

# Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

## The Board of Education Welcomes You

### Welcome

The Board of Education welcomes you to its meetings. Your interest will help the Board make decisions that reflect the needs and desires of the community. Meeting agendas are available electronically on the School Board's webpage or through BoardDocs:

[www.boarddocs.com/ak/fbns/Board.nsf/Public](http://www.boarddocs.com/ak/fbns/Board.nsf/Public)

Agenda indexes for regular meetings are published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner the Friday before a meeting. The audio, YouTube video, and minutes of public meetings are also available online or at the board office. Written comments addressed to the Board may be emailed, mailed or delivered to the same location.

Board of Education  
520 Fifth Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4756  
[schoolboard@k12northstar.org](mailto:schoolboard@k12northstar.org)

### About the Board

Governing the school district for the public, the Board of Education determines school district policy, sets the budget, and employs the superintendent/chief school administrator. The superintendent/chief school administrator is charged with oversight of the district's daily school operations.

The seven voting members of the Board are elected at-large for three-year terms; three advisory-voting members represent Fort Wainwright Army Post, Eielson Air Force Base, and the Regional Student Council.

The Board of Education works to develop and improve the district's school program; its responsibilities include:

- Setting districtwide goals
- Adopting the operating budget
- Hiring & supervising superintendent
- Setting district policy
- Approving curriculum and textbooks
- Approving major expenditures
- Securing adequate school financing
- Planning and maintaining facilities
- Enforcing student discipline policy
- Acting as a board of appeal
- Overseeing district legal matters
- Communicating with the public

### Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the School Board will take place on the first and third Tuesday of most months when school is in session. During the summer months, the School Board will meet as needed and determined by the Board. Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held in the board room of the School District Administrative Center. Regular school board meetings are accessible by:

- In-person attendance
- Zoom – citizens can listen via Zoom by electronic device through the provided meeting link or by phone utilizing the provided Zoom meeting phone number;
- livestream at [streaming.k12northstar.org](http://streaming.k12northstar.org);
- real-time audio provided from the district's webpage – [k12northstar.org](http://k12northstar.org);
- through the free NPR app;
- YouTube Live;
- from 7:00 p.m. to adjournment on KUAC-FM, 89.9 radio; and
- audio recorded for next day website posting.

### What happens at a Board Meeting?

At regular meetings, board members discuss and vote on administrative recommendations and on items that establish or amend district policy. The Board adopts policies to improve student performance and enhance school programs and acts on matters such as personnel, appropriations, school facilities, and recognitions of excellence.

### Order of Business (subject to change)

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Student Musical Performance
- Roll Call
- Recognition of Excellence
- Adoption of Agenda \*
- Public Comment: On *Reports & Nonagenda* Items
- Borough Assembly Report
- President Report
- Superintendent/Chief School Administrator Report
- Action Items, Unfinished Business
- Action Items, New Business
- Information and Reports
- Committee Reports/Comments: Board and Superintendent

The board president conducts meetings using standard parliamentary procedures and all Board meetings conform to Alaska's Open Meeting Act (A.S. 44.62.310-312).

\* When the agenda is adopted, routine items (consent agenda items marked with an asterisk) are automatically approved. They are not open for discussion by the Board or the public, unless a request is made to a board member before the meeting. If you have a question about such an item, ask a board or staff member beforehand.

## **Public Testimony . . .**

### ***Who may speak at a Board meeting?***

Anyone may speak at board meetings. Public testimony may be provided either in-person or by Zoom.

Once the agenda has been published, if you are interested in testifying, either in-person or by Zoom, please call (452-2000, ext. 11400) the school board office or email (schoolboard@k12northstar.org) by 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting to sign-up. Those who have signed-up in advance through the board office, will be called upon first, and if time remains, anyone else who is in-person, will be invited to testify until the one-hour time limit has been reached.

Testimony is limited to two minutes per person, for a maximum of one-hour per action item. A person testifying shall state their full name, spelling their last name, and their city of residence for the record.

Please note, emails to the school board are important and valued, and be assured emails are provided and considered by all board members, but emails will not be read for public testimony.

Communications addressed to the Board or any member of the board are distributed to all board members and listed in the Board's public reading file.

