from first reading, but language had been added to the administrative regulation to address concerns voiced by some board members during first reading. The administration proposed a yearly grant forecast report which would provide the board with as much information as possible about upcoming grants for the year.

Melanie Hadaway, executive director of curriculum, Helen Clark, director of federal programs, and Heather Rauenhurst, director of grants and strategic partnerships, provided information on the different types of grants, as well as an overview of the grant application, acceptance, and oversight process.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Board Questions/Comments**

Board discussion ensued. Board members had questions about the accountability and notification process for both the board and the public, especially as it related to an increase in staff or positions (FTEs). A suggestion was made to include information on FTEs in the yearly forecast report and

### **Policy 428.4: Supplemental Funding (Second Reading)**

the administrative regulation. There was further discussion regarding the board relinquishing oversight of grant funds, removing the oversight of grant submissions from policy, and the process other districts used. It was clarified the board would still accept grants.

Mrs. Hull suggested the policy be postponed so she could gather additional information from other districts on their grant processes.

HULL MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF POLICY 428.4: SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING TO A FUTURE MEETING.

The board voted on the motion to postpone action on Policy 428.4: Supplemental Funding.

ADVISORY VOTE. 1 AYE (RIZK)  
MOTION FAILED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.  
4 NAYS: GENTRY, RICE, DOMINIQUE, HAAS  
3 AYES: O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, HULL

The board voted on the main motion.

ADVISORY VOTE. 1 AYE (RIZK)  
MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.  
5 AYES: GENTRY, RICE, DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, HAAS  
2 NAYS: LAMBERT, HULL

### **Policy 1027: Homeless Children and Youth (Second Reading)** [1:42:04]

Policy 1027: Homeless Children and Youth was being updated to align with federal law.

*Core Value/Goal: Respect: Embody respect for the diversity and dignity of all.*

GENTRY MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 1027: HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

Dr. Gaborik stated there were no changes from first reading.

#### **Public Comments**

None

#### **Board Questions/Comments**

Mrs. Dominique appreciated all the assistance and efforts the administration provided homeless students throughout the district.

ADVISORY VOTES. 1 AYE (RIZK)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES  
(DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, GENTRY, RICE, HULL, HAAS)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Included in the Consent Agenda.

## **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

### **Superintendent Report** [1:44:13]

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

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik updated the board on the status of the graduation attire administrative regulation. The administration was working on a revision and had just received feedback from the Alaska Native Education Parent Committee, as well as feedback from principals. A revised version of the administrative regulation was scheduled to come before the board at the March 22 meeting.

Melanie Hadaway, executive director of curriculum, provided an update on the shift of K-12 mathematics standards, available math courses, and the recommended sequence of classes. Work was continuing with teachers, principals, and parents to understand the differences between the previous grade level expectations and the new Alaska State Standards. The big shift was the change from the focus on procedural fluency to a balanced approach of conceptual understanding, application, and procedural fluency. Ms. Hadaway had developed a math sequence program to help with understanding the progression of courses.

### **Board Questions/Comments**

Board discussion ensued. Item for discussion only; no action required. Board members heard from parents about their frustration regarding a lack of information or understanding about opportunities and options available for students, along with concern about parents not being a part of the math placement decision for their student. They hoped the administration was looking at ways to get information out to parents and involving them in the decision making process for their student. A request was made for a copy of the math sequence program. Board members thanked Ms. Hadaway for the update.

### **Early Warning System Report** [1:59:18]

Janet Cobb, executive director of technology, and Dr. Ellis Ott, research associate and accountability coordinator, provided a report on the Early Warning System, which was used to determine high, medium, and low dropout risks. The report also included information on the district's graduation and dropout rates.

