President Haas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The Nordale Elementary School Advanced Band led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the school board under the direction of Sunnifa Deehr, orchestra director.

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
Michael O’Brien, Vice President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Sharon McConnell, Clerk
Sean Williams, Post Representative
Eryn Tanner, Student Representative

Absent:
Thomas Bartels, Member
Wendy Dominique, Member
Sean Rice, Member
Richard Cole, Base Representative

Staff Present:
Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Shaun Kraska, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Wendy Tisland, Executive Director of Human Resources
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
Melanie Hadaway, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning Support
Helen Clark, Executive Director of Federal Programs
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Tim Larrabee, Director of Business Information Services
Dan Domke, Director of Career and Technical Education
Holly Cervin, Director of Personalized Learning
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

Preliminary Items

2016 ASAA/First National Bank Alaska 4A & Girls Wrestling State Champions

Five district wrestlers captured state titles in the 2016 ASAA/First National Bank Alaska 4A & Girls Wrestling State Championships held in December. Junior Lambert, North Pole High School coach, made the presentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Weight Class Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kailey Fowlkes</td>
<td>North Pole High</td>
<td>106-pound Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raeann Jackson</td>
<td>North Pole High</td>
<td>113-pound Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westley Bockert</td>
<td>Lathrop High</td>
<td>138-pound Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradley Antesberger</td>
<td>North Pole High</td>
<td>195-pound Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ji Jeong</td>
<td>Lathrop High</td>
<td>285-pound Boys</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Alaska School Counselor Association 2016 Alaska School Counselor of the Year
Samantha McMorrow, Badger Road Elementary School counselor, was selected as the Alaska School Counselor Association 2016 Alaska School Counselor of the Year. Joanne Vanfleteren, Badger Road Elementary School principal, made the presentation.

Spotlight: Nordale Elementary School
Brian Powell, Nordale Elementary School principal, provided a spotlight on Nordale Elementary School, including a collection of photos highlighting several of the school’s great programs. Nordale currently had 362 students in grades pre-k through sixth grade, with a 94 percent attendance rate. Approximately 100 students were military associated families. The 24 certified staff members averaged 17 years of experience with 72 percent holding master degrees; the 20 support staff members averaged 14.5 years of experience in instructional support.

Nordale Elementary School was a very generational school, with grandchildren of previous students in attendance. The school was in its third year of housing an FNA Head Start 3-5 year old combo class. Mr. Powell was very proud of the school and its many programs and offerings, such as its after school program, the school’s utilization of the CHAMPS program, its Alaska Native Education program, and its family nights. He was especially proud of Nordale’s recognition and celebration of its culturally rich diverse student population.

Board Questions/Comments
Board members enjoyed hearing about Nordale and thanked Mr. Powell for the spotlight on the school.

Agenda
O’BRIEN MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS.

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the Monthly Management Reports through the month ended December 2016.

approved the minutes from the special meetings on December 5 & 12, 2016 and January 3, 2017; the work session on December 5, 2016; and the regular meeting on December 6, 2016, as submitted.

awarded IFB 17-R0006 for the purchase of Classroom Paper to Staples Advantage for $100,926.24.

approved Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School’s request to raise funds to send students to Scotland and Ireland, March 9-20, 2018, where students will visit historical and cultural sites, at no cost to the district, and if the State Department issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

approved North Pole High School’s request to raise funds to send seven Key Club students and two chaperones to Portland, Oregon, March 30 – April 2, 2017, where students will participate in the Northwest District Key Club Convention, at no cost to the district, and if Homeland Security issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

accepted the gift of $1,000 from the Elks Lodge B.P.O.E. No. 1551 to Anne Wien Elementary School to support the school’s swim program.

accepted the gift of $2,900 from the Anne Wien Elementary PTA to Anne Wien Elementary School to pay for classroom field trips.
Consent Agenda (continued)

accepted the gift of $1,000 from the Eielson Officers Spouses Club to Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School to support the school’s Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) program.

accepted the gift of $5,000 from ATI Physical Therapy to Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School to support an athletic trainer for the school.

accepted the gift of $1,000 from W. WM. Andrew Cox and Jacqueline Cox to Hutchison High School to support the class of 2020.

accepted the gift of $1,000 from Samson Electric, Inc. to Hutchison High School to support the school’s boys’ basketball program.

accepted the gift of $3,933.73 from the Fairbanks Tennis Association to Lathrop High School to offset the school’s tennis team expenses to the state tournament.

accepted the gift of $21,741.50 from the Lathrop High School Wrestling Booster Club to Lathrop High School to support the school’s wrestling program.


acknowledged the Superintendent’s Budget Transfer Report for the period November 16 – December 31, 2016.

acknowledged the Long Term Suspension & Expulsion Report for the 2016-17 school year, as of January 9, 2017.

acknowledged the Board’s Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES: WILLIAMS, TANNER
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.
4 AYES: MCCONNELL, LAMBERT, O’BRIEN, HAAS

Public Comment on Nonagenda Items [0:33:48]
Richard Theilmann, 658 Fairbanks Street, spoke to the reduction of qualifications for substitute teachers. Mr. Thielmann’s roommate was a substitute teacher and neither of them had seen evidence of positions going unfilled, which was a justification for the reduction. What they had noticed was an increase in three-hour job assignments. The higher number of short-term jobs and reduced qualifications made it seem like the district was looking for babysitters rather than teachers. Students deserved capable people to teach them and reducing the standards to allow people who did not know how to hold a class together was a disservice to students.

