

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

May 3, 2016

President Haas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. Dr. Gaborik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 (By Phone)  
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer  
Michael O'Brien, Clerk  
Wendy Dominique, Member  
Sue Hull, Member  
Richard Cole, Base Representative  
Sean Williams, Post Representative  
Kobe Rizk, Student Representative

Absent:

Sean Rice, Member

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools  
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  
Kathie Wassmann, Executive Director of Special Education  
Doreen Oliver, Director of Employment & Educational Opportunity  
Holly Cervin, Director of Alternative Programs  
Michelle Daml, Curriculum Coordinator  
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS** [0:01:04]

The board recognized Sharon Tuttle, executive assistant to the board, for Administrative Professionals' Day.

**ESP of the Month** [0:02:05]

Marilyn Eggleston, Joy Elementary after school program coordinator, was recognized as the Extra Special Support Staff Person for May 2016. Julie Wild-Curry, after school program director, and LaLaunie Whisenant, Joy Elementary principal, made the presentation.

**Recognition of Retiring Staff for 2015-2016** [0:09:30]

Staff members who had retired or provided notice of their intent to retire as of April 27, 2016 were recognized. Those in attendance shared a favorite memory and were presented with a retirement gift. The board hosted a reception for the retirees prior to the start of the board meeting.

Ms. Gentry joined the board meeting by phone at 7:12 p.m.

## **Recognition of Retiring Staff for 2015-2016 (continued)**

Karen Barnett	Julia Foster	Barbara Nore
Judith Baxter	Judy Fowler-Morris	Steven Pankhurst
Sandra Bell	Sheryl Frey	Jaren Peterlin
Patricia Bodiker	Areli Guzman	Kerry Pippin
Robert Bowser	Brian Harris	John Purcell
Myong Brown	Shirley Harris	Bruce Radway
Julie Bryner	Elsie Heffernan	Marcia Sayne
Nina Burglin	Brenda Henley	Cynthia Sibitzky
Mary Burtness	Lynn Johnson	Roger Sperl
Susan Coltellaro	Tim Kraska	Mari Torgerson
Susi Doyle Larson	Lynette Krause	Joseph Turner
Lucy Duque	Ann Lee	Christine Villano
Theodore Earl	Sally Lessner	Yong Webber
Wendy Ehnert	Mary McMorrow-Smith	Susan Webster
William Emery	Lawrence Mitchell	Karen Williams-Clarkson
William Ernst	Janet Morgan	Norma Wivoda
	Doug Noon	Michael Woods

The board took a break at 8:12 p.m. and reconvened at 8:22 p.m. [1:10:58]

### **Spotlight: Lathrop High School** [1:11:19]

Robert Meade, Lathrop principal, along with student Dawson Mann and teachers Tim Parker and Chris Benshoof, provided a spotlight on Lathrop High School. The group highlighted Lathrop's diverse student population and many offerings, along with the student newsletter, The Paystreak. Also highlighted was the school's engineering program, including a live robot demonstration. Lathrop High School opened in 1956 and was celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Mann provided a glimpse of Lathrop's rich 60 year history in a video presentation, "60 years in 60 seconds."

### **Board Questions/Comments**

On behalf of the entire board, President Haas thanked the group for their spotlight on Lathrop High School.

### **AGENDA** [1:21:50]

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

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the Monthly Management Reports for March 2016.

approved the minutes from the special meeting and work session on April 18, and the regular meeting on April 19, 2016, as submitted.

awarded IFB 17-R0001 for Dedicated Internet Access to G.C.I. - Fairbanks for \$36,000, based on first year usage for the initial period of the contract, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

approved North Pole High School's request to raise funds to send fourteen JROTC cadets, two advisors, and three chaperones to Honolulu, Hawaii, March 9-18, 2017, to compete in a JROTC drill competition, visit military installations and historic sites, and participate in a wreath laying ceremony, at no cost to the district, and if Homeland Security issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

## **Consent Agenda (continued)**

approved Hutchison High School's request to send one student, accompanied by his parent, to Louisville, Kentucky, June 18-25, 2016, where the student will compete at the National Student Leadership Conference/Skills USA competition, with expenses paid with district CTE funds and club account monies, and if Homeland Security issues travel warnings, the student will not travel.

