

**FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FY 2017– 2018 Citizens Budget Review Committee**

Board Committee Member

Tom Bartels (Chair)  
Sharon McConnell (Board Member)

Citizen Committee Members (appointed by Board Member):

Joe Hayes (Dominique)  
Jodi Rhodes (Lambert)  
Daniel Jones (Col. Sean Williams)  
Ms. Noelle Hohnecker (Col. Richard Cole)  
Victoria Smith-BEHS (Regional Student Council)

The Citizen Budget Review Committee (CBRC) has held meetings from the end of October in preparation of submitting a preliminary opinion for the FY 2017-2018 Budget. The CBRC has provided the community input on the Administration's proposed budget to help guide the Board of Education's budget hearings with public perspective.

We have included our "3 Lane" sheet that will give an overview of what we have identified as high (green), neutral (yellow) and low (red) priority bases. The CBRC approached this report with as much accumulated information available on a general estimate of the Governor's proposed FY 2018 budget for educational funding. At the time of this report the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (District) should plan for an estimated 10% reduction in state funding. This will equate to an estimated twelve million dollars. This on top of an estimated reduction in classroom population of 120 students with an estimated funding of \$ 5,930 Base Student Allocation will result in nearly an additional million dollars. These two state funding elements will total a loss of a potential thirteen million dollars to the District FY 2017-2018 Budget.

It is the CBRC's first recommendation to strongly encourage that the District advocate to the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) to fully fund the District at the legal appropriated level of 100%. The District has historically received a FNSB calculated contribution that has amounted to a level near 85% of the statutorily allowed maximum local contribution. It is time to insist that the District be supported by the hard dollars local tax payers intend to support the educational system. With the estimated \$13 million reduction and the potential full FNSB funding increase of \$8.5 million, that still leaves a sizeable gap of an estimated \$4.5 million set-back.

It is the CBRC's opinion that with the above potential situations being best case scenarios the Board is still faced with some very difficult decisions. With 87% of the Operating Budget made up of staffing expenses, which only leaves 13% (roughly \$26 million) in non-personnel overhead costs. That being said, we find it will be very difficult to not have an increase in secondary level class size options, curriculum cuts and a review of staffing patterns for all staff based on necessity. The CBRC highly recommends that the District consider all options available for making the transportation delivery model the most efficient possible. Such consideration may include reaching out to renegotiate the contract with First Student to reduce the annual transportation expense under the premise of reduced student population, reduced services and possible collaboration on logistics to save costs for First Student and the District. The current First Student contract generates an operating fund subsidy of approximately \$3.2M for the 2017-18 budget year. Another possibility may be considering a district owned and operated bus fleet.

Other suggested measures could include District consideration of:

- Elimination of Sport/Extra School Activity events in full or convert to a District flat fee based support
- Four (4) day school weeks
- Retirement incentive to senior District employees
- Elementary school closure
- Infrastructure assessment and facility utilization review

The CBRC discussed areas of revenue generation as well for the District. Two areas of most interest were to true-up property rental of facilities to match real cost projections and set property rentals with a base margin of profit. Secondly, unprecedented thinking for revenue generation through the use of existing resources without adding to our Districts costs will only enhance potential operating fund revenue.

It is the consensus of the CBRC that these will be very trying times. There is going to have to be some very tough large decisions to be made in order for the District to reach a fiscally responsible balanced budget. An approach of horizontal cuts will likely not get to the level of budget reductions required in light of a potential 10% reduction in state revenue. Programmatic reduction/elimination considerations, while not an easy or popular discussion, will likely be necessary. The CBRC highly encourages the District to provide the community with information and education regarding the budgeting process and implications of possible cuts. We appreciate the opportunity to offer our early budget opinion and look forward to the Board of Education's early spring proposed budget at which time we will have a better perspective of reality to better offer our in-depth recommendations.

## INSTRUCTION

## SUPPORT

## OPERATIONS

School

District Support

- **Career and Technical Education**
- **Elementary General Music and PE** - *this is fundamental*
- **Full-day Kindergarten**
- **Instructional Technology/Library Media Services Coordinator**
  
- **Class size** - *Depends on \$\$ pressure, long-term effect? Jobs, recruiting/retention*
- **Curriculum materials scheduled for purchase: art, music, supplemental math** - *not too much, need materials to teach*
- **District-wide art**
- **eLearning Labs** - *consider needs of future, helps lower class size, still some hiccups - new this year - students had to wait for textbooks*
- **eLearning courses**
- **Elementary Curriculum Coordinator**
- **Elementary Band/Orchestra** - *We have general music, can we get at this through community?*
- **JROTC** - *Nice to have, similar to sports, we can't keep paying the bill, does give start to military career, military community involvement, required community service component, teaches values*
- **Secondary Curriculum Coordinator**
  
- **Extended Learning Program**
- **Instructional Technology Teachers**
- **Multi-Tiered System of Support/RTI Coordinator**

School

District Support

- **Administrative Secretaries**
- **Assistant Principals**
- **Counselors**
- **Librarians**
- **Nurses/Student Health Professionals**
  
- **Behavior Intervention Aides** - *Need support for behavioral issues*
- **Extra-curricular Activities** - *Helps with behavioral issues, focus energy*
- **School Safety Assistants**
- **SMART Program**
- **Sports/Activities** - *Incentive to do well in class, not a must have, something has to go, go to pay to play*
  
- **Activities Coordinators** - *Need to stick to the required/basics*
- **Attendance Secretaries**
- **Counseling Secretaries**
- **In School Intervention Program/Aides**
- **Library Assistants**
- **Library Associates**
- **Prevention Intervention Specialists**

School

District Support

- **Grants, Resources and Strategic Partnerships**
- **Human Resources** - *More requirements form federal government and state, benefits, contracts. Important economics - need to be able to recruit & train if/when people leave*
- **Benefits Management, Recruiting, Training and Compliance, Employee Relations, EEO**
- **Public Relations and Communications Services**
  - **Crisis communication, Media relations**
  - **Digital and print communication design, publication and distribution**
  - **Website management, support, and training**
  - **Communications support and training, Social media management**
- **Staff Technology Devices** - *need this to keep up with workforce demands - investment*
- **Student Technology Devices**
- **Technology Infrastructure**
- **Administrative Services - Must have this**
  - **Payroll, Purchasing, Accounting**
- **Information and Technology - HIPPA, FERPA, data protection**
  - **Records Management, Research and Accountability, Business Information Systems**
  - **Network and Computer Services, Student Information Systems**
  - **School Technology Support Technicians**
- **Copy paper used at schools**
- **Custodial Services** - *Need this, only clean classrooms, nothing else. Self-police offices and common areas, have kids help, can we contract any of this out - external?*
  - **Buildings, Grounds**
- **Facilities Maintenance**
  - **HVAC/Controls, Plumbing, Electronic Tech, Electrical, Carpentry, Boilers**
  - **Auto/Generator, Locks, Preventive**

11/30/16

GREEN- HIGH PRIORITY - TO KEEP  
YELLOW - NEUTRAL PRIORITY  
RED- LOW PRIORITY - CAN CUT IF NEED TO