

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

April 5, 2011

President Brophy called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Board Room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. Ms. Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present:

Kristina Brophy, President  
Sharon McConnell, Vice President  
Sue Hull, Treasurer  
Sean Rice, Clerk  
Silver Chord, Member  
Wendy Dominique, Member  
Jesse Johnson, Base Representative  
Danielle Wilson, Student Representative

Absent:

Leslie Hajdukovich, Member  
Timothy A. Jones, Post Representative

Staff Present:

Pete Lewis, Superintendent  
Dave Ferree, Assistant Superintendent – Facilities Management  
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer  
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction  
Bob Hadaway, Executive Director of Special Education  
Bill Bailey, Director of Public Relations  
Traci Gatewood, Director of Grants & Special Projects  
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  
Barbara Havrilek, Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent

Others:

Jill Dolan, Assistant Borough Attorney

**PRELIMINARY ITEMS**

**Poetry Out Loud State Winner**

Lakeidra Chavis, Lathrop senior, won the state Poetry Out Loud competition recently held in Juneau and would represent Alaska at nationals in Washington D.C., later in April. Lathrop English Teacher Nicole O'Donnell made the presentation and Lakeidra recited her winning poem.

**State World Language Declamation Champions**

State World Language Declamation first place winners were recognized. The high school teacher/coaches made the presentations and students read their winning entries.

## State World Language Declamation Champions (continued)

Chinese	Isabel Hickok Isabel Hickok	West Valley West Valley	Chinese 2 Poetry Chinese 2 Impromptu
French	Eryn Moore Sierra Steele Andrew Maxwell & Olivya Veazey	West Valley West Valley West Valley	French 1 Poetry French 2 Impromptu French 1 Dialogues
German	Lucas Siftar Nora Jaggi Rorey Hughes Meryem Kugzruk & Seth Stout Harvey Ruth & Lucas Siftar	West Valley West Valley North Pole High West Valley West Valley	German 4 Poetry German Native Speaker Poetry German 3 Impromptu German 2 Dialogues German 4/5/AP Dialogues
Japanese	Sarah King	Lathrop	Japanese 4/5 Impromptu

### ESP of the Month

Rocky Janiro, Lathrop High School intensive resource aide, was recognized as the Extra Special Support Staff Person for April 2011. Lathrop Principal Karen Gaborik made the presentation.

### Spotlight: OneTree

OneTree was a program from the UAF School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences department. Since its inception, OneTree had been engaging K-12 students in science and art. The concept was that one birch tree cut down in July 2009 would be used for instruction, as well as art and craft creations. Subsequently, seventeen more trees were added. Hundreds of students and dozens of teachers in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District had participated in OneTree. Janice Dawe, adjunct professor, School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, and Project OneTree coordinator, shared highlights of the program with the board.

During the 2010-11 school year, thirteen schools with twenty-four K-12 classrooms, participated in the project. Moira O'Malley, Watershed Charter School second grade teacher, described how the project was being implemented and talked about the benefit to students. She also had second grade student, Ella Adasiak, speak about the program. Ms. Adasiak said the project was fun and went into detail about keeping a journal, observations, etc.

Chris Greenfield-Pastro, Randy Smith Middle School teacher, talked about the implementation of the project at Randy Smith. He thought it helped students develop keen observation skills.

Karen Stomberg, district art coordinator, spoke about the collaboration between UAF, the school district, the Morris Thomas Center, and local artists.

### AGENDA

President Brophy announced the purchasing department had requested the board pull item E3, IFB-11-F0022, Pearl Creek Flooring Replacement, from the consent agenda to come before the board at another meeting.

DOMINIQUE MOVED, MCCONNELL SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITHOUT CONSENT ITEM E3-IFB11-F0022, PEARL CREEK FLOORING REPLACEMENT.

