

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Special Meeting

MINUTES

June 1, 2016

President Haas called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 5th Avenue. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews of candidates for the School Board Seat A vacancy and select an appointee to fill the seat until the October 2016 election.

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
Sue Hull, Member
Sean Rice, Member

Absent:

Vacant, Vice President

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent
Dan Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Kathie Wassmann, Executive Director of Special Education
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations
Barb Havrilek, Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendents
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

Public Testimony – *limited to items on the agenda only* [0:00:35]

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

Seat A Applicant Interviews [0:00:43]

The school board conducted public interviews of the following candidates for the Seat A vacancy:

Tom Bartels [0:03:05]	Brenda Riley [0:48:16]
Jo Ann Borges [0:15:03]	Jennifer Luke [1:01:13]
Margaret Matheson [0:23:13]	Geraldine Simon [1:19:22]
Jodi Rhoades [0:31:56]	Kevin Nelson [1:36:31]

Mr. Rice arrived at 5:52 p.m. and listened to Tom Bartel's interview during a recess. The board recessed between candidates and there was a brief power outage at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Selection of School Board Seat A Appointee [1:52:01]

President Haas extended the school board's gratitude to all the candidates who had put their names forward for consideration. The board appreciated the candidates' interest and willingness to serve on the school board; it took courage and a sense of civic duty. President Haas acknowledged the difficult task of selecting only one representative and encouraged anyone who applied, who was not seated, to run for the school board in the fall.

Selection of School Board Seat A Appointee (continued)

President Haas explained that in order to be as open and transparent as possible, the selection process would be a public process. All comments, discussions, and deliberations would be done in open session. After board members completed their discussions, they would begin the voting process.

President Haas reviewed the voting procedures. Each board member would receive a ballot with all eight candidates listed. Each board member would vote for one candidate. The board's executive assistant would collect the ballots and announce the votes for the public record. Assistant Superintendent Dan Schmidt would witness the counting and reading of the ballots.

If no appointee received four votes (the majority of six board votes), subsequent rounds of voting would take place, eliminating candidates until one candidate received a majority vote of four.

President Haas called for board member comments.

Mrs. Hull thanked all the candidates. She was impressed with the caliber of candidates and pleased with the selection process. Mrs. Hull noted several candidates were friends and the board had a difficult decision to make, but was confident any of the candidates would make a strong board member. She was encouraged that so many people were interested in serving on the board and with the degree of knowledge the candidates had regarding what was important to the Fairbanks community.

Mrs. Hull thought it was important to add that as the board deliberated, anyone of the candidates would be a positive addition to the board. In deliberating, she would consider which candidate would best work to advance the district's strategic plan.

President Haas echoed Mrs. Hull's comments; she too knew many of the candidates. She agreed with Mrs. Hull, when deliberating, she would be looking at the candidates' applications and interview answers for the candidate that would best advance the mission of the board. President Haas was also impressed with the many excellent candidates; the decision would be difficult.

Hearing no other comments, President Haas asked board members to cast their first vote, utilizing their ballot of all eight candidates. Board executive assistant, Sharon Tuttle, picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

ROUND #1 - BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [1:57:02]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Brenda Riley
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jennifer Luke
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Geraldine Simon
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Tom Bartels
- Mrs. Haas voted for Tom Bartels

NO MAJORITY VOTE WAS REACHED.

A subsequent round of voting took place. Candidates who did not receive any votes were eliminated after Round 1: Margaret Matheson, Jodi Rhoades, and Kevin Nelson. The remaining five candidates: Jo Ann Borges, Brenda Riley, Jennifer Luke, Geraldine Simon, and Tom Bartels moved forward to Round 2 of voting.

Selection of School Board Seat A Appointee (continued)

President Haas asked board members to utilize a blank ballot to cast their Round 2 vote for one of the five remaining candidates. Mrs. Tuttle picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

ROUND #2 - BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [2:00:09]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Brenda Riley
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jennifer Luke
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Geraldine Simon
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Tom Bartels
- Mrs. Haas voted for Tom Bartels

NO MAJORITY VOTE WAS REACHED.

Tom Bartels, receiving two votes, moved forward to Round 3 voting. To eliminate the candidate with the lowest vote count, a run-off vote was conducted for the four candidates each receiving one vote during Round 2: Jo Ann Borges, Brenda Riley, Jennifer Luke, and Geraldine Simon. President Haas asked board members to utilize a blank ballot to cast their first run-off vote of Round 2. Mrs. Tuttle picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

RUN-OFF #1 OF ROUND #2, BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [2:03:06]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Brenda Riley
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jennifer Luke
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Geraldine Simon
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Geraldine Simon
- Mrs. Haas voted for Jennifer Luke

NO MAJORITY VOTE WAS REACHED.