Superintendent Report [0:36:28]
Core Value/Goal: Effective Communication: Establish transparent and consistent communication to increase student, parent, staff, and community connectedness with the district.
Superintendent Report (continued)

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik reported on:

- **District Digest**: a new communication tool which would be distributed each Monday, to help consolidate communications into one venue.
- **Video Streaming**: regular school board meetings were now being video streamed live.
- **Upcoming Events**:
  - ESSA Tribal Consult, January 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the board room
  - ESSA Stakeholder Meeting, January 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the board room
  - Board Work Session with Education Elements, January 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the board room
  - Community Event with Education Elements, January 26 at 5:30 p.m. at West Valley High School
  - TCC Mid-Year Summit – ESSA, January 26 & 27, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall
- **Administrator Hiring**: the hiring process for several administrator positions started this week.
- **District Health Care Costs**: approximately 40 percent of participants opted for the higher deductible health plan, which exceeded the administration’s projection of 15 percent.

Board Questions/Comments
None

Old Business

Reconsideration of Approval of Sexual Education Supplemental Materials & Presenters

At the October 18, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting, sexual education materials were presented for approval, as required under HB 156. At that time, the administration recommendation was upheld with the exception of three websites which were not approved. The administration requested reconsideration of the following three websites for approval for use by high school teachers and staff:

1. [www.plannedparenthood.org/learn](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn)
2. [www.loveisrespect.org/](http://www.loveisrespect.org/)
3. [www.tolerance.org/](http://www.tolerance.org/)

The request for reconsideration was based upon the feedback provided around these websites and the need for high school teachers to have access to current, reliable information.

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

LAMBERT MOVED, MCCONNELL SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE PLANNEDPARENTHOOD .ORG/LEARN; LOVEISRESPECT.ORG; AND TOLERANCE.ORG WEBSITES FOR USE AS SEXUAL EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.

Before President Haas opened up public testimony she reminded everyone the listening audience could be very young and asked that everyone be mindful of the sensitive subject matter.
Reconsideration of Approval of Sexual Education Supplemental Materials & Presenters (continued)

Public Comments
Sue Hull, 1630 Washington Drive, previous school board member, spoke against the reconsideration of the three websites. Mrs. Hull had sent a letter and email to the board in opposition of the approval of the websites. She asked audience members in attendance to stand if they also opposed the motion. [Clerk’s note: a majority of the audience stood.] Mrs. Hull thought there were two issues – process and content. She agreed with the board’s need to approve sexual education supplemental materials, but believed it was nearly impossible to approve an entire website. She recalled the district had instructed teachers to submit pages from websites, not entire websites. She did not believe even pages were needed, but rather the materials teachers wanted to use, which the board could then approve and which would honor the curriculum vetting process. Mrs. Hull believed most people objected to the content of the PlannedParenthood.org website. She had reviewed the content of all three sites and did not object to the other two websites. The PlannedParenthood.org website had very explicit instruction that Mrs. Hull believed parents would find offensive. The content went well beyond the district’s curriculum and hence why she believed the board should reject the motion. Mrs. Hull encouraged the board to delay the approval of the PlannedParenthood.org website and ask teachers to submit specific materials for approval, or reject it and begin again to get specific materials approved rather than full websites.

Lisa Slayton, 2289 Cordes Way, retired teacher, thanked the board for bringing the websites back for reconsideration, it was vitally important. After reading the comments on the front page of the newspaper, she felt the need to not only speak in defense of the three websites, but also the district’s teachers. Ms. Slayton had three points to make. First, in defense of teachers, the materials Mrs. Hull’s letter referenced, made it seem teachers should not be trusted to use their professional judgement to utilize only approved materials from the websites. Teachers were professionals and deserved to be treated as such. Secondly, there was a quote from the paper regarding the webwriters from the websites having a blank check to write whatever they wanted. Ms. Slayton stated that statement was not true; the sites were highly vetted and widely used. The websites had been in existence for decades and used in the school district for decades – she knew, she helped to teach some of the inservice presentations when she taught in the district. The final point was the legislation which required the board approve the websites – HB 156. Ms. Slayton learned earlier in the day that sections of HB 156 were being considered for repeal and for good reason. Ms. Slayton urged the board to respect teachers and to make good, free, vetted information available.

Stefani Borrego, 2920 Riverview Drive, parent and health teacher, questioned why the websites were back before the board when at the last board meeting she attended, the board decided general websites would not be approved and teachers had to submit specific pages from websites for approval. Ms. Borrego did not support the PlannedParenthood.org website. There was a lot of highly controversial information that was not part of the district’s curriculum. She did not want to have to defend the website to parents. She absolutely agreed that teachers should be following the curriculum, but if teachers were given a list of approved sites, they would take the freedom to teach information off the site, especially if they were new hires and/or had not heard about the board’s approval process. Ms. Borrego was specifically opposed to some of the content on the website. She felt it promoted teen sexual activity. She was concerned students would feel they were not normal or healthy if they were not participating in some sexual activity – which was not the message she wanted sent to youth. Ms. Borrego was concerned people would pull their children out of health class; she would pull her children out of health class if that was the message being taught in health class. She thought approving the website was undermining the curriculum process. There was so much material outside the district’s curriculum on the website, it had to be page specific approved. A general approval of the website was not a good idea. Ms. Borrego encourage the board to reject the item.
Mrs. Lambert asked Ms. Borrego, as a health teacher, how burdensome it was to print the individual pages from the website that she would like to use in the classroom. Ms. Borrego stated it was incredibly burdensome in the beginning when the board was first approving the sexual education supplemental materials. But now that the bulk of the material had been approved, she did not think it would be that burdensome, but it would be time consuming in having to wait to have the board approve the materials. A teacher would need to plan ahead.