The following consent items were moved:

approved the minutes from the work session March 21; the special meeting March 22; and the regular meeting March 22, 2011, as submitted.

awarded IFB 11-F0021 for Dry Erase White Boards to Indoff, Inc. for \$30,196.96.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-178: Extra Duty Salary & Benefits in the amount of \$113,119.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-179: RTI Program Materials in the amount of \$72,448.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-180: Elementary Substitutes in the amount of \$253,445.

approved Budget Transfer 2011-181: Middle School & High School Substitutes in the amount of \$146,721.

approved Barnette Magnet School's request to raise funds to send students to Kenai, Alaska, April 17-20, 2011 to participate in the statewide Future Problem Solving competition, at no cost to the district.

approved Lathrop High School's request to raise funds to send band students to Honolulu, Hawaii, December 3-11, 2011 to represent Alaska and perform at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, at no cost to the district.

approved the district's request to send students to San Diego, California, April 27-May 1, 2011 for the 2011 National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium competition, with substitute costs paid by the district.

approved Barnette Magnet School's request to send students to Anchorage, Alaska, May 5-6, 2011 to participate in the We the People Middle School Showcase, at no cost to the district.

accepted the gift of \$20,000 from the Lathrop Hockey Booster Club to Lathrop High School for the school's hockey program.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period March 9-29, 2011.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period March 9-29, 2011.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE. AYE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS**

Vicki Stutzke, 420 Peregrine Drive, spoke about how she understood, but was sorry, the graduation success program had been eliminated from the 2011-2012 budget. The program had helped her middle school child be successful. Without the program, he might not had made it. Ms. Stutzke found it difficult to get together with teachers after school, but the graduation success coach was able to help her son with academic problems, homework, and tutoring. It also gave her son another adult, other than her, to be accountable to. She knew that 90 percent of the students did not need the program, but the other 10 percent did. Ms. Stutzke hoped the board would be able to help the other 10 percent.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS (continued)**

Deb Hickok, PO Box 70809, thanked the board for the opportunity to have Chinese taught at West Valley High School for the past two years. However, Ms. Hickok was disappointed advanced Chinese classes would not be taught at West Valley next year, although students could take a class at UAF. UAF's class schedule conflicted with her daughter's after school schedule so she would be enrolling her daughter in a summer immersion program in Minnesota. It would be expensive, but she felt it was necessary for her daughter to continue learning the language and culture since she was Chinese. Ms. Hickok had adopted her daughter from China when she was four months old. She noted the district would grant her daughter one credit if she completed the immersion program over the summer.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Included in the Consent Agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Policy 162: Lowering Flags in Commemoration (First Reading)**

In response to public testimony, the administration reviewed Policy 162 Lowering Flags in Commemoration and presented revisions to the school board.

MCCONNELL MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO APPROVE FIRST READING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADVANCEMENT TO SECOND READING OF POLICY 162: LOWERING FLAGS IN COMMEMORATION.

Superintendent Lewis reported he had met with the community member who had originally raised concerns about the district's handling of the United States Flag after he had testified to the board at an earlier board meeting. The administration had distributed information to the buildings on the correct handling and display of the flag. The proposed policy was updating the policy to reflect the district's practice.

Bett Schaffhauser, employment and educational opportunity director, explained the previous version of the policy, adopted in 1980, provided guidelines to flying the United States Flag at half-staff in honor of various persons, by direction of the President, Governor of Alaska, City Mayor, and Borough Mayor. It called for the lowering of the flag upon the passing of the superintendent or a member of the school board. It directed a school to lower its United States Flag to half-staff at the passing of a staff member or student. It also gave the principal the discretion to lower the school's flag to half-staff upon the passing of someone closely associated with the school.

Ms. Schaffhauser reported building principals had been polled in regards to the policy. The principals indicated they had lowered the flag in response to direction from the administration. No principal had direct experience of lowering the flag for the passing of a school board member, superintendent, staff member, or student. No principal reported having a building flag that would be lowered to honor the passing of someone closely associated with the school. It was clear the policy did not reflect current practice.

After public testimony to the board in December, Superintendent Lewis ordered a review of the policy. Research on the policy led to the legal authorities and codes included in the proposed policy. The codes provided for the United States Flag to be flown at half-staff as directed by the President of the United States or by proclamation of the state governor. The code also allowed for the flag to fly at half-staff in accordance with recognized customs and practices not inconsistent with law. The language allowing the flag to be lower to half-staff in accordance with recognized customs and practices, not inconsistent with law, dated back to an executive order issued by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954.

## **Policy 162: Lowering Flags in Commemoration (First Reading) (continued)**

In that same executive order, President Eisenhower gave authority to heads of departments and agencies of the government to direct the lowering of the flag. The executive order was incorporated into law in 4 U.S.C. Chapter 1, Section 7(m). After combining the information found during research, along with the actual practice in the schools, the administration had forwarded the proposed policy to the board for consideration.