*Core Value/Goal: High Expectations: Maintain high expectations and educational opportunities to inspire high achievement.*

Dr. Ott provided an overview of the program, along with a comparison of graduation and dropout rates from 2006-07 to 2014-15. The Early Warning System used information on a student's attendance and grades, combined with retention, former dropout information, credits vs grade level, state/district assessments, and out-of-school suspension information to determine whether a student was at high, medium, or low risk for dropping out. The dropout rate could be reduced with interventions.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

## **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Board discussion ensued. Item for discussion only; no action required. Board questions and discussion included the consideration of disabilities and behavior; interventions available to students; the effect of attendance and truancy; collaborating with outside agencies in an effort to reach all students; the allocation of resources; and dropout and graduation rates. Board members appreciated the very thorough report.

At 9:52 p.m.

DOMINIQUE MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND CONTINUE THE MEETING UNTIL 10:15 P.M.

Asking for and hearing no objection, President Haas continued the meeting.

**BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS** [2:56:13]

President Haas, on behalf of the entire board, thanked the University Park Elementary Musical Club for their great performance and Ms. Aizstrauts for the spotlight on the school. She congratulated the wrestling champions and the ESP of the month. President Haas thanked the staff for their work and report presentations.

Mr. Rice announced the Board Diversity Committee would meet on Thursday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m. He invited everyone to the Midnight Sun Intertribal Winter Powwow on Saturday, March 5 from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at Old University Park.

Mrs. Lambert thanked the staff for their presentations. She hoped the math sequence information would be provided to students and families at the beginning of the year. The Citizen Budget Review Committee met throughout February and would be presenting their recommendations to the school board at the board's March 7 work session.

Mrs. Gentry announced the Parent Engagement Committee would meet on Thursday, March 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. O'Brien added his appreciation to the staff for their thorough reports, especially Dr. Ott and the Early Warning System. Mr. O'Brien congratulated the Lathrop and West Valley ski teams for their great performances at the state championships. He reported the Policy Review Committee met last week and began revising the media use policy. He encouraged people to submit their input.

Mrs. Dominique announced it was Music in Our Schools Month, Youth Art Month, and Women's History Month. She appreciated the student's testimony on the proposed K-8 model. She would like the district to look at the model. If the community did not support a K-8 model, the district should not continue pushing it on people.

Mrs. Dominique appreciated Dr. Ott's report. In looking at the budget, she had not seen any reductions to the BEST program and did not feel it was right to not consider reductions to that program when all the other programs were considered for cuts. Mrs. Dominique reported on a few events she attended in honor of Black History Month. Two of the events were on Eielson AFB – the Diversity Panel and the Black and White Social. Both events were very well done and attended. She also enjoyed NAACP's the *1,001 Black Inventions Play*, which was held February 27 at Hering Auditorium.

In honor of Women's History Month, Mrs. Dominique shared the accomplishments of several great African American women, such as:

- Hattie McDaniel, 1925 – actress, was the first African American woman on radio and won a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award for her performance as “Mammy” in “Gone With the Wind.”
- Angela Davis, 1944 – educator and activist, was a member of the Black Panthers and on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List, but was acquitted of all charges and later went on to run for vice president under the Communist Party ticket.

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

- Michelle Obama, 1964 – attorney, was the first African American First Lady; she and Dr. Jill Biden together launched Joining Forces, a nationwide initiative that mobilized all sectors of society to give service members and their families the opportunities and support they had earned, and to raise awareness of military families' unique needs pertaining to employment, education, and wellness.
- Ella Fitzgerald, 1918 – jazz singer, was considered the “First Lady of Song” and won 14 Grammy Awards.

Mr. Rizk thanked the Tanana students for their testimony and their work on the survey. He announced the Regional Student Council would be hosting their annual Junior High Workshop for middle school students the next day at Lathrop High School from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

President Haas asked the board if there was any objection to bringing Policy 272: Agenda, back for second reading. In listening to the meeting in January when the policy, along with a couple of others were postponed, there did not seem to be any issues with the agenda policy. She would like to bring it forward to allow some flexibility in setting the agenda, such as moving the superintendent report earlier in the meeting. Hearing no objection, the policy would come before the board for second reading at the March 22 meeting.

President Haas would be getting information out on the Suicide Prevention program originally mentioned by Mr. Rizk at a previous meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

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