President Haas asked Ms. Borrego if she opposed the other two websites. Ms. Borrego was not opposed to the other two websites due to the content, but because approving full websites was not the process the board had originally used.

President Haas noted there were two websites the board did approve in their entirety at the October board meeting, which was part of the reason for bringing the three websites back before the board. There were board members who were not aware there were five full websites, not three in the original approval.

In answer to Ms. Borrego’s first question about why the item was before the board again, President Haas explained that because not all the information was presented to the board at the October meeting so the board could make a good sound decision and because of public comment the board had received, the matter was back before the board.

Ms. Borrego stated she did not have a problem with the other two websites, but PlannedParenthood.org was offensive to her.

Sonna Schuttner, 2880 Alderberry Trail, parent, spoke in support of the websites. She was concerned the websites would be restricted. Ms. Schuttner had spoken to a health teacher at West Valley High School. The curriculum was 10 years old – things were a lot different now than they were 10 years ago. The health teacher could not know ahead of time what questions students would ask. Loveisrespect.org was about healthy relationships. If a health teacher suspected one of their students could be involved in a volatile relationship and did not have access to curriculum to help them or have a place to send them – that was concerning to her. Ms. Schuttner wondered what it said about the district if it restricted access to tolerance.org. She wanted her children to be part of a school district that was tolerant. When her son came home with some questions, she knew to go to tolerance.org for assistance because of it being in the news. Ms. Schuttner would appreciate the board approving the two websites. In regards to PlannedParenthood.org, she trusted the teachers to make the right decisions. PlannedParenthood.org was about how the human body worked. High school students had questions about all kinds of things and she wanted district teachers to have access to all the materials they could possibly use. As a previously and current homeschool parent, Ms. Schuttner understood the hesitancy in turning over instruction from a parent to a teacher, but parents could always remove their students from the class. She trusted her family’s values were strong – they were a healthy strong family and she knew that no matter what her child encountered in the school setting, it would make the family stronger. Ms. Schuttner trusted district teachers and would hate to see access to the websites restricted.

Rick Solie, 1639 Madison Drive, previous district graduate along with his children, was very disturbed by the content being proposed by the school board. Mr. Solie believed the board should vote down the motion. He primarily objected to the PlannedParenthood.org website. He believed it was wrong and illogical to approve – it was ill-advised. Mr. Solie felt it was wrong because it was sending the wrong message to students. The website had disturbing content – his wife had called it pornographic. The board had set out a process for approval, but was now not following that process. He didn’t understand that – the board was sending mixed messages. It was not
Reconsideration of Approval of Sexual Education Supplemental Materials & Presenters (continued)

about the teachers, there were many great teachers. It was illogical for the board not to follow its process. It seemed the board was creating a situation that was at odds with its goals. The content should be approved by the board, not just the general websites. Mr. Solie thought the approval of the websites seemed ill-advised. By approving the PlannedParenthood.org website, the board would start a fire-storm of controversy and disunity in the community. It seemed the board would want to encourage and strengthen the relationships with community members and create a relationship amongst people who were part of a support group. The board surely did not want to minimize that, but rather expand it. He thought the board would want less controversy around school curriculum and more friends, than more controversy and less friends. Mr. Solie looked at HB 156 and it was clear to him that part of the reason for the legislation was for the very issue currently before the board. The website was disturbing and approving it violated the board’s process; it was ill-advised. He encouraged the board to rethink the item, especially as it related to the PlannedParenthood.org website.

Sheridan Heinrichs, 2919 Seavy Drive, had worked professionally as an advocate and interpreter in the community for the past 10 years with different social and legal organizations. Ms. Heinrichs worked in conjunction with the Alaska Institute for Justice and the Interior Center for Non-Violent Living. Throughout her 10 years, she had pulled young children from porn rings, rescued people from human trafficking, and rescued young girls who were going to be beaten and forced to abort because they were victims of sex trafficking. Ms. Heinrichs could speak from her professional experiences, the material on the websites preached a pinhole perspective. In education, there was a spectrum, and a middle ground should be found on the spectrum. Organizations such as Planned Parenthood were on one side of the spectrum – not once did they mention anything on abstinence on their website. She could not find any source citations for the things the website taught. In looking at other websites, they were thorough regarding sexual subjects, teen pregnancy, dropout rates, etc. PlannedParenthood.org did not cover any of the emotional, mental, or social distress that occurred when intimacy happened. Ms. Heinrichs cited a Supreme Court ruling recognizing the private realm of family life which the state could not enter. She felt the websites were teaching moral codes. There should be a separation of state and religion. PlannedParenthood.org preached their own religion and abstinence was not a single aspect of it. In working with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, Ms. Heinrichs had seen the travesty. She had seen firsthand what occurred when people did not understand sex, intimacy, or healthy relationships. One of her deepest concerns with the PlannedParenthood.org website was the very “me, me, me” mentality. It spoke of self-gratification – it did not address any statistical level of the negative reality that could occur with addictions to pornography and sexual activities. Ms. Heinrichs thought the website was extremely exploitive and problematic.