Written communications with public officials generally are considered a public record and subject to disclosure (viewing and/or copying of the communication) pursuant to a public records request.

### ***What topics are appropriate?***

Your testimony is most effective when addressed to specific agenda items or matters of general concern. Other information, questions, or problems can usually be addressed by district staff (see contact numbers listed in this brochure). When addressing the Board, please note that slander laws may apply to public criticism of individuals (for example, school district employees) identified by name.

## **Commenting on REPORTS & NONAGENDA items**

To comment on a report or an issue that is NOT on the agenda, please address the Board under the agenda's NONAGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT section. Use the sign-up sheet posted before the meeting. People on this list will be called first; others may comment only if time permits. Testimony is limited to two (2) minutes per person, for a total of one hour.

## **Commenting on AGENDA ACTION Items**

Please wait until the Board comes to the action item you wish to address and the board president asks for public comments. People who have signed-up in advance through the school board office, will be called first, in the order in which they signed-up. If time remains, testimony will be taken from those in attendance, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## **Public Testimony Rules**

Whenever you testify to the Board, please start by stating your first and last name, spelling your last name, and city of residence for the record. Public comments are limited to two (2) minutes per person, for a maximum of one hour on each action item.

## **Individual Problems and Complaints**

To ensure due process and respect for individual rights, the district maintains a formal process for handling complaints against individuals. A problem involving an individual or specific incident is best handled through administrative channels, with the Board as a source of appeal only beyond the superintendent level.

## **Can the Board answer me today?**

If the question can be answered immediately, it will be, but most issues before the Board are too complex to be resolved at the first hearing. When matters of broad public concern are involved, the Board needs sufficient time to study all aspects and listen to the ideas of others. Action will occur as promptly as careful consideration allows.

## Other Board Meetings

**Special Meetings:** scheduled for action on matters that cannot wait until the next regular meeting. Only the specific topic on the special meeting agenda can be discussed. Student discipline matters are normally conducted through executive session at a special meeting and are usually held one or two times per month.

**Work Sessions:** scheduled to allow for review of a subject in greater depth than is possible during a regular meeting. No voting or public comment takes place, but the public is welcome to listen. Work sessions are held as needed.

**Executive (Closed) Sessions:** called only for discussion of personnel, legal, fiscal, or other matters that might reflect negatively on someone's character or damage school district finances if publicly discussed, such as litigation, negotiations, or hearings involving students or employees. No voting may take place in the executive session; votes must occur in public.

**Committee Meetings:** Board standing committees, overseen by the school board, are held throughout the school year for Audit, Budget, Curriculum, Diversity, Legislative, Parent Engagement, and Policy. One administrative committee, the Career Technical Education Advisory Committee, is overseen by the superintendent and meets as warranted throughout the year. Other ad-hoc committees are formed on an as-needed basis. One elected board member is assigned to each committee to serve as chair, with the exception of the Legislative Committee, where three voting board members serve. Committee assignments are appointed by the board president yearly, after the board reorganizes in October.

## More Questions?

Problems tend to be resolved more quickly when expressed to the people most directly involved. If you have a problem relating to an individual student or school, please contact the teacher or building principal. Problems not solved at this level may be appealed to a department director, program executive director, or an assistant superintendent. If your concern remains unresolved, it can be taken to the Superintendent of Schools, and finally, to the Board of Education.

If you need help resolving an issue or obtaining information, please call the district's administration at 452-2000.

<i>Department</i>	<i>Call Ext.</i>
After School Programs.....	11271
Assistant Superintendents .....	11411
Teaching & Learning (Curriculum) .....	11422
EEO Officer / Affirmative Action .....	11463
Finances .....	11301
Nutritional Services.....	451-1004, ext. 16600
Federal Programs .....	11231
Fairbanks BEST Homeschool .....	11201
Human Resources .....	11326
Hearing Officer / Labor Relations .....	11394
Technology & Information Systems .....	11212
Library Media .....	11241
Network Services .....	11397
Research & Accountability .....	11340
School Board .....	11400
Special Education .....	11441
Superintendent's Office.....	11401
Transportation.....	11351