

**Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Board Of Education
Legislative Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Legislative Committee

MINUTES

December 7, 2016

Michael O'Brien, board vice president and legislative chair, called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

Chair O'Brien 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:

Michael O'Brien, Chair & Board VP
Heidi Haas, Board President
Thomas Bartels, Board Member
Sean Rice, Board Member

Absent:

Allyson Lambert, Board Treasurer
Sharon McConnell, Board Clerk
Wendy Dominique, Board Member

Staff Present:

Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
Wendy Tisland, Executive Director of Human Resources
Helen Clark, Executive Director of Federal Programs
Sharice Walker, Director of Public Relations
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

Others:

John Ringstad

Agenda Adoption with Consent Agenda Item [0:00:39]

**1. April 4, 2016 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Asking for and hearing no objection, Motion carried.
(RICE, BARTELS, HAAS, O'BRIEN)

Public Testimony – *limited to items on the agenda only* [0:00:52]

Chair O'Brien called for public testimony. Hearing none, testimony was closed.

Legislative Priority Discussion [0:01:04]

The committee discussed priorities for the upcoming legislative session, including:

- Funding
 - Base Student Allocation, Forward Funding, Fund Education Early in the Session
- District Cost Factor
- Transportation
- Personalized Learning
- Class Size

Legislative Priority Discussion (continued)

- Technology Supports and Needs
 - Devices, Software, Bandwidth
- PRS/TRS Cost Shift
- Capital Budget & Smaller Projects
 - Barnette Magnet School
- Health Care Costs & Efficiencies
- Collective Bargaining Agreements
- Personnel/Non-Personnel Costs

The administration would develop a draft of the board's Legislative Priorities Brochure based upon the input provided by the committee for review at a future meeting.

Legislative Strategy Discussion [0:33:19]

The committee considered different legislative strategies and approaches, including:

- Thematic/Multi-Faceted Approach
 - Based on Strategic Plan – Investing in Education through Personalized Learning
- Utilizing a Lobbyist
- Board/Administration Visits with Interior Delegation in December
- House
 - Four Interior Votes in House Finance
- Senate
 - Fairbanks Strength

The administration would develop a bullet-list of talking points for board members to use in their discussions with legislators.

Lobbyist Discussion [0:47:15]

The committee discussed the pros and cons of hiring a lobbyist. Lobbyist costs were included in the 2016-17 budget at \$45,000 – which would include a base contract amount and actual travel expenses. There was consensus from the committee to hire John Ringstad as the district's lobbyist for the 2017 legislative session at the same amount as last year - \$36,000 for the base contract and actual travel expenses. The lobbyist contract would be added to the December 12 special meeting agenda for action by the school board.

Mr. Ringstad joined the discussion and provided the committee with his perspective on the upcoming legislative session, along with an overview of possible educational legislation and other bills of interest.

Committee Comments/Announcements [1:15:57]

Mr. Ringstad would schedule meetings with Interior Delegation members during the month of December to meet with Dr. Gaborik, Mrs. Pearce, Mr. O'Brien, and Mrs. Haas. Board members, the administration, and Mr. Ringstad would work on upcoming dates for Juneau visits to meet with legislators.

The 2017 30th Legislature, 90-day legislative session was scheduled for January 17 – April 17, 2017.

The committee meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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