Katlian Stark, 1510 Jennifer Drive, previous student, firmly agreed that all three websites should be added back as supplemental material for high school students. Sexual education was a huge issue in Fairbanks and the supplemental materials should not be taken lightly. Ms. Stark appreciated the issue was being taken seriously – it was a serious issue. Teen pregnancy rates in Alaska were higher than the national average. Childhood sexual assault was six times the national average in Alaska. Reported rapes were the highest in the country. Alaska had a lot of issues and it was not the time to limit access to information. High School was the time when students were moving into adulthood and learning to take care of themselves. Ms. Stark felt that as parents and community members, people should be supporting high schoolers’ move into adulthood by accessing more information and learning what they needed to do as adults. She had looked at the PlannedParenthood.org website earlier in the day. After reading the news article where Mrs. Hull mentioned the descriptions being graphic – she had found that was not her impression at all. The website represented facts; it did not sensualize things – but it also did not
Reconsideration of Approval of Sexual Education Supplemental Materials & Presenters (continued)

sugar-coat information. Planned Parenthood was the largest provider of reproductive healthcare in the nation and had just celebrated their 100th anniversary. The organization had taken care of thousands of people in all kinds of situations across the country. The organization was always under scrutiny and always in the news. They knew their facts and figures and it was not a blank check. Sexual education was important, especially in a state with so many issues. Limiting teens' access to accurate information did not empower them to make informed decisions as high schoolers and future adults. Limiting access was not taking issues seriously. Ms. Stark felt taking information away from people was not letting them figure out what was out there and make decisions as the adults people wanted them to be. She did not agree with Mrs. Hull in a lot of respects, but did agree with her statement that avoiding controversy was not always the right thing to do.

Scott Goddard, 5122 Chilkoot Drive, spoke in opposition to the proposed supplemental materials. Mr. Goddard thought both sides of the issue could agree that sexual intimacy was an important topic around which there existed a great amount of confusion and misinformation. HB 156 was passed to be certain inappropriate information did not get to students. The bill allowed the board and parents to more reliably filter and control what information got to students at school. Mr. Goddard stated sexual intimacy was a special topic; it was not the same as history or physical education and it deserved special guidelines to determine what was taught in schools. He had checked the number of pages under the PlannedParenthood.org domain and had found approximately 38,000 pages. The district's proposal to have the entire site approved created an impossible burden on the board and parents to responsibly review the materials. Mr. Goddard said the approval of approximately 38,000 pages of a website of a controversial organization seemed very irresponsible. He taught statistics and spent a lot of time teaching the difference between factual scientific claims and things which were not factual and not scientific. He stated the information on the PlannedParenthood.org website did not contain factual or scientific content, which would make it an opinion. The opinions should not be used as resources in the classroom. Mr. Goddard encouraged teachers to use scientific factual materials which could be vetted through the curriculum approval process. The supplemental materials should be scientific and not opinions. He urged the board to reject the proposal.

Mrs. Lambert asked Mr. Goddard if he had checked on the number of pages of the other two websites. Mr. Goddard had found tolerance.org had approximately 72,000 pages and loveisrespect.org had approximately 2,000 pages.

Lily Cohen, 2649 Goldhill Road, clarified something that had been stated earlier. Ms. Cohen read directly from the PlannedParenthood.org website where it directly spoke about abstinence. She was confused why people were stating PlannedParenthood.org did not include information about abstinence. Ms. Cohen loved living in Fairbanks and was thinking about raising a family here, but if the school district started restricting available resources for teachers to use in teaching very important lessons, she wondered if this would be the right school district for her children. Ms. Cohen supported all three websites and believed they would be useful tools for teachers, who she trusted to find useful information. Teachers needed access to as many resources and tools as possible. When resources and information was limited, it would only hurt the students and Fairbanks. She supported the board approving all three websites.

Jeff Walters, 2454 Killarney Way, spoke in support of the school board approving all three websites. Mr. Walters believed there were two issues. First was the process in general. HB 156 was controversial and Governor Walker had let it pass without his signature. As controversial as health and sexual education were, there were other disciplines that had controversial topics such as history, social studies, and government classes. The fact that this subject was singled out
Reconsideration of Approval of Sexual Education Supplemental Materials & Presenters (continued)

seemed to be speak of censorship – which was a concern. Mr. Walters understood the board was following the process outlined in HB 156. As a retired district teacher and counselor, he knew teachers were professionals who taught a curriculum. Health teachers were not being handed the websites to teach. Teachers had to teach to the curriculum and the teachers deserved to be respected to teach it effectively. If something did not go right, there were mechanisms for feedback, evaluations, and many other options in place to ensure teachers were following the curriculum and doing their job. He suggested the board offer the teachers the respect they deserved. Mr. Walters recognized Planned Parenthood was a lightning rod for many people, but there were also two other websites, both which were wonderful. Teaching tolerance was all about getting along and teaching tolerance. Mr. Walters encouraged the board to approve all three websites. As a counselor, he would have hated to think the resources would be limited to him and teachers in general which would help students.

Melanie Haws, 2511 Riverview Drive, a parent and district staff member, was against Planned Parenthood. As a parent, Ms. Haws would be very upset if material found on the PlannedParenthood.org website was taught to her child. She was very disturbed by the content on the website. The section Mrs. Hull spoke about was very demeaning and against family values. Ms. Haws opposed the motion and was against Planned Parenthood.

Shawn Lowry, 2358 Keeney Road, a concerned parent, spoke against the adoption of the supplemental materials. Mr. Lowry homeschooled his children for most of their education because of a local and national agenda which was contrary to his personal beliefs. He felt the primary role of education laid with the parents – who were children’s first teachers. Mr. Lowry believed teachers were professionals; he had a brother who worked for the Anchorage School District. He was not opposed to teachers or public education, but he did have a problem when a professional wanted to put their personal bias, opinion, and agenda into the education of his children. No one knew his children better than he and his wife – they knew what was best for their children. It was his job as a parent, role model, and mentor to get to the bottom of what was going on in their lives. Mr. Lowry stated it was not the responsibility of public education to determine what was okay sexually for his children. Kids did not need a green-light to be promiscuous, which was exactly what the websites were doing. Basic sex education was one thing, but a how-to manual, based on someone’s opinion that was written or influenced by someone with a different personal agenda was not an acceptable answer in a public domain. Sex, by its natural function, was designed for procreation, pleasure was just a byproduct. There was nothing new about sex, but there were many new perversions on the act that many in the name of tolerance preached were acceptable, when in fact, to the majority of Americans they were not. The websites had no place in the public education curriculum.