### **BOARD QUESTIONS**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

None

STUDENT ADVISORY VOTE. AYE

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES

## **INFORMATION AND REPORTS**

### **Language Arts Materials Report**

The district's curriculum revision process included the selection of textbooks and materials to support the implementation of adopted curricula. Peggy Carlson, executive director of curriculum and instruction, provided a report that included the elementary language arts materials being considered for adoption. The materials would remain available for review and the administration anticipated making a final recommendation at the April 19, 2011 board meeting.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District curriculum revision process included the selection of textbooks and materials for recommendation to the school board for adoption. The current elementary series was Harcourt's *Trophies*, 2005. Multiple literature anthologies and composition texts were adopted at the middle and secondary level to address the variety of courses offered.

The textbook selection process involved the collection of materials, screening by teachers, review by the Board Curriculum Advisory Committee (BCAC), public review, information from the publishers, and a review of available research.

Although textbook adoption and purchase did not occur until after the curriculum was adopted, the selection process began earlier. Publishers and language arts materials vendors were invited to provide samples of their texts and materials to the district for review.

During January and February, teachers reviewed K-6 core programs. They recorded ratings and comments for each set of materials based on curriculum content, content strength and emphasis, support materials, presentation of materials, and equity issues. The curriculum department, with the assistance of the research and accountability department, had compiled the information.

The curriculum department also invited the public to review the materials. The curriculum library regular hours of operation, as well as extended evening hours, had been publicized. The Board Curriculum Advisory Committee also had the opportunity to review materials.

## Language Arts Materials Report (continued)

Last spring, during budget discussions, the decision was made to review and replace only elementary language arts textbooks. The decision was made after a survey was sent to secondary administrators which asked the following questions:

1. Approximately what percentage of core textbooks were currently in poor condition and not able to last another six years?
2. Approximately what percentage of tradebooks (classroom sets used for instruction) were currently in poor condition and not able to last another six years?
3. How many of teachers had the teacher resource materials for the core textbooks adopted in 2005?

Responses indicated the majority of core textbooks and teacher resource materials would last another six years. Funds were allocated for secondary textbook replacements and additional tradebooks.

The K-6 core programs for language arts were listed below. They would continue to be available for review in the curriculum library.

### Elementary Reading Series

Harcourt, 2009	STORYtown
McMillan/McGraw Hill, 2011	Treasures
Benchmark Education, 2010	Benchmark Literacy
Scott Foresman, 2011	Reading Street
Zaner Bloser, 2006	Voices
Harcourt, 2011	Journeys

### BOARD QUESTIONS

None

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

### BOARD COMMENTS

President Brophy thanked Mrs. Carlson and everyone involved in the textbook selection.

## Summer Construction Briefing

Dave Ferree, assistant superintendent for facilities management, provided a summary of planned summer construction activities.

### OCTOBER 2009 BOND PROJECTS

**Weller Elementary Lighting Project** - This was a design-build contract awarded to Tunista Construction, LLC by the borough, in the amount of \$1.6 million. Work would consist of removal and replacement of virtually all interior and exterior lighting throughout the facility. Lighting would be significantly improved and, at the same time, would operate at significantly lower power requirements, reducing ongoing utility bills. The project would also include new ceilings throughout the facility with improved earthquake survivability.

## **Summer Construction Briefing (continued)**

**North Pole High Lighting Project** - This was a design-build contract awarded to Johnson River Enterprises, LLC by the borough, in the amount of \$3 million. Work would consist of removal and replacement of virtually all interior and exterior lighting throughout the facility. Lighting would be significantly improved and, at the same time, would operate at significantly lower power requirements, reducing ongoing utility bills. Ceilings would also receive improved structural support to improve earthquake survivability. The project would require two summers to complete.

**Salcha Elementary Site and Playground Upgrades** – Work would consist of replacement and upgrade of all playground equipment and fall surfaces, sidewalk replacement, lighting improvements, and general site upgrades. This would also bring the playground and front entry of the school into ADA compliance. The budget for this project would be \$550,000 and was currently out to bid.

**Badger Road Elementary Building Exterior Upgrades** – Work would consist of replacement of windows, doors, siding and/or exterior painting. Wherever possible, exterior insulation would be improved, resulting in some savings in long-term utility costs. The budget for this project would be \$1.25 million and was currently out to bid.

