

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

March 22, 2011

President Brophy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. Superintendent Lewis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Kristina Brophy, President
Sue Hull, Treasurer
Sean Rice, Clerk
Leslie Hajdukovich, Member
Jesse Johnson, Base Representative
Timothy A. Jones, Post Representative

Absent:

Sharon McConnell, Vice President
Silver Chord, Member
Wendy Dominique, Member
Jesse Johnson, Base Representative
Danielle Wilson, Student Representative

Staff Present:

Pete Lewis, Superintendent
Roxa Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent – Elementary
Wayne Gerke, Assistant Superintendent – Secondary
Dave Ferree, Assistant Superintendent – Facilities Management
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer
Kathy Hughes, Executive Director of Alternative Instruction & Accountability
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Bob Hadaway, Executive Director of Special Education
Clarence Bolden, Executive Director of Human Resources
Bill Bailey, Director of Public Relations
Elizabeth Schaffhauser, Director of Employment & Educational Opportunity
Louise Anderl, Director of Federal Programs
Gayle Pierce, Director of Labor Relations
Katherine Sanders, Director of Library Media Services
Pam Rogers, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Others:

Jill Dolan, Assistant Borough Attorney

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

NAACP Black History Month Coloring and Essay Contest Winners

Alphonso McDade, NAACP vice president, and Montean Jackson, safe and drug free schools coordinator, presented the winners of the NAACP Black History Month Coloring and Essay Contest.

William Guevara	1 st Place Primary	Anne Wien Elementary
Helene Baker	2nd Place Primary	North Pole Elementary
Berdallen Alokoa	3rd Place Primary	Arctic Light Elementary
Eric Schram	1st Place Intermediate	North Pole Elementary
Jaqueline Paul	2nd Place Intermediate	North Pole Elementary
Zachary Paul	3rd Place Intermediate	North Pole Elementary

NAACP Black History Month Coloring and Essay Contest Winners (continued)

Aubrea Stoltz	1st Place Middle School	Barnette Magnet
Esther Kugzruk	2nd Place Middle School	Barnette Magnet
Jonathan Koenig	3rd Place Middle School	Barnette Magnet
Iana Ordinario	1st Place High School	Ben Eielson High
Kelsey Smith	2nd Place High School	Ben Eielson High
McKenna Wall	3rd Place High School	Ben Eielson High

Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) 2011 iDidaContest Winners

The Alaska Society for Technology in Education (ASTE) recently announced the winners of the 2011 iDidaContest. Kathy Port, elementary curriculum coordinator, made the presentations.

iDidaPodcast: Entertain Us Category:

Cristina Bussell	1st Place: 6 th -8 th grade	Addicted to the Internet?	Randy Smith Middle School
------------------	--	---------------------------	------------------------------

iDidaPhoto: Alaska Life Category:

Sarah Gray	1st Place: 6 th -8 th grade	An Open Window	Randy Smith Middle School
------------	--	----------------	------------------------------

iDidaMovies:

Tell Me a Story Category:

Maria Frantz	1 st Place: 6 th -8 th grade	Year 4353	Randy Smith Middle School
Justice Soule	1 st Place: 9 th -12 th grade	Twas the Night Before Christmas	Hutchison High School
Benjamin Johnson	1 st Place: Teacher	.9 Seconds Never Again	Hutchison High School

Teach Me Something Category:

Max Tamillo	1 st Place: 6 th -8 th grade	Max's Cooking Show	Randy Smith Middle School
Carolyn Deskins	1 st Place: 9 th -12 th grade	Dress for Success	Hutchison High School

Make Me Laugh Category:

Timothy Belmont Erika Blanchard Raphael Martinez Jay Million Shelby Perkins Mark Stoller Bethany Tackett Austin Williams Curtis Young	1 st Place: 9 th -12 th grade and People's Choice Award	Behind the Teacher's Back	North Pole High School
---	---	---------------------------	---------------------------

Academic Decathlon State Champions

The West Valley High School Academic Decathlon team received first place in the State Academic Decathlon Competition and would represent Alaska at the National Finals in Charlotte, North Carolina in April. The West Valley team, along with other individual first place winners, were recognized. West Valley Academic Decathlon Coaches Coby Haas and Robin Feinman made the presentations.

