

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

Legislative Committee

MINUTES

April 4, 2016

Heidi Haas, board president and legislative chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

Chair 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, Chair & Board President
Sue Hull, Member & Board Member

Absent:

Lisa Gentry, Member & Board Vice President

Staff Present:

Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools
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 [0:00:23]

**1. January 11, 2016 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

HULL MOVED, HAAS SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT AGENDA ITEM.

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

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

Chair Haas called for public testimony. Hearing none, testimony was closed.

Education Legislation [0:00:48]

John Ringstad, district lobbyist, provided an update on the status of several education bills, including the rehiring of retired teachers, education programs in residential facilities, local control, crisis training, TRS/PERS, and parental rights regarding opt-in versus opt-out. The legislature was down to the last four weeks of the regular 90-day session. The focus this year had been on the budget crisis. The budget had gone to conference committee, and things should start to move. Legislators were intentionally leaving room in the budget for specific reasons such as an overhaul of the corrections system and Medicaid reform, both which would result in significant budget savings. There had been very little other legislation because legislators were focused on the budget.

Committee Questions/Comments

Committee discussion included the issue of local control, crisis training, TRS/PERS contributions, the rehiring of retired teachers, residential facility programs, and parental opt-in/opt-out.

Funding [0:25:49]

In regards to the \$50 increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) in the governor's budget, the house and senate have both kept it in their versions of the budget to-date. There had been minimal discussion on pulling the increase out.

Committee Questions/Comments

Committee members spoke to the importance of keeping people informed and ready to advocate. It was difficult to provide information when budget figures were still unknown. With the end of the regular session approaching, it was expected movement on the budget could start to come by the end of the week or early next week.

Other discussion included the email from Norm Wooten, AASB executive director, regarding the information ASA and ALASBO had been gathering regarding the effects of increasing the employer contribution for TRS/PERS. Chair Haas had received the email and would forward it to the rest of the committee and board.

Committee Comments/Announcements [0:33:56]

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik stated she had sent a letter to Representative Seaton's office regarding HB 202: Workforce & Ed Related Statistics Program. Chair Haas called another Legislative Committee Meeting for April 11, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in the board room.

The committee meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

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