Cam Carlson, 1597 Wolverine Lane, previous board member, asked the board to think very hard if there was another subject area that created human beings. Ms. Carlson did not feel the PlannedParenthood.org website was education. In regards to sex education, the basic human body had not changed for a long time. All that was needed for people to be safe with their bodies was to provide a basic anatomy class and a good course on sexually transmitted diseases – all the rest of the information was just social engineering and forming habits. Ms. Carlson asked whose authority was it to decide for the teens in the community what habits they would have or to decide how low they would go. She was appalled by the material she read on the PlannedParenthood.org website. She looked up the definition of pornography and it fit the material on the website. Did the board and community want pornography in the schools? Ms. Carlson found it interesting that other board policies on the agenda for consideration were being revised to be certain content was free of explicit sexual content and obscene language and she did not know how the Planned Parenthood.org website could fall under that category. She thought the
Reconsideration of Approval of Sexual Education Supplemental Materials & Presenters
(continued)

board was setting up a very slippery slope if they adopted the websites. Websites changed with
the click of a button and there was no way to tell what would be on them in the future. Accidents
caused people. Some of the people didn’t have much chance in life. Planned Parenthood would
take care of them at one to two weeks of age and they would be gone. Others might come to full
term and born, but what life would they have to face – a teenage mother, maybe two parents, but
more often than not, it was left to the mother to raise the child alone. Ms. Carlson thought the
board should be very careful about the materials made available to schools.

Caden Wassmann, 251 His Majesty’s Avenue, a district student, was more than aware of the
activity that took place within the student body. Some students needed more information and
knowledge on the topic of sex. Regarding PlannedParenthood.org, teachers did not have to teach
the content that was on the website, but weed-out the content unsuitable for a teaching
environment and find the useful information that could be beneficial and important to teach
students. Mr. Wassmann stated sexual education was something that needed to be taught; safe
sex needed to be taught. He believed abstinence was no longer realistic and safe sex was a better
approach for students. Limiting resources for students who needed more information could be
crucial.

Nikki Eiseman, 3819 Old Nenana Highway, a retired teacher and librarian and parent, recalled a
controversy in the early 1990’s regarding the Reflections literacy series. The current topic seemed
very similar to her. With the Reflections series, she exaggerated a little by saying people could
turn the book upside down, stand on their head, and there might be a picture of the devil on the
page, but it felt very similar to the current topic. Ms. Eiseman supported all three websites. The
tolerance.org website had been used in the district for many years by many staff members. She
thought someone had to dig really hard to find the information presented through the evening in
regards to the PlannedParenthood.org website. What she had found was lovely. Ms. Eiseman
reviewed the educator’s link and the first thing she found was a statement that, “Planned
Parenthood believed parents and guardians should be the primary sexuality educators of their
children, but as with other complex issues, many parents needed support, resources, and
expertise from schools and other organizations. It was important that young people received age-
appropriate sexual education information and develop practical skills for keeping healthy.
Educators could help families by providing culturally meaningful learning opportunities in a safe
and non-judgmental environment, so young people could learn about sexuality in a positive and
healthy context.” Ms. Eiseman thought most people were familiar with abstinence program studies
which showed that abstinence only programs resulted in more unplanned pregnancies than
school districts that provided a more complete sexuality education. Ms. Eiseman shared a story
about a previous young mother student. She believed if the young woman had had more
information on sexual education, she would have put off motherhood for several years.
Ms. Eiseman trusted the teachers to wisely use the information.

Samantha Savage, 2515 Maria Street, voiced her strong support for the three websites.
Ms. Savage had originally come to speak to all three websites, but since the main issue seemed
to the PlannedParenthood.org website, she spoke to it. She had reviewed the website in detail
and it was an excellent resource for medically accurate information. She trusted the teachers
would use their best judgment for all supplemental materials for their classroom. Ms. Savage
stated Alaska, in general, was almost always high in STIs, including chlamydia, and Fairbanks
was no different. Young people today were less likely to engage in early sexual activity than their
parent’s generation and those who did, were more likely to use birth control than their parent’s
generation – which was due to comprehensive and medically accurate information. Ms. Savage
had been very disappointed the Loveisrespect.org website was not originally approved. She
stated that 50 out of every 100 women in Alaska surveyed in 2015 were a victim of sexual
violence, intimate partner violence, or both in their lifetime. The numbers were an improvement from when the survey was first done. Ms. Savage believed work should be done to increase resources to decrease the numbers even more. In regards to the tolerance.org website, she was disturbed to be living in a community that did not value tolerance. Her grandmother was a survivor of a concentration camp – many of her relatives were not. Ms. Savage hoped the board would approve the three websites.

Jen Delamere, 2420 Locksley Court, loved local, state, and national politics. When HB 156 passed last year she knew it would be a real challenge for the school board. With two children in the district, Ms. Delamere felt it was important to come forward to support teachers if they were asking for particular websites. She also reviewed all three websites and voiced her approval for all three sites. She realized Planned Parenthood was an issue. Her son had come home with supplemental material last year from the website and she reviewed the material with her children. Ms. Delamere thought the materials were great and informative. She was impressed with the presentation of material. She supported the three websites and hoped the board would approve the sites.