### School District Facilities Maintenance Fund

**Ryan Middle School Interior Structural Work** – The purpose of the project would be to perform temporary internal structural improvements to the classroom wing of the facility to improve the seismic performance of the building. Work would consist of exposing a number of interior walls, stiffening them with floor to ceiling plywood sheathing, and then repairing the walls. The budget for this project would be \$500,000 and was currently out to bid.

### GRANT-FUNDED WORK

**Districtwide Underground Fuel Storage Tank Replacement** - This would be the third year of the project and would complete this phase of the work. The last phase would include converting heating systems in some schools to dual fuel (heating oil or natural gas) capability. The cost for the entire project would total approximately \$3.6 million. The project included replacement of 16 underground fuel storage tanks located throughout the school district. All new storage tanks would be double walled with integrated leak detection systems and were mandated by federal EPA. The upcoming summer's work included tanks at Salcha, Badger, Weller, and North Pole Middle.

**Ticasuk Brown Elementary Septic System Replacement** – This work was made possible by a grant obtained by the state interior legislative delegation during the 2010 legislative session and the district sincerely thank them for their successful effort. The project would replace the entire school septic system including the tankage system and leach field. The budget for this project would be \$450,000 and was currently in design.

### IN HOUSE PROJECTS

**Joy & Pearl Creek Elementary Hallway Flooring Replacement** - The project included replacing the carpet in the school corridors with new rubber tile flooring to the extent the budget would allow.

**Pearl Creek Elementary First Floor Window Replacement** – The project would replace all first floor classroom windows and would result in improved energy conservation.

## Summer Construction Briefing (continued)

**Pearl Creek & North Pole Elementary Gym Light Fixture Replacement** – The project would replace all gymnasium light fixtures, replacing high pressure sodium and metal halide fixtures with modern T-5 fluorescent fixtures. The lighting would be significantly improved and operating costs for lighting would be greatly reduced. The project has an estimated three year payback of the costs with savings in electrical utility payments.

### WARRANTY REPAIRS

**Badger Road Elementary Hallway Carpet Replacement** – The hallway carpets were replaced during a capital improvement project in 2006. Problems with the carpet seams had resulted in the manufacturer agreeing to completely replace the carpet with new. The manufacturer had documented correction of the defects to the district's satisfaction prior to the agreement to accept the replacement solution.

APPROXIMATE TOTAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE PROJECTS: \$8 MILLION
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Although the total cost of the projects was approximately \$8 million, Mr. Ferree pointed out the bulk of the cost, \$6.1 million or about 77 percent was funded through state matching funds or state grants. He felt the school board, along with borough officials and the interior delegation should be congratulated for the hard work they had done to bring the funds to the local community which would benefit every public school in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

As discussions would begin on the school construction bond, it was important to realize local school improvements were largely funded not by property taxes but by state funds as a result of a lot of hard work by the board and the interior delegation, including Senators Thomas, Paskvan, and Coghill; and Representatives Miller, Guttenberg, Kawasaki, Thompson, and Wilson.

### FUTURE PROJECTS

#### SUMMER 2012 CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE (tentative)

- .....North Pole High School – Completion of Lighting Replacement *(2009 bond)*
- .....Lathrop High Gymnasium & Classroom Upgrades *(2009 bond)*
- .....Conversion of some school to dual fuel heating capability *(grant funded)*
- .....Admin. Center - Rooftop Air Conditioning Units Replacement & Energy Efficiency Upgrades *(School District Facilities Maintenance Fund)*
- .....Facilities Warehouse – Connect Facility to City Sewer System *(School District Facilities Maintenance Fund)*

#### BOARD QUESTIONS

None

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

#### BOARD COMMENTS

President Brophy thanked Mr. Ferree for the report and his hard work.



## **BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT'S QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS/ COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Wilson was sad her time as the student representative would soon be coming to a close. She reported there were 38 days of school left for seniors. Regional Solo-Ensembles were held recently with all high schools participating. There were many students going to the state competition in Anchorage on May 9. The Alaska Association of Student Government would be holding its spring conference in Cordova, with approximately 30 Region VI students attending.