approved Hutchison High School's request to send three students and one advisor to Nashville, Tennessee, June 20-26, 2016, where the students will compete at the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) International Leadership Conference, with expenses paid with district CTE funds and club account monies, and if Homeland Security issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

approved West Valley High School's request to send nine students and one advisor to Washington, D.C., June 11-16, 2016, where students will compete in the National History Day Competition, with the district paying the sponsor's per diem, and if Homeland Security issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

accepted the gift of 520 Scholastic books, valued at approximately \$3,500, from Scholastic, Inc. to North Pole Elementary School, to support the school's Summer Reading Kick-Off program.

accepted the gift of \$2,500 from Chevrolet Buick GMA of Fairbanks to North Pole Middle School, for the purchase of wrestling mats.

accepted the gift of \$1,110.20 from the Ben Eielson Booster Club to Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School, to support the school's girls' high school basketball program.

accepted the gift of \$2,425.36 from the Ben Eielson Booster Club to Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School, to support the school's high school wrestling program.

accepted the gift of \$1,000 from the Wells Fargo Foundation to Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School, to support the school's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program.

accepted the gift of \$14,409.06 from the Lathrop Hockey Booster Club to Lathrop High School, to support the school's hockey program.

accepted the gift of \$1,000 from Racheal Seymour to Lathrop High School, to support the Racheal Seymour Scholarship.

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

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period April 9-22, 2016.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for the period March 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  
(HULL, DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, GENTRY, HAAS)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS** [1:26:50]

Faiz Fitri, 372 Taurus Road, an exchange student from Malaysia, expressed his appreciation to board and district for the opportunity to attend an American high school. Mr. Fitri was grateful and excited to have been able to take several classes he would not have been able to take in Malaysia. He very much appreciated the opportunity to attend a district high school.

Cynthia Sibitzky, 3730 Helensdale Avenue, a retiring music teacher, spoke in support of the district's music programs. Ms. Sibitzky was a longtime advocate for music. As a veteran teacher of 38 years, 19 at Crawford Elementary School, she had seen many changes in the district's music programs. She announced the awarding of over \$4,000 in camp scholarships to district students provided by music teachers throughout the community. Ms. Sibitzky shared a success story of a district music student who had gone on to medical school, noting the hospital had an orchestra made up of medical professionals. It was an example of the power of music. She also pointed out that music was the number one major accepted to medical school throughout the nation. Ms. Sibitzky stressed the importance of STEAM, the inclusion of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Unfortunately, she had seen a decline in the district's music programs through the years. She thought having part-time positions and having teachers teach in areas outside their major concentration was administrating a slow-death to the art. Ms. Sibitzky stated she held a K-12 music certification, but assured the board she would not be an effective high school band teacher. In the same token, a general music teacher, of which she had many years of experience, was not the same as teaching band and orchestra. There were four music teachers retiring and two who were leaving the area this year. Mrs. Sibitzky urged the board to restructure the positions to utilize the strengths of the instructor and to refrain from making assignments that were not in the best interest of children. Students deserved the finest education the district could provide, especially in music. Ms. Sibitzky thanked the board for the best teaching years of her life.

Carrie Stokes, 2591 Gordon Road, district parent, commented on the out-of-attendance area (OAA) policy. Ms. Stokes shared her daughter had attended Anderson Elementary since 2011 and she had not been required to complete an OAA application. She said she and other families in similar situations believed their children had grandfather rights to attend their out-of-attendance area school. Ms. Stokes had recently learned there were no grandfather rights to attend any school. They lived in North Pole and worked on Eielson Air Force Base and the main reason they wanted their daughter to remain on Eielson was because of the before and after care the base provided. North Pole had very little to offer in regards to before and after school care. Ms. Stokes asked the board to consider a clause to the policy that would grandfather current out-of-attendance area students or an exemption for children of military parents who worked on base.

President Haas believed the administration was still working on the out-of-attendance area policy and appreciated the input; it was helpful.