1 st Place – Individual Honors	Stephen Chen, West Valley
1 st Place – Individual Scholastic Division	Matthew Fatuesi, Lathrop
1 st Place – Individual Varsity Division	John Spiers, West Valley
State Champions – West Valley	Stephen Chen Paige Gieck Mara James Chloe Leach Thomas McClelland Julia Pender Marx Smith Riley Snow John Spiers Jesse Zhang

Spotlight: School Resource Officers

The city of Fairbanks, working closely with the school district, secured a grant for two School Resource Officers. The officers had been in place since the beginning of the current school year.

Superintendent Lewis introduced Officer Scott McCumby and Officer Ace Adams, the two officers who served as school resource officers at Lathrop and West Valley High Schools. The officers, along with West Valley High School Principal Shaun Kraska highlighted how the program had been working to date.

The students had gotten accustomed to seeing the officers in the schools and the officers had great personalities that worked very well with the students. The safety of students and staff was the number one priority and Mrs. Kraska reported it was a good feeling knowing the officers were in the building.

The officers had also assisted with parking and traffic flow issues, student parking and driving issues, helping to educate students on distracted driving such as not to text while driving, and internet/technology safety presentations. The officers provided immediate on-site assistance with drug, bullying, fight, and assault issues. They had great techniques and abilities to help deescalate angry and stressful situations. They had also assisted in revising the school's crisis plans.

The officers were building great rapport with both the students and parents. The officers were very easy to approach and interact with. Students had requested to meet and speak with the officers one-on-one. Parents were also utilizing the officers as resources. They counseled both students and parents on their legal rights. The officers' presence was not viewed as a negative aspect, but rather as a resource for the entire school community.

Mrs. Kraska reported the schools had seen a decrease in drug and alcohol issues, gang activity, sporting event issues and other school concerns since the school resource officer program began. The officers' presence was not viewed as a negative aspect, but rather as a resource for the entire school community. The officers enjoyed being a proactive presence in the schools.

AGENDA

HAJDUKOVICH MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS.

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the Monthly Management Reports for February 2011.

approved the minutes from the special meetings February 28 and March 8 and the work sessions February 28 and March 10, 2011, as submitted.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-138: Denali Elementary School in the amount of \$29,623.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-143: Extended Learning Program in the amount of \$35,354.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-148: Ticasuk Brown Elementary School in the amount of \$91,741.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-149: Districtwide In House Suspension in the amount of \$20,851.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-150: Special Education Support Services in the amount of \$300,241.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-157: Non-Certified Salary & Benefit Accounts in the amount of \$86,001.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-159: Special Education Districtwide Instruction in the amount of \$485,715.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-166: Hutchison High School in the amount of \$57,566.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-167: B.E.S.T. Program in the amount of \$25,000.

approved West Valley High School's request to send students to Charleston, North Carolina, April 25-May 1, 2011 to participate, representing Alaska, in the National Academic Decathlon Competition, with travel expenses paid by GCI Communications and the district paying substitute costs.

accepted the gift of \$2,000 from the Malemute Ski Team Booster Club, Inc. to Lathrop High School for the school's cross country ski team program.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period February 28 – March 8, 2011.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period February 23 – March 8, 2011.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for March 22, 2011.

acknowledged the Expulsions for the 2010-2011 school year, as of March 14, 2011.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 4 AYES

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Included in the Consent Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

English/Language Arts Curriculum Adoption

At the March 1, 2011 Board meeting, the revised English/Language Arts Curriculum was presented and a copy of the document was provided. The administration recommended the school board adopt the proposed English/Language Arts Curriculum. The Board Curriculum Advisory Committee presented a memo to the Board at the March 1st Board meeting formally endorsing the administration's recommendation.