Marcy Nadel, 5055 Palo Verde Avenue, stated Loveisrespect.org included articles and other resources that discussed healthy relationships, equitable communication within relationships, and preventing abuse. The PlannedParenthood.org website also included resources in identifying emotional and physical abuse and how to get help for unhealthy relationships. According to a 2011 survey, more than one-third of Alaska women reported they had been the victims of sexual assault – rape and sexual assault often went unreported. In a state with some of the highest incidences of rape and abuse in the nation, it was incredibly important that healthy relationships be discussed in schools. Teachers needed access to more information, not less. On behalf of all current, former, and future Fairbanks North Star Borough students, Ms. Nadel urged the board to approve the motion which include all three websites.

Susan Young, 3240 Hillary Avenue, did not support the approval of the websites, specifically the PlannedParenthood.org website. There were many things Ms. Young found alarming. She did have respect for teachers and knew they would use their best judgment, however, everyone had different levels of what was acceptable. What was okay with her might be different for someone else. Ms. Young’s son was 13 and his friends asked why he didn’t watch Game of Thrones. The show had sex and nudity, which her 13 year old son was not emotionally prepared to hear such things or even understand it. She had spoken with her son about sex and its purpose – she had very open and good communications with all four of her children. Ms. Young thought what was okay with the families watching Game of Thrones would be extremely different what was okay with her. She did not believe even adults should be watching the show – it was pornography. Ms. Young did not think it was right for children to be taught about pleasure – they already knew about sex – they did not need to have open instructions from teachers. Although she wasn’t certain if a teacher would use that information, it was part of the domain. She did not feel a public school district should be teaching sex acts. Ms. Young did not think someone else’s okay would be the same that she would want to be okay for her family. She thought abstinence was possible. It worked for her and she thought it could work for a lot of other people. She was teaching her children to be self-controlled. She was teaching her children they were not animals that had instincts they had to crave and act upon. Humans had the ability to think and not act like animals – the ability to use self-control. Ms. Young did not think teaching children about self pleasures was teaching them to have self-control – that wasn’t the way it was in the world – you didn’t get whatever you wanted. Ms. Young did not approve of the motion.
At 8:44 p.m. President Haas noted the one hour testimony limit had been reached. She asked for the number of additional people interested in testifying – approximately ten people were noted.

O’BRIEN MOVED, MCCONNELL SECONDED TO CONTINUE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR 30 MINUTES AND LIMIT TESTIMONY TO TWO MINUTES EACH.

Asking for and hearing no objection, President Haas continued public testimony to 9:15 p.m.

Due to the length of the meeting and the need to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. due to a board member needing to leave and the board losing its quorum, President Haas asked the administration to decide which action items could be postponed to the next meeting – February 7, 2017. The board could then move to postpone after the current item.

Suzanna Kennedy, 4534 Woodriver Drive, spoke against the approval of the websites, specifically PlannedParenthood.org, for all the reasons other testifiers had mentioned. Ms. Kennedy did not think the high rates of rape in Alaska were due to the sex education taught by teachers. Rape was an issue, but it wasn’t because of the sex education courses. She noted the health teachers who testified had been against the websites, especially PlannedParenthood.org, which should say something. Ms. Kennedy was a parent with children in the district. She did not think trust and respect for teachers were the issues. She was thinking about her children. She loved teachers and they needed to be supported. Teachers should not have to weed out the inappropriate material. Ms. Kennedy believed PlannedParenthood.org encompassed a lot of opinions. Planned Parenthood was controversial and she asked the board to keep that in mind. The current curriculum taught safe sex, not just abstinence. Ms. Kennedy asked the board to go back to their process – forget the websites. She thought specific pages should be approved rather than entire websites.

Brevan Damm, 1495 Whistling Swan Drive, appreciated the board taking public comment on the issue. Alaska ranked high in the nation for sexually transmitted infections, teen pregnancies, and child sexual assault, and reported rapes were the highest in the United States. One of the best ways the community could address the awful statistics was through education. Educators should be encouraged to use comprehensive, current, and well-researched sexual education curricula and resources, including lessons about consent, gender norms, healthy relationships, and empowerment. Lessons on the subjects and other well-researched sexual education programs from organizations like Planned Parenthood, could reduce incidences of sexual violence. The three websites under consideration were excellent resources for teachers. A scientist by training, she loved to research when it came to decision making. There was a plethora of research that showed the benefit to community health with comprehensive education about sex and sexuality beginning at an early age. Instead of restricting teachers, they should be encouraged to use resources with accurate and current information. Resources like Planned Parenthood.org helped youth have the information they needed to feel empowered and comfortable communicating about their bodies and making healthy decisions. As someone who was affected by sexual violence when she was a teenager, she very much wished she had had resources such as Loveisrespect.org. She asked the board to approve the three websites and not put the education of teens at risk. Young people had the right to have trustworthy and candid information on the subject of sexual development. She supported the three websites.

John Heinrichs, 2919 Seavy Drive, opposed the content in the PlannedParenthood.org website. The board had a process and should materials be needed to educate children, it should be
brought before the board for approval. Mr. Heinrichs recalled his health classes from high school – they were well thought out and presented. He knew what sex and abstinence was and what protection was available and how to get it. He thought limiting education to those subjects in the public school curriculum was all that was needed. Mr. Heinrichs thought morals and values were subjects to be taught at home. He agreed with Mr. Lowry about parents being the primary educator for their children. Morals and values did not need to be instituted into school health curriculums. Mr. Heinrichs urged the board not to include the websites to the curriculum.