Jennifer Luke and Geraldine Simon, each receiving two votes, moved forward to Round 3 voting, but no one candidate received the lowest number of votes. A second run-off vote for Round 2 was called. President Haas asked board members to utilize a blank ballot to vote between the two candidates with the lowest votes: Jo Ann Borges and Brenda Riley. Mrs. Tuttle picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

RUN-OFF #2 OF ROUND #2, BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [2:07:12]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Brenda Riley
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Haas voted for Brenda Riley

A MAJORITY VOTE WAS REACHED TO MOVE JO ANN BORGES FORWARD.

After two run-off votes to determine the lowest vote count, Jo Ann Borges moved forward to Round 3 voting and Brenda Riley was eliminated.

Selection of School Board Seat A Appointee (continued)

Round 3 of voting took place. President Haas asked board members to utilize a blank ballot to cast their Round 3 vote for one of the four remaining candidates: Tom Bartels, Jo Ann Borges, Jennifer Luke, and Geraldine Simon. Mrs. Tuttle picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

ROUND #3 - BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [2:10:03]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Tom Bartels
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jennifer Luke
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Geraldine Simon
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Tom Bartels
- Mrs. Haas voted for Tom Bartels

NO MAJORITY VOTE WAS REACHED.

Tom Bartels, receiving three votes, moved forward to Round 4 voting. To eliminate the candidate with the lowest vote count, a run-off vote was conducted for the three candidates each receiving one vote during Round 3: Jo Ann Borges, Jennifer Luke, and Geraldine Simon. President Haas asked board members to utilize a blank ballot to cast their first run-off vote of Round 3. Mrs. Tuttle picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

RUN-OFF #1 OF ROUND #3, BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [2:12:41]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Geraldine Simon
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jennifer Luke
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Geraldine Simon
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Geraldine Simon
- Mrs. Haas voted for Geraldine Simon

A MAJORITY VOTE WAS REACHED TO MOVE GERALDINE SIMON FORWARD.

Geraldine Simon, having received four votes, moved forward to Round 4 voting, but no one candidate received the lowest number of votes. A second run-off vote for Round 3 was called. President Haas asked board members to utilize a blank ballot to vote between the two candidates with the lowest votes: Jo Ann Borges and Jennifer Luke. Mrs. Tuttle picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

RUN-OFF #2 OF ROUND #3, BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [2:15:02]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jennifer Luke
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Jennifer Luke
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Haas voted for Jennifer Luke

Board Secretary Note: Four of the ballots cast had no board member names listed. The board secretary took the ballots back to the board members to have them identify their ballot and note their name. The count of the vote continued.

NO MAJORITY VOTE WAS REACHED.

Selection of School Board Seat A Appointee (continued)

No one candidate received the lowest number of votes. A third run-off vote for Round 3 was called. President Haas asked board members to utilize a blank ballot to vote again between the two candidates: Jo Ann Borges and Jennifer Luke. Mrs. Tuttle picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

RUN-OFF #3 OF ROUND #3, BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [2:18:05]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Jennifer Luke
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Haas voted for Jennifer Luke

A MAJORITY VOTE WAS REACHED TO MOVE JO ANN BORGES FORWARD.

After three run-off votes to determine the lowest vote count, Jo Ann Borges moved forward to Round 4 voting and Jennifer Luke was eliminated.

Round 4 of voting took place. President Haas asked board members to utilize a blank ballot to cast their Round 4 vote for one of the three remaining candidates: Tom Bartels, Jo Ann Borges, and Geraldine Simon. Mrs. Tuttle picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

ROUND #4 - BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [2:20:51]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Tom Bartels
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Geraldine Simon
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Tom Bartels
- Mrs. Haas voted for Tom Bartels

NO MAJORITY VOTE WAS REACHED.

Tom Bartels and Jo Ann Borges moved forward to Round 5 voting. Geraldine Simon was eliminated as the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes in Round 4.

Round 5 of voting took place. President Haas asked board members to utilize a blank ballot to cast their Round 5 vote for one of the two remaining candidates: Tom Bartels and Jo Ann Borges. Mrs. Tuttle picked up the ballots and read them for the public record, with Mr. Schmidt as witness.

ROUND #5 - BOARD MEMBERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS: [2:23:02]

- Mr. Rice voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mrs. Hull voted for Tom Bartels
- Mrs. Dominique voted for Jo Ann Borges
- Mr. O'Brien voted for Tom Bartels
- Mrs. Lambert voted for Tom Bartels
- Mrs. Haas voted for Tom Bartels

TOM BARTELS WAS APPOINTED TO FILL SCHOOL BOARD SEAT A UNTIL THE OCTOBER 2016 ELECTION BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF FOUR.

Selection of School Board Seat A Appointee (continued)

Board Comments/Announcements [2:24:45]

President Haas congratulated Tom Bartels on his selection. He would be sworn in on Monday, June 6 at noon. President Haas would be contacting all the candidates. She thanked the board for their thoughtful considerations and deliberations in completing the process.

President Haas thanked all the community members who applied for the seat. She encouraged them to consider running in the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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