Bobby LaSalle, PO Box 57175, a speech-language assistant at North Pole Elementary School, congratulated all the retirees, noting there was more than a 1,000 years of experience retiring that could not be replaced. The state and district were not providing incentives to entice employees to come to the district. Ms. LaSalle provided an overview of her day which began by supervising students before the school day began. Throughout the day she worked with approximately 50 students providing speech-language and articulation services. During her lunch period, she was often in the hallways supervising students because the teachers were in the classrooms supervising classrooms. At the end of the day, she again supervised students in the hallways. During her day, she was also required to provide mandated documentation of the therapy services provided to her students, in addition to preparing materials for her students. Ms. LaSalle shared one of the best parts of working with students was seeing them in public and having them run up to her to give her hugs and introduce her to their families.

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

Ms. LaSalle expressed her disappointment regarding ESSA bargaining. She commented on the proposal of 15 non-paid days during winter and spring breaks – it was more than a 10 percent cut in wages. Additionally, she spoke to the restriction of using sick leave for families – she did not believe any other business had such a restriction. Members of her family had major medical issues and in-fact, Ms. LaSalle had lost a son in 2012 and she could not imagine not being able to use her earned sick leave to take care of her family. These types of proposals did not make the district a family friendly workplace. Ms. LaSalle asked the board to direct their bargaining team to bargain in good faith and not to ask for mediation on the fourth day of bargaining.

Nancy Duez, PO Box 58643, FEA president, wished all teachers happy National Teacher Appreciation Day. Friday was School Nurse's Day and she thanked school nurses and wished them a happy School Nurse's Day. Nurses were that kind face that students needed, but were also sometimes unrecognized and underappreciated. Ms. Duez wanted to take the opportunity to thank school nurses.

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT** [1:41:22]

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik provided a superintendent report.

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

Dr. Gaborik provided an update on the out-of-attendance area (OAA) issue. Sandra Kowalski, assistant superintendent of elementary, Eielson principals, and Colonel Cole were addressing the issue. The administration was attempting to address inconsistencies in enrollment in schools with a rise in OAA requests that created overcrowded classrooms. Some overcrowded classrooms this year were the result of a number of OAA students. Also, with the anticipated arrival of the F35s, North Pole area schools did not have the capacity to accommodate a large increase in student enrollment. It had been determined that for next year, if a family lived off Eielson Air Force Base, but worked on base, students could stay at base schools. Newly enrolling families who planned to live in North Pole but work on base would also be allowed to enroll as OAA students' at all three schools on base. Families must complete an out-of-attendance area form and provide proof of employment on Eielson. Work would continue on the process for the future.

Dr. Gaborik announced the doubtful status notices had been delivered. If notices of layoff were needed, they would be delivered by the end of the day on May 20. The borough was currently working on the district's budget and a reduction of approximately \$1.2 million in funding was proposed. Retirements and attrition had helped relieve some of the pressure of actual layoffs, especially with ESSA positions.

Dr. Gaborik updated the board on the district's Internet filters. District administrators were scheduled to meet with West Valley staff and students regarding the issue on May 9. She announced the High School Options Workgroup had concluded their work for the year and would be moving forward with a student support period, similar to the advisory period concept. Dr. Gaborik had emailed board members a tentative schedule of the support period – it would be three days a week for 30 minutes. The idea was to allow flexibility on the schedule at the school level with some direction from the administration in terms of topics that needed to be covered. In reading the feedback from parents, teachers, and students, there was value in the time, especially in regards to digital citizenship, mandatory student communications and trainings, etc. The idea was to reduce the amount of interruptions to instructional time. It would also provide the opportunity for remediation for students who needed additional tutoring or help in a specific areas.

## **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT (continued)**

### **Board Comments/Questions**

Mrs. Dominique asked about the out-of-attendance area students on Fort Wainwright and the younger siblings of students already enrolled at Eielson schools. President Haas asked about notification deadlines in the event state funding was still unknown. Mrs. Hull hoped the district had a strategy to notify parents and gather support and advocacy for education funding. Mrs. Hull also voiced her disappointment regarding the student support periods. It was an hour and a half a week that did not have a curriculum. She thought the move was a step backwards in regards to the vision of the board. She would be interested in seeing the recommendations from the committee, as she thought part of their charge from the strategic plan was looking at expanding opportunities for students to get credit. Mrs. Hull was hopeful that in the future the district could move to forward in regards to implementing the board's vision which would provide students and teachers more flexibility with their time during the day and more access to credits. She thought it was a step back in how to provide students with more choices and more flexibility.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Policy 260: Meetings (Second Reading)** [1:55:46]

The board at its January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting, postponed second reading of Policy 260: Meetings, until a work session could be held to further consider the policy. A work session was held on April 18. There were no changes to the policy proposed at the work session. The policy was before the board as it was amended during first reading in December 2015.