HULL MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE REVISED ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM AS PROPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

Peggy Carlson, executive director of curriculum and instruction, briefly recapped the process of the curriculum revision. She also recognized all the writers and others who had been working on the curriculum revision over the past year: Amy Scott, Aubree Diaz, Barbara Wiley, Beth Sprankle, Carolyn Jordan, Carrie Heimer, Diane Kardash, Evelyn Sfraga, Lynn Grover, Margaret Salisbury, Melanie Hadaway, Nicole O'Donnell, Robyn Ward, Sherry Blizzard, Susan McIntosh, Suzanne Richards, Theresa Vick, Tim Parker, Kathy Port, Casey Obringer, and Debbie Johnson.

BOARD QUESTIONS

Mrs. Hull asked Mrs. Carlson what she thought were the greatest accomplishments of the revised curriculum and would a real difference for students. Mrs. Carlson felt there were many great additions such as incorporating the Essential Learnings which were developed by district teachers, combining the required year-long English 7 and Literature 7 courses into one course, strengthened the English Language Learner components, aligned 7-12 curriculum to be certain students had strong reading and writing skills, and added many more English/Language Arts elective courses.

Mrs. Hull had long been concerned about students receiving the grammar and writing instruction and preparation they needed. Mrs. Carlson stated grammar was one of the components they had been looking at in reviewing the curriculum materials. Both of the programs the district was considering had strong writing components. There was also a program called Thinking Maps which reinforced and supported writing programs. By the end of the school year, Mrs. Carlson reported the district would have 50 teachers trained in all the components of Thinking Maps.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Hajdukovich thanked Mrs. Carlson, the writers, the BCAC, and everyone else who had helped to work through the curriculum revision.

English/Language Arts Curriculum Adoption (continued)

Mrs. Hull also thanked everyone for all their work, including those she had personally asked to review the revision drafts. She had heard a lot of good feedback from people she trusted. She hoped there would continue to be emphasis on grammar and writing.

Mr. Rice also extended his thanks to everyone. Mr. Rice reminded everyone the curriculum materials, which supported the curriculum, were still open for public review and comments.

Mrs. Brophy sent her thanks to everyone for their work on the curriculum revision.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 4 AYES

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

2011 Summer School Update

Kathy Hughes, executive director of alternative instruction, gave the School Board an update on the plans for 2011 summer school. She presented board members with a copy of the draft summer school flyer. There were still a few scheduling and staffing details to work out. Mrs. Hughes reviewed the flyer and program details.

Elementary Programs: The district was excited because the After School Program – 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant was awarded extra funding, thanks in large part to Julie Wild Curry, allowing the district to offer two programs at current 21st CCLC sites – Anne Wien and North Pole Elementary. Contact information and details of the programs were outlined in the flyer. Also included was information regarding the Supplemental Educational Services which would be offered at Denali over the summer.

Secondary Programs: This year the district would be able to increase enrollment to accommodate students who struggled academically as well as those who would be retained without a summer school opportunity. BEST staff and 21st Century Community Learning Centers had joined forces to offer both an academic focus on math and English as well as enrichment opportunities students would find engaging.

The district was also working to incorporate the high school's orientation and Ignition programs and had recruited high school student mentors to work in the program. The program was piloted on a smaller scale last summer and found to be far more effective than having students sit through 3 courses every day. The site will be changed for the upcoming summer – locating the program at a high school campus to further connect students and give them a feel for the next level of school.

High School Program: The district was expanding the number and variety of online courses available to students. Students would be able to take courses for credit recovery or to get ahead by taking something they had not previously attempted. Students at the high school level would be supported on-site at West Valley. Aside from the teacher-directed English courses, there would also be on-line teachers working with the students, content tutors, BEST coordinators, and the TIPP counseling interns. Progress monitoring would be an important aspect of the program. The flyer included information regarding activities eligibility because that was extremely important to many students and assisted in keeping them in school.

