

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Work Session

MINUTES

December 4, 2008

President Leslie Hajdukovich called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Board Room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue for the Interior Delegation Briefing.

Present:

Leslie Hajdukovich, President  
Patrick Lee, Clerk  
Kristina Brophy, Member  
Howard Thies, Member

Absent:

Wendy Dominique, Vice President  
Sue Hull, Treasurer  
Sean Rice, Member  
Michael Fitzgerald, Base Representative  
Timothy A. Jones, Post Representative  
Ken Sample, Student Representative

Staff Present:

Nancy Wagner, Superintendent  
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer  
Bob Hadaway, Executive Director of Special Education  
Clarence Bolden, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Jim Cobb, Executive Director of Technology & Information Systems  
Gayle Pierce, Labor Relations Director  
Elizabeth Schaffhauser, Employment and Educational Opportunity Director  
Bill Bailey, Public Relations Director  
Sharon Tuttle, School Board Executive Assistant

Interior Delegation Members Present:

Senator Gene Therriault  
Joe Hardenbrook, representing Senator Joe Thomas  
Rynnieva Moss, representing Representatives John Coghill & Mike Kelly  
Representative David Guttenberg  
Representative Scott Kawasaki  
Representative Jay Ramras  
Dorothy Shockley, representing Senator Albert Kookesh

Others present:

John Ringstad, School District Lobbyist

Mrs. Hajdukovich welcomed everyone and facilitated introductions. The district presented each legislator with a piece of student art.

## **Accomplishments, Challenges, & Continuing Work**

Dr. Wagner reviewed the district's accomplishments, challenges, and continuing work:

### ◆ **Accomplishments**

- Significant gains on the State's Standards Based Assessment in math & reading from two years ago:
  - 86% of students were proficient or advanced in reading
  - 75% were proficient or advanced in math
- Students continued to score well above the state and national averages on Terra Nova, ACT, and SAT tests.
- Use of technology to improve instruction:
  - PowerSchool Premier
  - Technology Blueprint Phase II
    - Teacher Laptops
    - Professional Development
      - 11-IT teachers
      - Atomic Learning
      - Technology Instruction integration
- Math Improvement & Technology were Board Priorities.
- Board allocated \$2 million to math initiative and \$2 million to the Technology Blueprint.
- What was accomplished:
  - raised expectations
  - monitored instruction and assessed student progress
  - provided high quality professional development
  - revised curriculum and updated resources
  - allocated resources focused on technology

### ◆ **Challenges**

- Closing the Achievement Gap:
  - Raising the level of achievement for Alaska Native, African American, and Students with Disabilities in reading, writing, and math.
  - While Alaska Native, African American, Students with Disabilities, Limited English Proficient, and Economically Disadvantaged students showed continued growth, there were still achievement gaps, especially at the secondary level in math and writing.
  - Most achievement gaps in reading were getting smaller.
- Graduation Rate/Dropout Rate:

#### **2008 Graduation Rate & Dropout Rate Data**

<b>School</b>	<b>Graduation Rate</b>	<b>Dropout Rate</b>	<b>GR Improvement</b>
North Pole High	68%	5%	Up 2% points
Lathrop	67%	6%	Up 4% points
Ben Eielson	86%	1%	Up 5% points
West Valley	73%	4%	Down 2% points
Hutchison	77%	3%	Up 16% points

*Dropout rates dropped by 1% point for each of the schools listed above. The overall dropout rate for the district dropped from 7% in 2007 to 5% in 2008.*

- o Graduation Rate/Dropout Rate (continued)

**2008 Graduation Rate & Dropout Rate Data For Alternative Programs**

<b>School</b>	<b>Graduation Rate</b>	<b>Dropout Rate</b>	<b>GR Improvement</b>
Effie Kokrine	33%	9%	Down 3% points
Alternative Learning (ALS)	8%	9%	Up 1% point
Fairbanks Youth Facility (FYF)	15%	10%	Up 3% points
Guided Independent Study (GIS)	8%	23%	Up 2% points
Star of the North (SON)	51%	11%	Up 3% points

*Dropout rates decreased for ALS (3.5% points), FYF (2% points), GIS (0.1% point), and SON (4.7% points) from 2007 to 2008. Effie Kokrine Charter School's dropout rate increased by 0.9% point.*

**How was the district responding?**

One of the Board's 2008-10 School Board Initiatives to Improve Student Performance was to *Implement Recommendations from the Secondary Review Process* (e.g. 4+2 plans for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders, smaller learning communities, engineering academy)

- Strengthen Graduation Coaching Program.
- Identify doable strategies from the 15 recommendations from the National Dropout Prevention Center.
- Create plans for Career Clusters and Career Pathway Programs in the secondary schools.
- Provide expanded opportunities for credit recovery.

Current Work on the Graduation Rate/Dropout Rate:

- Graduation Rate/Dropout Rate Task Force
- High School and Middle School Schedule Consultant from Association of Career and Technical Education
- Research on best practices
- Expert advice from Brain Spaces
- Implementation of a Construction Academy

♦ **Continuing Work**

- o Ensuring excellence and equity for all.
- o Accomplishing the district's Mission:
  - *“To provide an excellent and equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students can become productive members of a diverse and changing society.”*
- o Update the Program and Facilities Plan to support the district's Vision and Mission.
- o Continue the implementation of the Technology Blueprint.
- o Carry out the Review of Secondary Education.
- o Increase Graduation Rates.

## Operating Budget Overview

Mike Fisher, chief financial officer, gave a brief overview of the district's budget document and presented a summary of the district's Operating Fund Revenue.