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

DOMINIQUE MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING,  
PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 260: MEETINGS.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Mrs. Dominique appreciated the work on the policy.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (WILLIAMS, RIZK, COLE)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES  
(LAMBERT, GENTRY, HULL, DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, HAAS)

#### **Policy 264: Types of Meetings (Second Reading)** [1:57:25]

The board at its January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting, postponed second reading of Policy 264: Types of Meetings, until a work session could be held to further consider the policy. A work session was held on April 18 where the board suggested reverting the language regarding regular meetings back to its original version and adding language to work sessions to allow the board to provide direction to the administration. The policy was revised for second reading to include the changes suggested at the work session.

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

O'BRIEN MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING,  
PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 264: TYPES OF MEETINGS.

## **Policy 264: Types of Meetings (Second Reading) (continued)**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Mrs. Dominique appreciated the work on the policy.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (COLE, WILLIAMS, RIZK)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES  
(O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, GENTRY, HULL, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **K-12 Physical Education Curriculum Adoption** [1:58:57]

At the April 19, 2016 board meeting, a report on the revised *K-12 Physical Education Curriculum* was presented and a copy of the document was provided. There were no changes to the curriculum since the report. The administration recommended the board adopt the proposed *K-12 Physical Education Curriculum*.

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

DOMINIQUE MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE REVISED *K-12 PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM*.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

None

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (RIZK, COLE, WILLIAMS)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES  
(DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, GENTRY, HULL, HAAS)

#### **K-12 Health Curriculum Adoption** [2:00:20]

At the April 19, 2016 board meeting, a report on the revised *K-12 Health Curriculum* was presented and a copy of the document was provided. There were no changes to the curriculum since the April report. The administration recommended the board adopt the proposed *K-12 Health Curriculum*.

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

LAMBERT MOVED, DOMINIQUE SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE REVISED *K-12 HEALTH CURRICULUM*.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Colonel Williams thanked everyone for the work on all the curriculum revisions.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (WILLIAMS, RIZK, COLE)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES  
(HULL, DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, GENTRY, HAAS)

**Grades 7-8 Health Materials Adoption** [2:02:04]

The 7-8 Health materials under consideration for adoption were provided to the Board of Education at the April 19, 2016 meeting. The administration recommended adoption of the materials as proposed.

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

DOMINIQUE MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE GRADES 7-8 HEALTH MATERIALS.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Mrs. Hull was hopeful the district was looking for opportunities to move away from print materials to more digital. Mrs. Daml stated one of the most common recommendations heard was the desire to move away from print to more digital options.

Mrs. Dominique noted the district needed to be sure every student had a computer and Internet access before moving to digital information. There were many families in the district without devices and/or Internet access.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (COLE, WILLIAMS, RIZK)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES  
(HULL, DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, GENTRY, HAAS)

**Grades 9-12 Science Materials Adoption** [2:05:50]

The science materials under consideration for adoption were provided to the Board of Education at the April 19, 2016 meeting. The administration recommended adoption of the materials as proposed.

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

HULL MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE GRADES 9-12 SCIENCE MATERIALS.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

None

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (RIZK, COLE, WILLIAMS)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES  
(GENTRY, HULL, DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, LAMBERT, HAAS)

**Grades 9-12 Social Studies Materials Adoption** [2:06:57]

The social studies materials under consideration for adoption were provided to the Board of Education at the April 19, 2016 meeting. The administration recommended adoption of the materials as proposed.

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



## **Grades 9-12 Social Studies Materials Adoption (continued)**

HULL MOVED, DOMINIQUE SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE GRADES 9-12 SOCIAL STUDIES MATERIALS.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

President Haas thanked the Board Curriculum Advisory Committee and the curriculum department for their work and time on all the revision processes.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (WILLIAMS, RIZK, COLE)  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES  
(LAMBERT, GENTRY, HULL, DOMINIQUE, O'BRIEN, HAAS)

### **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

#### **Affirmative Action Plan Report** [2:08:44]

School Board Policy 130.1: Affirmative Action, required the school board adopt an Affirmative Action Plan. The report was scheduled to come before the board for action on May 10, 2016.