The flyer also included details of the district's English Language Learners summer program. Target audience, program details, and contact information was provided.

2011 Summer School Update (continued)

There was also information on some of the community based summer opportunities that would be available this year. The district had contacted community partners and had included the information they had provided. The district's After School Program (21st CCLC) would also be posting their annual listing of summer activities available to the youth in our community on the district's website.

BOARD QUESTIONS

Mrs. Hull thought the summer school offerings were exciting. She thought the district could always do more to meet the needs of students and families. She asked why there were so few teacher-directed courses at the high school level. Mrs. Hughes explained in the past summer school traditionally had two teachers one in the area of math and one in English. There would still be two teachers in the English area because there were more students in the English classes. The district had some expertise in the area of math tutoring, but did not want to lose the teacher directed option and still be able to afford to offer the classes.

Mrs. Hull thought the tuition was reasonable. She asked if there had been any discussion on offering more courses that were not so academically focused, but offer elective enrichment at a higher tuition cost, but still attractive to the community. Mrs. Hughes stated the district had looked at the possibility but wasn't quite to the point of being able to offer them yet. There were many academic concerns and restraints to consider before meaningful courses could be offered.

Mrs. Hajdukovich clarified students could retake a course online to improve the grade they had previously received in the class or take it as a jump start for the next year. Mrs. Hughes explained the other type of credit recovery option – online diagnostic courses – for students who might understand the class material but for some reason had failed the class – which would be good for non-athlete students. The down side of online diagnostic courses was they were not recognized by NCAA eligibility at Division I or II. The administration would be working with students to be certain they were taking the right courses.

Mrs. Hajdukovich noted the costs seems reasonable, but asked if there were scholarships or other means to help students where it might be a hardship. Mrs. Hughes stated there were sliding scales based on free and reduced lunch and school counselors worked with students to help them with fees.

Superintendent Lewis added special education also offered a summer school program.

Mrs. Brophy asked how the flyer would be distributed. Mrs. Hughes stated the flyers would be distributed to students at the school level and online. Counselors would distribute the flyers to the students in need of credit recovery.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Hull was pleased with the program, but hoped the district would look at expanding the teacher directed classes to math, as math online was difficult. In the future, she would like to see more high-end science offerings. Oftentimes, parents were willing to pay for enrichment type summer offerings. She would also like to see a connection to career-tech offerings to help students make a connection. Mrs. Hull hoped the classes would offer active and interactive activities to help get kids engaged and keep learning fun.

2013-2014 School Calendar

The administration presented the 2013-2014 calendar a year in advance to assist the community and Arctic Winter Games committee in their effort to make plans for the 2014 Arctic Winter Games, which will be hosted in Fairbanks. Following a report to the Board, the 2013-2014 calendar would be available for public review and open for feedback through Monday, April 11, returning to the Board for action on Tuesday, April 19.

Superintendent Lewis and Public Relations Director Bill Bailey explained the administration would like to put the 2013-2014 calendar out for public review a year in advance to assist people in making plans for the Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Bailey reviewed the proposed calendar with school beginning for students on August 21, 2013; winter break starting December 23, 2013 and returning to school on January 7, 2014; spring break would be March 10-14, 2014; and the last day for students would be May 21, 2014.

Mr. Bailey stated the Arctic Winter Games would be utilizing the district's buildings to house visiting athletes.

BOARD QUESTIONS

Mrs. Brophy clarified the buildings would be used during spring break.

Mrs. Hajdukovich thought the 2013-2014 calendar looked good. She thought it was good to put the calendar out so far in advance so people could see what was happening and understand why things were being done a little differently.

