

**Budget Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Administrative Center – Board Room

**Agenda**

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

*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  
Charles Rollins, ESSA Elementary Representative*

*Melissa Walker, ESSA Secondary Representative  
Joe Hannah, Exempt Representative  
Mark Herrmann, Community Representative  
Casy Price, Community Representative  
Michael O'Brien, Community Representative  
Danielle Malenius, Student Representative*

*Recruiting for 3 Parent Representatives & 1 Community Representative*

C. Adoption of the Agenda

D. Approve Meeting Notes

E. Opening remarks - Erin Morotti (via telephone)

F. Department Overview:

Facility Maintenance Department (FMD) by Executive Director Mark Nilson  
Special Education Department by Executive Director Derek Coryell

G. Committee Discussion:

- Staffing Ratios
- Technology Integration
- What Is Important To Us? (Continued)

Upcoming Meetings:

- Sept 25, 2019
- Oct 2, 2019
- Oct 16, 2019
- October 23, 2019
- November TBD
- December 3, 2019 (*Presentation to the Board at December 3 Regular School Board Meeting*)
- March TBD
- April TBD



[Budget Committee Webpage](#)



[2019-20 Approved Budget](#)



[Policy 236.1: School Board Committees to Advise Administration and the School Board](#)

**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