

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Special Meeting

MINUTES

January 19, 2009

President Hajdukovich called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

Present:

Leslie Hajdukovich, President  
Wendy Dominique, Vice President  
Kristina Brophy, Member  
Sean Rice, Member  
Howard Thies, Member

Absent:

Sue Hull, Treasurer  
Patrick Lee, Clerk  
Michael Fitzgerald, Base Representative  
Timothy A. Jones, Post Representative  
Ken Sample, Student Representative

Staff Present:

Nancy Wagner, Superintendent  
Wayne Gerke, Assistant Superintendent – Secondary  
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer  
Gayle Pierce, Hearing Officer  
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the School Board

**Executive Session**

An executive session was called to discuss student discipline and personnel/contractual issues.

THIES MOVED, DOMINIQUE SECONDED, TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SUBJECTS THAT TEND TO PREJUDICE THE REPUTATION AND CHARACTER OF ANY PERSON, PROVIDED THE PERSON MAY REQUEST A PUBLIC DISCUSSION; MATTERS, THE IMMEDIATE KNOWLEDGE OF WHICH, WOULD CLEARLY HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT UPON THE FINANCES OF THE GOVERNMENT UNIT; AND MATTERS WHICH BY LAW, MUNICIPAL CHARTER, OR ORDINANCE ARE REQUIRED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE. 5 AYES

The Board convened to executive session at 12:01 p.m.

Mr. Rice left the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

The executive session recessed at 1:02 p.m.

THIES MOVED, DOMINIQUE SECONDED,

TO READMIT STUDENT 05-19-08-01 TO BEN EIELSON HIGH SCHOOL

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE. 4 AYES

BROPHY MOVED, THIES SECONDED,

TO READMIT STUDENT 12-08-08-02 TO STAR OF THE NORTH CHARTER SCHOOL

MOTION CARRIED BY VOICE VOTE. 3 AYES, 1 NAY: DOMINIQUE

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The Board reconvened to executive session at 1:03 p.m.

The executive session ended at 1:23 p.m.

### Board Discussion

Mrs. Hajdukovich reminded Board members of the work session to review the negotiation process at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Hajdukovich thought the Board should conduct a work session prior to the administration launching another full review of the attendance policies. There had to be some consensus from the Board that changes were warranted. In the past, there had been a lot of work done reviewing the attendance policies but ultimately, the Board was unable to reach any agreement on changes.

Mrs. Hajdukovich felt the Board had to be committed to making changes, prior to another review of the policies, which would be comprehensive and a large undertaking. She and Dr. Wagner had talked about a possible Board work session in March or April, after the budget process.

Mrs. Dominique thought changes to the attendance policies were needed. She thought it would be helpful for the Board to receive the information that had been presented in the past, so they could review it a second time. Mrs. Dominique did not want to burden the staff with additional work, but if the Board received the information previous gathered, they could be reviewing it thoroughly. She felt that during the Board's last review on attendance, there hadn't been a lot of time to review all the information to make well informed decisions. Dr. Wagner agreed, and she and Mrs. Hajdukovich had discussed pulling together the previous information, as well as what was happening in other districts in the state.

Mrs. Hajdukovich thought that "hot button" attendance issues, like the 10-minute rule, should be looked at in how to approach them or possibly even think about setting certain aspects aside. She noted the administrative regulations had recently been changed and even though PowerSchool Premier numbers, because it was a relatively new program, would not have super solid attendance numbers, was curious if the changes in the administrative regulations had made any difference. Dr. Wagner said information on how the new administrative regulations had affected student attendance would be included in the information provided to the Board.

Mrs. Hajdukovich asked about the implementation timeline for any attendance changes. Dr. Wagner stated the changes would not be implemented until 2010. Mrs. Hajdukovich would make a note to the public at the Board's regular meeting, the following evening, on the Board's direction regarding attendance.

Dr. Wagner reviewed the administration's proposed budget calendar with the Board, including the Citizen's Budget Review Committee meetings and Board work sessions and public hearings. It was thought a Saturday Board work session in March would be a good time to bring in department heads for dialogue and questions, especially since there would be some very difficult decisions to be made in regards to the budget.