Mrs. Brophy agreed with Mrs. Hajdukovich. At first glance she was a little worried about dismissing for winter break so close to Christmas, but with the weekend, it worked well. She did not have any suggested changes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

None

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT'S QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS/ COMMITTEE REPORTS

Colonel Jones thanked Superintendent Lewis and district staff for their quick response last week during the Japan earthquake and tsunami. Military installations around the country were asked about housing displaced people and Colonel Jones had called upon Superintendent Lewis in regards to some assistance and had been appreciative of his quick response. Colonel Jones was also appreciative of the community's response as well.

Colonel Jones, noting the upcoming deployment of soldiers who might have graduating seniors, was pleased to announce an Early Commencement Celebration for those students with parents deploying. He explained it would not be a commencement ceremony, but a celebration. He was looking forward to the opportunity for deploying parents to be part of the graduation celebration. Colonel Jones noted the military and district would work to get the actual graduations online.

Mrs. Hajdukovich extended her congratulations to all the award winners during the evening. She had been pleased to hear about the great things the resource officers were doing in the schools.

Mr. Rice also congratulated all the award winners. The students had all put a lot of work into all they did. He wished the students good luck at the national level.

**BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT'S QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS/
COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)**

Mrs. Hull shared information on career 4+2 plans. While at a recent conference she had learned some districts had offered them online to parents and youths, which helped them with the classes they needed to take for their careers and linked them to class schedules. Some schools had been doing it for five years and found it had helped students succeed and improved their graduation rates. She hoped the district would look at that option in the future.

The budget review committee had finished work on the current proposed budget, but would now begin their regular monthly meetings. Mrs. Hull announced the next budget committee meeting would be April 20. Some committee members were no longer able to serve so a few board members would need to make new appointees.

At the last board meeting, board members received information on parent-teacher participation. Mrs. Hull continued to have concerns about the participation at the secondary level. There had been previous discussions on parent engagement and how to engage parents. She would like the parent involvement policy reviewed. There needed to be more discussions on how to engage parents. Research showed there was a lot to be gained in student achievement by engaging parents.

Mrs. Hull extended kudos to Dave Weaver, husband of a previous district principal, and founding committee member of the local Imagination Library. He and his wife Kathy Weaver had moved out of state, but Dave had recently been elected to his local school board and was starting an Imagination Library program in his local area.

Mrs. Brophy added her congratulations to all the award winners and acknowledged all the effort it took to succeed. She also thanked Mary Carlson, Colleen Smith, and Mr. Coffey, all Barnette staff members for their time in taking her on a tour of the school. Although it was disappointing to see the challenges they faced in dealing with the building, Mrs. Brophy had been very impressed with the work that was being done with students in the school. She encouraged everyone to check out the school.

Sadly, Superintendent Lewis announced the recent passing of several district staff and family members. Mr. Bob McGuire, interior educator, who had worked hard with the Alaska Native Education program; Mr. Merle Winkelman, a longtime career-tech teacher at Ben Eielson High School; Mr. Todd Hughes, husband of a staff member and father of a district student; Melisa Stoutenberg, previous North Pole High School graduate and daughter of a Ben Eielson teacher; and Alan Oines, another previous North Pole High graduate. Superintendent Lewis extended his condolences, as well as those of the entire district to the families and friends of Mr. McGuire, Mr. Winkelman, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Stoutenberg, and Mr. Oines. It was a very difficult time for everyone.

Superintendent Lewis had recently attended an Up With Art event and had been so impressed with the talents of district students. Four district students had been recognized at a recent Spirit of Youth ceremony in Anchorage for community work and accomplishments. Superintendent Lewis had also participated in a Leadership Fairbanks panel and appreciated the opportunity to work with community leaders. He announced the upcoming Science Fair, starting the following day. Mrs. Hull added the public was invited to view the projects any day but Thursday when judging would be taking place. Viewing would be open all day Friday until 6:00 p.m. The awards ceremony would be held Saturday afternoon.

Superintendent Lewis also announced the district's job fair scheduled for Saturday.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Pam Rogers, executive assistant to the superintendent.