Derek Averett, 490 Kelsey Park Road, previous district student, recalled taking sex education in high school. Not much had changed regarding the human anatomy. While there might be some different social aspects, he did not buy into the line of thinking that things were changing so fast that people could not keep up with the changing times. Mr. Averett thought the materials needed to be reviewed before they were approved. He was against approving the websites, specifically the PlannedParenthood.org website. It seemed to be slanted and promoted certain sexual behaviors as healthy and normal. It was not something that needed to be part of schools. Mr. Averett urged the board not to approve the websites.

Jane Peppy, 1763 Iniakuk Avenue, spoke on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community. Ms. Peppy was an educator and felt strongly about the approval of the websites, especially the PlannedParenthood.org website. Teachers helped teens actualize to become adults. Teachers wanted students to form their identities as respectful, informed, and safe individuals. Sexuality was part of the human identity. Planned Parenthood was a source for people who did not only view sexuality as procreative. It stemmed from a Judeo-Christian tradition that could often exclude LGBTQ+ students who were at a higher risk for depression and suicide. Planned Parenthood was a wonderful resource for this group of students, and for teachers who might not be particularly well-versed or understand the needs for this community of students. Ms. Peppy urged the board to approve the websites with the students in mind.

Rose Hewitt, 2300 Black Spruce Court, previous district student, spoke in support of the three websites. A product of the school district, she hoped the district could provide the best tools to educators. History showed you could not do enough to stay on the forefront of sexuality education – it was a continual catchup to recognize and respect the depths of diversity and unfortunately, the reality of ongoing violence. Fairbanks had a unique and diverse population that should be embraced as a strength. The board’s mission was to provide an excellent, equitable, education in a safe supportive environment so all students would succeed and contribute to a diverse and changing society. The words guided the board to embrace differences and be responsive to change, celebrate diversity, and be nimble as times changed to provide students with the best possible education. Sadly, the state was also home to statistics not worthy of celebration. As the board had already heard, Alaska rated high with rates of STDs, incidents of child sexual assault, and had an alarming rate of rape and intimate partner violence. Ms. Hewitt thought the curriculum seemed dated and not thorough enough. The district was doing the students a disservice if they did not provide the information young people wanted, answered the questions they asked, and addressed the anxieties they were dealing with in their daily lives. It was necessary to provide educators with resources that could cover the topics, reach the students where they were, and provide them with additional tools to research uncomfortable topics they might not be able to discuss openly. With regards to the way sexual education had changed over the past 10 years since Ms. Hewitt was in school, the topics of texting, sexting, mind bullying, shaming, transgender issues, gay marriages – were all ways society had changed. The district needed to be responsive to some of the topics within the education system.
Reconsideration of Approval of Sexual Education Supplemental Materials & Presenters (continued)

Kimberly Lowry, 2358 Keeney Road, urged the board not to approve the websites. Ms. Lowry felt there was far too much material on the websites to accurately know what they contained. There were thousands of pages on each of the websites. She did not agree with the material on the PlannedParenthood.org website. If there were teachers and educators who believed there were materials beneficial on the websites and followed the district’s curriculum, they could follow the standards already set forth through the district to submit the pages to the board for approval, so parents would know what was being taught to their children. The board had urged the audience to urge discretion regarding the topics; Ms. Lowry thought if the websites were approved, the material would be openly discussed in classrooms without parents knowing what was being taught and discussed. Discretion needed to be used in the classroom. If people thought the websites were okay and had beneficial information, that was fine, they could use them at home for their children, but Ms. Lowry did not want the things she did not agree with taught to her family. She urged the board to not approve the websites.

Reverend Leslie Fails, 289 Rainbow Ridge Road, Youth Fairbanks minister, honored the diversity of deeply held religious beliefs in the board room and all the emotions. The agenda topic was a lightning rod. During testimony she heard comments and recognized how deeply held peoples’ beliefs were and how painful it could be to think about sexual education for children. Reverend Fails honored all the feelings and beliefs in the room. Prior to becoming a parish minister, she served as an emergency room chaplain at a major university medical center. She had been called to offer spiritual support and counsel to women from many walks of life and different faith backgrounds in the immediate aftermath of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. She could not count how many times she had been the first person to tell some women they did not have to stay in an abusive relationship and it was not okay for the way they were being treated. For those reasons, Reverend Fails supported the approval of the materials. Many of the pages available on the websites offered teachers the resources needed to have the complicated conversations with students who might be in difficult relationships or in danger. Speaking on behalf of those who were unable to be present or felt it was not safe to speak, it was part of her job as a minister to speak in support of the resources. There had been a number of statements made that suggested transgender and queer youth were somewhat of a hypothetical or not in need of teachers who could help them deal with what they were dealing with – they were here and part of our lives and community. Reverend Fails was grateful for the students and teachers and wanted to arm them the best she could to support students.

Courtney Wappett, 335 Bias Drive, district parent, appreciated the education her students were receiving and was confident about the teachers they had and what they were being taught. Ms. Wappett believed the curriculum was effective and well-rounded – it was not outdated. It was appropriate for the times and the district had excellent teachers. The issue before the board was their responsibility to approve all supplemental materials. The objective was not to decide whose values were appropriate or correct, but rather what aligned with the district’s curriculum. The district had to respect the diversity of sexual values in the community and not violate a parent’s trust and go beyond the designated school curriculum. Ms. Wappett hoped the board would take their responsibility seriously. She urged the board to either postpone their decision until teachers submitted their specific material or reject the motion in its entirety. She thought the district’s current curriculum served students well.

