

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

Work Session

MINUTES

May 24, 2016

President Haas called the work session to order at 6:36 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 work on the 2016-17 budget and discuss the seat A vacancy process.

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
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Michael O'Brien, Clerk
Wendy Dominique, Member
Sean Rice, Member

Absent:

Vacant, Vice President
Sue Hull, Member

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
Kathie Wassmann, Executive Director of Special Education
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Management
Melanie Hadaway, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Shaun Kraska, West Valley High School Principal
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs
Krista Lord, Director of Compliance & Training
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations
Dan Domke, Director of Career Technical Education
Holly Cervin, Director of Alternative Instruction
Heather Rauenhorst, Director of Grants & Special Projects
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

2016-17 Budget Work [0:00:36]

Superintendent Dr. Karen Gaborik reviewed the work session budget documents, which included the proposed reductions in the administration's 2016-17 Recommended Budget, additional adjustments to the 2016-17 Recommended Budget: Level 1, and additional adjustments to the 2016-17 Recommended Budget: Level 2.

The level 1 adjustments included additional positions to support district initiatives and potential class size increases on Eielson Air Force Base. It also provided the superintendent's prioritized list of recommended cuts, should they become necessary.

2016-17 Budget Work (continued)

The total budget reduction outlined in Level 1 - \$3.6 million was based upon:

- \$1.2 million revenue reduction from the borough
- \$1.3 million potential revenue reduction to the Base Student Allocation (BSA)
- \$1.1 million potential unknown revenue reduction from the Alaska State Legislature

Level 2 adjustments reflected additional cuts the superintendent recommended the school board consider only if revenue reductions exceeded \$3.6 million.

Assistant Superintendent Sandra Kowalski explained the administration's change in restructuring music delivery in some elementary schools. The administration's original proposal would have reduced music by 2 positions. The revised restructure would be a reduction of 1.6 positions. Rather than eliminate a portion of the music program, the restructuring would allow schools to continue to offer most programs. With the restructure, a general music teacher would teach general music and band. Orchestra would be taught by a districtwide teacher. The restructure would only be at the elementary level, at specific schools. The administration would review schools and schedules to determine where the program might work best. In larger schools with more classroom teachers, the general music teacher would be teaching more general music than a general music teacher at a school with fewer classrooms. There might be a reduction in specialty courses/groups that were not in the music curriculum, but there would be no loss of music instruction within the curriculum.

Board Comments/Questions

Board discussion ensued. Item for discussion only. Board members had questions on the level of music that would be provided within the restructuring of the music program. Board members also asked about available grants in support of music programs and music teacher certifications for teaching in other areas of music.

Board members noted the administration's change from consideration of outsourcing sports to the elimination of elementary SAS and SDA funds and a 10 percent reduction in SAS & SDA for middle and high schools. The administration noted elementary principals had offered the reduction of SAS and SDA funds. While the 10 percent reduction savings in SAS & SDA funds at the middle and high school levels was much less than it would have been if additional sports had been outsourced, the administration would continue work on the option of outsourcing for the future.

Board members did not support the proposed reduction in the districtwide art program from four teachers to one. Even though classroom teachers would continue to provide art and the art kits would remain, the board had heard a lot of testimony regarding the community's support for art and its importance in student development. Art was something that was directly in front of students. Board members were also not in support of eliminating the district's summer school program.

Other topics of discussion included the restructure of the grants coordinator position, the elimination of a school psychologist, RTI and whether to continue with the pull-out program for one more year to allow teachers more time to transition to the new model or make the change as originally planned, staffing and employment notifications, the amount of the board's reserve, and funding at the local and state levels.

After much debate, there was consensus from the board to not reduce the art program and not eliminate the district's summer school program. Without knowing the specifics of the legislature's funding, it was difficult to give more specific direction at the current time.

The board called for a Public Hearing and Work Session on Thursday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. to allow for public testimony and continue their work on the 2016-17 budget and a Special Meeting on Friday, June 10 at 5:30 p.m. to adopt the 2016-17 Approved Budget. The administration would revise the reduction lists for Levels 1 and 2 for the June 9 work session, based upon the board's comments and direction. If there was still no definitive information from the legislature at the time of the budget adoption, the board would reconvene in August to revise and adjust the Approved Budget as needed.

The board took a break at 8:06 p.m. The board reconvened at 8:21 p.m. [1:29:50]

Seat A Vacancy Process Work [1:29:57]

Board members reviewed the timeline for the Seat A vacancy process. Board members were asked to decide how many interview questions would be asked and how to determine the questions. Board members decided to keep with seven questions, as had been the practice in previous processes. Interviews would be timed for 16 minutes, allowing for approximately two minutes per question and providing time for a closing statement if time remained. Board members would submit three suggested questions to President Haas by Thursday at noon and she would meet with one other board member to determine the seven questions that would be used for the interviews. Board members would alternate asking all seven questions to one applicant. Phone interviews would be allowed.

The application period would close the next day, Wednesday, May 25 at 4:30 p.m. Once the position closed, the board executive assistant would forward all the applications to board members for their review and release a list of all candidates to the media. Board members would forward the names of three candidates for interviews by Friday, May 27 at noon. The interview list of no more than ten candidates would be compiled and candidates would be notified by Friday afternoon whether they had been moved forward for an interview or not and a list of candidates moved forward for interviews would be released to the media.

The board would be meeting on Wednesday, June 1 beginning at 5:30 p.m. to conduct the candidate interviews. Immediately following the interviews, the board would begin their deliberations and make their appointee. All deliberations and votes would be in public.

Board Comments/Announcements [1:41:23]

President Haas clarified the budget meetings would be a public hearing and work session on Thursday, June 9 at 5:30 p.m. and a special meeting on Friday, June 10 at 5:30 p.m. to adopt the 2016-17 budget.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

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