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

Doreen Oliver, EEO director, provided a summary of the district's Affirmative Action Plan to include annual goals and strategies to achieve the goals and address any adverse impact.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Board discussion ensued. Item for discussion only; no action required. Board questions and comments included the diversity of applicant pools, stereotyping, training, historical data, the definition of and the appropriateness of the terminology Affirmative Action, and exit interviews for hiring committees and employees.

At 9:50 p.m.: [2:38:55]

HULL MOVED, DOMINIQUE SECONDED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO 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** [2:39:17]

On behalf of the entire board, President Haas congratulated Ms. Eggleston, the ESP of the Month for May, along with all the district retirees, those in attendance and those unable to attend. She thanked Mr. Meade and the Lathrop group for the spotlight. President Haas also thanked the Board Curriculum Advisory Committee, the curriculum department, and the administration for all the work on the curriculum revisions and adoptions.

President Haas announced it was National Teacher's Day and thanked all teachers for their work and dedication. She also announced Friday was Nurse Appreciation Day and extended the board's appreciation to all school nurses.

The board's next Regular Meeting was scheduled for next Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m. The last day for students was May 19.

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

Colonel Williams termed the evening extraordinary – the one word he would use to sum it up was “passion.” The room was filled with passion for doing what was right for children. He noted how his outlook on everything changed when his children were born. Children spend a large portion of their waking hours with educators and support personnel. The impact staff had on children was incredible. Colonel Williams was very thankful for the dedicated staff in the district and the evening’s recognition was great, especially on National Teacher’s Day.

Colonel Cole stated he was often thanked for his service in the military, but he believed teachers should be thanked. Teachers needed to be encouraged and appreciated. He appreciated teachers – those still working, those retired, and those still to come.

Mrs. Hull thanked all the retirees. Teachers had a tremendous impact on students; her grown children still talked about a special teacher and how they made a difference. Mrs. Hull provided board members with handouts from the recent National School Boards Association conference she attended. She also reported on the recent State Board of Education meeting regarding the finalists for the Commissioner of Education position. The new commissioner was expected to be selected in June. Mrs. Hull congratulated Deena Paramo for her recent selection as superintendent of the Anchorage School District.

Mrs. Lambert echoed her appreciation to all the retirees and noted the 1,077 years of experience and the impact educators had on students. She shared how one teacher had made such an impact on her that she had contacted her to photograph her wedding.

Mr. O’Brien added his appreciation to all the retiring teachers and current district staff. With his wife having grown up here, he heard about many retiring teachers and many were legends to him. Mr. O’Brien was looking forward to the upcoming graduations.

Mrs. Dominique noted her children were also products of the school district; although she didn’t see any of their teachers in the retirement recognition. Mrs. Dominique thanked Ms. Sibitzky for her testimony – it was important for everyone to think about what she said and remember it. Music could be incorporated into almost any area. Mrs. Dominique also noted the high number of special education teachers who were retiring and was concerned about being able to fill the positions, especially the hard-to-fill specialty areas.

Mr. Rizk, on behalf of the students, congratulated and thanked all the retirees. He reported the Regional Student Council had met the previous week and thanked Mr. O’Brien for attending the meeting. Mr. Rizk announced Eryn Tanner from Hutchison High School had been selected as the new student representative on the school board for next year. He was looking forward to the graduations.

Dr. Gaborik added her appreciation to all school nurses in recognition of National Nurse’s Day on Friday. She too was looking forward to the graduations.

President Haas said Mrs. Gentry had lost her connection, but wished everyone a nice evening. President Haas agreed with other board members on the impact teachers made on students. Her mom was a teacher in a classroom across from Ms. Villano, who was part of the retirement celebration earlier in the evening. President Haas shared she had attended the Celebration of Life for Leslie Campbell; it was a beautiful service and it was moving to see such a history of education represented at the service. It was a reminder of the impact educators had on people. She was able to sit next her sixth grade teacher at the service. President Haas was also looking forward to the graduations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

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