

Budget Committee Meeting

Administrative Center - Board Room
520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska
Wednesday, October 2, 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 5:34 PM. 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
Joe Hannah, Exempt Representative
Charles Rollins, ESSA Elementary Representative*

Committee Members Absent:

*Mark Herrmann, Community Representative
Danielle Malenius, Student Representative*

Staff Present:

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

B. Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda

Charles Rollins made a motion to adopt the agenda. Tara DeVaughn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of Notes

Bruce Bell made a motion to adopt the agenda. Charles Rollins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3.

C. New Business

Opening remarks – Board Member and Budget Committee Chair Erin Morotti welcomed Exempt Representative Committee Member Joe Hannah, and then introduced Teaching and Learning Executive Director Melanie Hadaway to present the department overview to the committee

D. Department Overview:

Teaching and Learning, presented by Executive Director Melanie Hadaway

[Teaching and Learning Website](#)

Melanie Hadaway gave an overview of the department (PowerPoint provided).

Comments:

The challenge is time, a lot is asked of departments, including teachers.

How many test are required by the state?

- PEAKS – State (three different test in three years)
- MAP (shows growth curve for teacher and students) and Aimsweb – universal assessment
- Challenge by Exam – Students may take the exam
- All test continue to change, teachers need to be able to explain the reports
- Changes affect how she is able to teach
- Elementary math has changed over the years
- Some teachers use adoptive materials, some may not
- Opinion by some is testing is a very negative impact to students and parents
- Teachers like MAP testing
- Is there an impact on funding when students do not test? Schools need to meet certain thresholds. If participation is low, we don't deduct funds from schools if not meeting participation
- Why do we still buy textbooks? Technology for all families is not equitable, some may not have access to internet, most teachers like books, and the electronic copies cost the same.
- 2020-21 request will be for Math curriculum
- School levels share the curriculum between schools
- Destiny Program is assisting schools with book purchases and distribution to schools
- What is the need for your department?
 - Teachers doing the work shouldn't have to worry about the curriculum. The request is big, but needed.
 - Instructional tech support needed for the teachers
- Internet challenges
 - Families have a hard time accessing internet

Andy DeGraw reviewed a PowerPoint that included the following topics:

A. Revenues Outlook

- Enrollment Trends
- State Economic Climate
- Legislative Issues

B. Expenditures

- Major Cost Drivers
- Budget Structure
- Fund Balance Utilization

C. Committee Discussion:

- Review of Strategic Plan
- What is important to us? (Continued)

Discussion Topics included:

*Request to remove fund balance from the list to the Board (noted is that this is still a priority)
Recruitment & retention of students and staff are suggested topics to add to the
recommendations to the Board*

Review of 2019-20 Committee Report
Mentally planning on flat funding
Even if funding stays flat, expenses go up
How broad should we make the request?
Recruitment and retention included in the Competitive Retirement Plan
Retention of students is important
Travel, exempt positions overview
Some travel for grants is mandatory
Not getting into the weeds
Strategic Plan - Making sure the request are for the students and align with the strategic plan
What effects the students is important

Topics:

The third meeting will include a dialogue on the ratio of employees
Continued topic is, "What is important to us?"

Request for Scheduling Presentations from Departments:

The Committee suggested the following groups to present:

Principals - How the cuts have affected the schools?

Support Staff – FMD – Scheduled Oct. 16

SPED – Scheduled Oct. 16

Technology – Scheduled Oct. 23

Human Resources – Oct 23

Assistant Superintendent Kate LaPlaunt

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 7:21 PM

Notes respectfully submitted by Sandra Weaver