<b>Operating Fund Revenue</b>	<b>2008-09 School Year</b>	<b>Preliminary Est. Change</b>	<b>2009-10 School Year</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Local Contribution	44,222,700	1,269,490	45,492,190	+Min Required
Other Local Revenue	804,800		804,800	
State Revenue	118,185,130	4,830,510	123,015,640	SEE BELOW
Federal Revenue	7,981,080	(320,000)	7,661,080	Medicaid
Use of Fund Balance	5,525,200	(2,300,000)	3,225,200	Less Energy Sub
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>176,718,910</b>	<b>3,480,000</b>	<b>180,198,910</b>	

<b>State Revenue</b>	<b>2008-09 School Year</b>	<b>Preliminary Est. Change</b>	<b>2009-10 School Year</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Foundation Formula				
Basic Need	126,732,058		126,732,058	
Enrollment		1,300,000	1,300,000	Est +121
District Cost Factor		400,000	400,000	Up +.04
Intensive Student Funding Factor		3,200,000	3,200,000	Inc by 2
Intensive Student Count		(1,100,000)	(1,100,000)	Est -20
Base Student Allocation		2,300,000	2,300,000	Rec=+100
Required Minimum Cont	(25,861,690)	(1,269,490)	(27,131,180)	Per State
Impact Deduction	(4,905,538)		(4,905,538)	
<b>FOUNDATION FUNDING</b>	<b>95,964,830</b>	<b>4,830,510</b>	<b>100,795,340</b>	
Quality Schools	362,410		362,410	
TRS/PERS On-Behalf Payments	20,407,890		20,407,890	
Contract for On-Base Schools	1,450,000		1,450,000	
<b>STATE FUNDING</b>	<b>118,185,130</b>	<b>4,830,510</b>	<b>123,015,640</b>	

## Legislative Issues

Mrs. Hajdukovich reviewed the Board's legislative priorities with the Interior Delegation.

### **Career Technical Education Initiatives**

The goal was to prepare students for successful career ready opportunities in the workforce. To lead the way in educational thinking by expanding the use of technology in delivery of the district's Career and Technical Education Programs.

### **Dropout Prevention**

The goal was to reduce dropout rates and increase graduation rates. Needed to mobilize the community and engage them in solving the dropout epidemic that was sweeping the state, as well as the nation. Needed financial support for prevention and intervention programs for the most at-risk students

### **Technology Upgrades**

The goal was to upgrade the technology infrastructure to a level that would support the integration of technology into classroom teaching methodology. Needed to continue the upgrade process to ensure the ability to access the Internet, operate educational applications, and engage students.

## **Legislative Issues (continued)**

### **Consideration of Statewide General Obligation Bond Package**

The district was less than encouraged about the ability to address maintenance needs based on the state's preliminary scoring and ranking of the district's capital improvement requests. The district envisioned a package that would provide bond funding for the projects included on the State Department of Education's capital list, and to the large incorporated districts. The administration believed the bond package would touch every part of the state and should be well received.

### **Secondary Education Reform Recommendations**

Mrs. Hajdukovich briefed the Interior Delegation on the district's Secondary Education Reform recommendations.

Goal I – Create a Climate of Respect and Appreciation for Diversity.

- a. Continue working with Safe and Civil Schools.
- b. Evaluate the School Climate and Connectedness Surveys completed by staff and students and parent opinion surveys to determine whether improvements could be made.
- c. Support efforts that directly impacted the goal, such as Challenge Day or Race and Healing programs for students.

Goal II – Better Prepare Students for Life After High School.

- a. Implement districtwide use of 4+2 plans for all students in high school.
- b. Develop scope and sequence for career guidance and exploration in grades K-12.
- c. Survey graduates and non-graduates to determine what the district had successfully done to prepare students and to review what could be done differently.
- d. Provide career clusters and pathways at each high school.

Goal III – Provide a Variety of Ways that Students Could Meet Their Goals.

- a. Establish a new correspondence program.
- b. Develop a common schedule among the middle schools and among the high schools so resources could be better utilized and distance delivery courses could be utilized.
- c. Expand summer school opportunities.

Goal IV – Establish a Culture of High Expectations for All Students.

- a. Define what rigor meant for the district and train staff on how to instill consistent rigor into their courses.
- b. Encourage all students to challenge themselves by taking advanced placement and honors' classes.
- c. Explore the possibility of having common end-of-course exams for classes across the district.
- d. Implement strategies districtwide that would close the achievement gap.

Goal V – Implement Structures and Programs that Support Student Achievement.

- a. Evaluate programs currently in place to determine their effectiveness and see where changes might be necessary.
- b. Provide for interventions to take place at each secondary school when students were not experiencing success or were in danger of not meeting graduation requirements.
- c. Investigate various structures to meet the needs of students, like establishing a school-within-a-school that would allow for later start and ending times at the high school level.
- d. Examine recent research on the middle school concept to determine if it should be re-established.

## **DISCUSSION**

Board members, district administrators, and delegation members discussed legislative issues and future challenges including the Boys and Girls Home of Alaska, intensive funding, the State's pilot preschool program, energy and utility costs, the status of the district's central kitchen project, Effie Kokrine Charter School, and the Education Task Force recommendations.

Interior Delegation members thanked the district for the briefing and their gift of student art. They looked forward to the art piece each year.

Board members and district administrators thanked the Interior Delegation members for taking time to attend the briefing and their support over the past year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Tuttle, executive assistant to the Board.