Mrs. Dominique would not be in town for the month of March and would like to receive the budget information so she could submit her input prior to leaving. Chief Financial Officer Mike Fisher stated the budget book would be out the first week of February.

Mr. Fisher had spoke to Mrs. Hull, Citizen's Budget Review Committee chair, regarding the budget calendar and the process would be pretty much status quo. There would be three Citizen Budget Review Committee meetings, with the committee presenting their recommendations to the Board at the first public hearing on March 5, 2009. Mr. Fisher thought he could present the budget to the Board in two meetings – March 5 and March 16, 2009. The Board would then have an overview of all the issues and the administration's recommendations regarding cuts and budget changes. Mr. Fisher cautioned there could be some very difficult budget decisions for the coming year.

BOARD DISCUSSION (continued)

By having the department heads meeting with the Board on Saturday, March 21, it would give the Board the opportunity to question department heads regarding any concerns, or public comments they had received. The Board would then be asked to approve the 2009-10 budget on March 24, 2009.

Mrs. Dominique asked if Effie Kokrine Charter School's funding would be included. Dr. Wagner stated there would be revenue and expenditure estimates included in the budget, which the administration would be asking the Board to budget for Effie Kokrine Charter School. Dr. Wagner stated that Mr. Fisher had developed two scenarios – one where Effie Kokrine Charter School would receive funding based on 140 students, which would keep the district from having to subsidize an additional \$750,000; and the second scenario was to meet them half way and agree to meet them half way and fund half of the difference so they would not be short on teachers, if they didn't receive it.

Mr. Fisher told the Board the administration was facing a lot of tough decisions on the budget. The administration's budget would probably have a lot of things on the face of it that would not be acceptable to the Board. There would have to be discussions and if the Board determined they wanted something back in the budget, the Board would need to help the administration decide where else to take the necessary funding from to fund the program put back in the budget.

Speaking for herself, Mrs. Dominique was not trying to put it as a priority, but more being sure the public understood where the district was in regards to Effie Kokrine Charter School's funding and get it well known that the district supported it. Although Dr. Wagner had done a couple of news stories on the issue, Mrs. Dominique did not feel the public would understand until they saw it in the budget. She thought the different scenarios should be listed out so the public could better understand what could be funded or lost at each of the funding possibilities. Mr. Fisher said he would include more in his budget transmittal letter about different scenarios and budget options, especially with Effie Kokrine Charter School.

Mr. Thies thought the Board should think about lobbying to Juneau in regards to charter school funding; Fairbanks could not be the only district with the problem. He asked about Effie Kokrine's enrollment at count time. Mr. Fisher said Effie Kokrine had been at 145 at the count period and if their funding was based on the 145 number, it would be \$700,000 less than they currently had.

Mrs. Dominique felt the district could not lobby for the change by themselves, they would need the assistance of other districts. Mr. Thies had heard there were other districts in the same predicament. Mr. Fisher and Dr. Wagner thought Anchorage had a charter school below the threshold.

Mr. Fisher stated the 150 enrollment number was an arbitrary number and he felt charter schools should be funded like any other school. He asked why the funding for Salcha Elementary School with one hundred students should be any different than a charter school with one hundred students.

Mr. Thies thought the Board should get with other districts with similar situations and fight it. Dr. Wagner thought Representative Ramos was very interested in seeing something else done.

Back to the budget calendar, Mrs. Hajdukovich noted the Board had talked about having a committee of the whole, but had also liked the idea of having a Citizen's Budget Review Committee. She thought the proposed budget process and calendar was a good way of combining both. The Board discussed the option of a Saturday meeting. There was a consensus from the Board that the budget calendar was acceptable.

Mr. Fisher reminded Board members to designate their Citizen's Budget Review Committee appointee as soon as possible. Mrs. Hull and Mr. Lee were committee members and would not need a designee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Tuttle, executive assistant to the school board.