

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

Work Session

MINUTES

March 21, 2016

President Haas called the work session to order at 6:30 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The work session was called for the board to continue discussions and work on the 2016-17 budget.

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."*

Absent:

Lisa Gentry, Vice President

Present:

Heidi Haas, President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Michael O'Brien, Clerk
Wendy Dominique, Member
Sue Hull, Member (By Phone)
Sean Rice, Member
Kobe Rizk, Student Representative

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Melanie Hadaway, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Shaun Kraska, West Valley High School Principal
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations
Holly Cervin, Director of Alternative Instruction
Steve Zanazzo, Districtwide Activities Coordinator
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

2016-17 Budget Work [0:00:35]

Superintendent Dr. Karen Gaborik reviewed the work session budget documents, which included the proposed reductions originally in the administration's 2016-17 Proposed Budget. The administration's 2016-17 Proposed Budget was based on the governor's budget, which included a \$50 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA). Additional documents provided by the administration for the board's consideration included proposed reductions if the legislature reduced funding by 3 percent; an overview of the success rate of BEST in comparison to other district high schools; and a revised list of suggested reductions to the 2016-17 Proposed Budget from the work done by the school board to date.

Due to the board's discussion at the last work session and the administration's proposal to outsource additional sports, Steve Zanazzo, districtwide activities coordinator, was present to address questions, comments, and concerns regarding the district's out-sourced sports. Mr. Zanazzo provided the board with an overview of how out-sourced sports operated in the district. The differences between out-sourced and non-out-sourced sports were mostly at the administrative and operational levels.

2016-17 Budget Work (continued)

At the participation level, students usually would not know if a sport was out-sourced or not. Student participation was the same for students regarding outsourced and non-outsourced activities and sports. It was clarified the sports currently out-sourced were not available in the district prior to being out-sourced.

Board Questions & Comments

Board discussion ensued. Item for discussion only. Board members had many questions and comments regarding the possibility of outsourcing some district sports and activities. Several concerns were voiced regarding the impact on comp sports, community sport organizations, grade level participation, the process used for selecting out-sourced sports, sponsorships and fundraising, the anticipated financial savings, making across-the-board reductions to sports versus outsourcing a few specific sports/activities, the timing of converting, ASAA concerns and requirements, and costs to parents, students, and schools. Other topics of discussion and questions included busing for private schools, pay-to-play sports, the ADA/AA/FMLA assistant benefit specialist position, the pros and cons of line-item reductions, and the RTI positions.

Superintendent Gaborik reviewed the updated listing of 2016-17 Recommended Budget Adjustments. She anticipated making a few minor adjustments to the listing prior to it coming before the board for approval, but she wasn't prepared to make the changes at the current time. President Haas asked for board direction regarding any additional budget adjustments. After careful consideration, there were no objections to utilizing the administration's Working Copy of the 2016-17 Recommended Budget Adjustments, which included the administration's original proposed reductions from the 2016-17 Proposed Budget, along with additional reductions to cover salary, benefit, and contractual obligations for the 2016-17 school year. The proposed reductions to date on the revised list totaled \$4,689,121.

In the event the legislature made reductions to educational funding in the governor's budget, it was suggested the board provide an addendum to the budget going to the borough outlining additional proposed reductions. After considering the pros and cons of providing an addendum, there was agreement not to send an addendum with the Recommended Budget, but rather speak to the fact the board was prepared to make necessary reductions, if funding was reduced. With state and local funding still undetermined, it was unrealistic for the board to make reduction recommendations at the current time.

President Haas encouraged individual board members to contact Ms. Pearce if they had additional amendments to the proposed budget they would like considered during the budget approval.

The board would be asked to approve the 2016-17 Recommended Budget at its special meeting on Wednesday, March 23. The district's budget was due to the borough by April 1. The district would be presenting the 2016-17 Recommended Budget to the Borough Finance Committee on Thursday, April 7, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

Board Comments/Announcements [1:10:37]

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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