Julia Eames, 400 Slater Drive, felt the discussion was not just about values, but a discussion about a process. Web content was always changing and no one had the time to keep up with that much information. The real question was what the board would do with websites. Ms. Eames thought the real question was what would be done with the information. She thought there needed to be a more finite ability to look over the material, so people could know whether they supported
it or not. Fairbanks had an incredibly diverse population with values on all different ends of the spectrum. Ms. Eames hoped everyone respected and tolerated each other, but to do that, everyone needed to be informed of what was being taught. Most agreed sexual education was important, but there would always be disagreement on how it was taught. She thought it might be better to talk about finding support for teachers with their lessons. She also suggested having teachers provide websites and information to parents for them to discuss with their children – it would be a way to meet everyone’s different opinions.

Holly Creer, 3157 Nate Circle, having listened to all the comments, she had heard a lot of extreme emotions, and it all boiled down to having different beliefs. Ms. Creer came from a large family in education. Teachers should not have a blind trust. There was a reason the district had a curriculum process. Most teachers were excellent, but not all. Ms. Creer had looked at the websites and it was very easy for her to find some very upsetting and controversial materials. People cannot be allowed to teach any belief they wanted. With there being such a wide range of information, it was concerning because you did not know what every single teacher’s belief system was. What might be okay for one teacher, might not be okay for another. Ms. Creer shared a quote regarding parental rights. As a parent, she should have the right to teach her children her beliefs. She opposed the use of the full websites – if teachers wanted to use specific information they could submit it for approval.

John Brady, 3350 Hillary Avenue, opposed the addition of all three websites as supplemental materials. Mr. Brady was a dentist and did not believe anyone would walk into his office with a blank check and hand it over for him to fill in the amount at the end. It was not because he was not trusted, it was because there were steps to get from point A to point B that made it failsafe. It was the same thought with teachers – it was not to bind their hands or stop them from teaching what needed to be taught. They were not trying to change curriculum or get things excluded from the topics, but rather find a way to get the information taught in a beneficial way for teachers and the families. Mr. Brady suggested looking at the specific material to be used for approval. If there were other questions that came up, teachers could send information home with families to explore together. It would take the topics out of the classroom and move the discussions to home.

President Haas thanked everyone for their testimony.

At 9:14 p.m. the board took a 3 minute break. At 9:17 p.m. the board reconvened.

Board Action
Board discussion ensued. Board members had questions and comments regarding the websites; the partial use of websites; the use of materials aligned to the district’s approved curriculum; the onerous task and wait for approval if teachers pulled the individual pages; the monitoring of the websites; the need for a safe learning environment; the option for parents to opt their students out of a class; addressing the needs of the district’s diverse student population; the board’s process; the interpretation of a website not being a supplemental material; possible censorship; and HB 156.

Board members commented on the fact some had heard from the community after the board previously voted down the websites that the message the board had sent was that some people were not welcome in the community and district – that was not the case at all. All students were welcome in the district and it was the board’s responsibility to ensure the safety of all students.
Reconsideration of Approval of Sexual Education Supplemental Materials & Presenters (continued)

Teachers needed the resources to address the issues students brought to school with them. It was noted all three websites had been used throughout the district prior to the passage of HB 156 without any concerns being raised.

A board member voiced concern the board had not properly called for reconsideration of the matter. President Haas stated the motion was not a reconsideration of the previous motion which called to have the materials removed from consideration. The current motion was to approve the websites and she had asked for the item to come back before the board.

ADVISORY VOTES. 1 NAY: WILLIAMS; 1 AYE: TANNER
MOTION CARRIED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.
3 AYES: MCCONNELL, O’BRIEN, HAAS
1 NAY: LAMBERT

O’BRIEN MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED TO POSTPONE ACTION ITEMS E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, F3, F4, F5,F6, AND F7 AND G1 TO THE NEXT MEETING. [2:50:07]

Asking for and hearing no objection, President Haas postponed the noted the items to the February 7, 2017 Regular Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2017-13: Honoring Black History Month [2:50:38]
School Board Resolution 2017-13 honored Black History Month and proclaimed February 2017 Black History Month for cultural celebrations and activities throughout the district, throughout the year.

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

O’BRIEN MOVED, MCCONNELL SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2017-13: HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

Mr. O’Brien read the resolution for the public record.

Public Comments
None

Board Action
None

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES: WILLIAMS, TANNER
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.
4 AYES: MCCONNELL, LAMBERT, O’BRIEN, HAAS

At 9:58 p.m. [2:53:36]

O’BRIEN MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND CONTINUE THE MEETING TO 10:05 PM.

Asking for and hearing no objection, President Haas continued the meeting.
School Board Resolution 2017-14 honored Elizabeth Peratrovich Day and proclaimed February 16, 2017, Elizabeth Peratrovich Day for studying her life and commitment to the ideals of civil rights and nondiscrimination, on an ongoing basis.

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

MCCONNELL MOVED, O’BRIEN SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2017-14: HONORING ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY.

Ms. McConnell read the resolution for the public record.

Public Comments
None

Board Action
None

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES: TANNER, WILLIAMS
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.
4 AYES: MCCONNELL, LAMBERT, O’BRIEN, HAAS

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

The Full-Day Kindergarten Pilot Report was postponed to the February 7, 2017 meeting.

Board and Superintendent Comments & Committee Reports [2:56:39]
President Haas, on behalf of the entire board, thanked Mr. Powell, Ms. Deehr, and the Nordale Elementary Advanced Orchestra for their wonderful performance and the spotlight on Nordale Elementary School. She congratulated the state wrestling champions and Ms. McMorrow for her counselor of the year award.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

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