

Budget Committee Meeting

Administrative Center - Board Room
520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska
Wednesday, September 25, 2019 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Administrative Center – Board Room
Meeting Notes

A. Preliminaries

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Erin Morotti, School Board Member and FY 20-21 Budget Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 5.34PM. Budget Committee meetings are recorded and will be available on the district's website.

Committee Members Present:

*Erin Morotti, Board Committee Chair
Andy DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer
Tara DeVaughn, FEA Secondary Representative
Coby Haas, FEA Elementary Representative
Lynn Weckesser, FPA Elementary Representative
Bruce Bell, FPA Secondary Representative*

*Melissa Walker, ESSA Secondary Representative
Mark Herrmann, Community Representative
Casy Price, Community Representative
Michael O'Brien, Community Representative
Danielle Malenius, Student Representative
Charles Rollins, ESSA Elementary Representative*

Committee Members Absent:

Joe Hannah, Exempt Representative

Staff Present:

Heather Heineken, Director of Business Services & Risk Management Liaison
Sandra Weaver, Budget Specialist

B. Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda

Tara DeVaughn made a motion to adopt the agenda. Coby Haas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of Notes – Not Applicable, first meeting

C. New Business

Opening remarks – Board Member and Budget Committee Chair Erin Morotti welcomed the committee and each member introduced themselves to the others at the table.

Introduction to the Committee Process – Chief Operations Officer Andy DeGraw reviewed the process

What is our Purpose?
Committee Best Practices
Linking Budget to the Strategic Plan

Committee Discussion “Financing our Future” ~ Map

Funding Model – COO Andy DeGraw reviewed the different areas of the visual map.

Group Discussion

The 2020-21 Budget Committee will present the report on Dec.2nd, 2019 to the Board of Education.

What is important to us? Board Member and Budget Committee Chair Erin Morotti and Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Chief Financial Officer Andy DeGraw asked the committee members to think of topics important to the different stakeholders.

Discussion Topics included:

Why is the ADM during the first 20 Days in October?

Ben Eielson – Challenging for small school with the small school factor

District Cost Factor – Baseline is from Anchorage, Juneau is currently reviewing this topic

CTE – Recently, state and district staff members toured the Pipeline Training Center

Political and Fiscal Climate were in

Review of 2019-20 Committee Report:

The committee reviewed the 2019-20 Budget Committee Report to the Board of Education.

*1. Competitive Retirement Plan - Defined Benefit Plan – Contribution made from employer and employee. Defined Contribution Plan – 2007 Employer and money is invested – similar to the 401K
Very few states that have a Defined Contribution*

This topic of retirement made the Legislative Committee list of importance

2. Technology – The district is working towards one to one devices – 13,000 to 14,000 devices

The district is catching up on SPED devices

4-year cycle – Equipment Replacement Fund

3. Fund Balance – Last year decrease, contributed to Capital Projects

*Support Fund Balance – sustain with a gradual drawdown – important to look at the long-time effect
Borough's view maybe that "saving money", but cutting services*

*4. Staffing Allocation Model - Budgets get tight just not the teachers,
but to look at administration – not always the FEA*

Budgets - where can the district take cuts?

Future topics:

The third meeting will include a dialogue on the ratio of employees

How do we deal up cuts?

Continued topic is, "What is important to us?"

Scheduling Presentations from Departments:

Teaching and Learning is scheduled October 2, 2019

The Committee suggested the following group to present:

Principals - How the cuts have affected the schools

Support Staff – FMD

SPED

Technology

Audio of the Budget Review Committee meetings can be heard on the following site:

<http://www.k12northstar.org/boe/meeting-notes>

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM

Notes respectfully submitted by Sandra Weaver