Mrs. Dominique thanked all the students from earlier in the meeting for sharing their love of languages. The kids were awesome and would go on to do great things. The district was doing great things with the students. She also really liked the OneTree Project. She worked outside with her grandson and now they would start working with trees. Mrs. Dominique thanked Ms. Stutzke for testifying in regards to the graduation success program. Like Ms. Stutzke, Mrs. Dominique wished there was some way to keep the program. She knew of at least a 100 students who had benefited from the program. Mrs. Dominique felt the board needed to find a way to bring back and keep the program since it benefited kids.

Mrs. Dominique thanked everyone involved in the early graduation ceremony at Ft. Wainwright. It was a great ceremony. She specifically thanked Bridget Lewis, North Pole High School principal, for bringing the idea forward. She also thanked Colonel Jones for helping coordinate the event.

Mrs. Dominique thanked everyone for the flowers and well-wishes while she was out. She was up and about and doing well.

Mrs. Hull thanked Ms. Hickok for her testimony on the Chinese program. She also thanked everyone who had worked to bring the Chinese program to the district and thought perhaps the district should look at expanding it to a full program. Ms. Hickok was correct in the need for Chinese as students moved forward. Chinese was the new French and it should not be neglected.

Mrs. Hull found it puzzling that parents had to come in to collect homework at the middle school level with the team approach. With the combination of having team time and PowerSchool, she thought assignments could be posted on line. With the middle school team time she was hopeful assistance could be provided to students who were struggling and communicating with parents could be improved.

Mrs. Hull spoke on the board's work session from the previous evening on the district's technology plan. She thought the plan needed additional emphasis on getting technology into the hands of kids every day. It wasn't as clear to her as she would like it to be in having a goal of expanding student use of technology in the classroom. She thought it was a high priority. She shared a passage from *Education Nation*, a book she was reading, about how technology could be used in the classroom versus non-technology methods. Mrs. Hull thought the technology plan was good and appreciated all the hard work, but just thought it needed to expand on getting technology into the hands of students every day.

Ms. McConnell congratulated all the students who were recognized earlier in the evening.

Mr. Rice had enjoyed the early graduation ceremony at Ft. Wainwright. He had also really enjoyed Mr. Chord's singing of the National Anthem. He also thanked all the students for their poems and stories; they were awesome. It was great to see everything that was going on in the district.

Mr. Chord was fascinated with the different languages. He shared a family story about languages. He thanked the administration for reworking the flag policy. Mr. Chord appreciated the district's emphasis on the flag and on a pre-graduation for those parents who would be deploying to serve in harm's way.

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

LTC Johnson appreciated everyone's patience while he had been away and unable to attend the board meetings; it was good to be back. He appreciated the administration and all district staff members who worked hard to provide a quality education to students in a great district. LTC Johnson announced he would be transferred to Scott Air Force Base in early June. He wanted to remind everyone how fortunate they were to live in a community where so many people cared and worked hard to offer so much. With his background in languages, LTC Johnson had been very excited to hear all the student presentations.

Mrs. Brophy congratulated all the students recognized earlier in the evening. She announced Danielle Wilson had recently been highlighted as a Student of the Week. She thanked Mrs. Havrilek for filling in for the board secretary. She reminded board members and community members of the opportunity to testify on HB143 and SB84 the next day. The district's State of the Schools would be Thursday, April 7 before the borough assembly.

Superintendent Lewis had a number of announcements:

- spring sports had started
- snow removal was continuing
- thanked UAF for hosting a Alaska Native Education Looking Ahead Conference
- announced Assistant Superintendent Roxa Hawkins' recent award from the Alaska Association of School Librarians for her efforts and work
- thanked Lynda Goodwin, Barb Havrilek, and Silver Chord for their work on the early graduation ceremony at Ft. Wainwright for the soldiers who would be deploying
- the America's Cultures Week Potluck Celebration would be April 14 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Ryan Middle School

Superintendent Lewis had met with Mayor Hopkins and others earlier in the day to sign an agreement with Noel Wien Library to continue the district's partnership for library services and resources.

The district had been approached about recycling in all classrooms and Superintendent Lewis would be contacting the borough's recycling committee to help aid in the effort. He had also been asked for a letter of support for an artificial turf field in Fairbanks; one of four possibly going in around the state.

There has been a lot of sickness with staff members and board members and he hoped everyone would get well soon. He thanked Ms. Havrilek for filling in for the board meeting. She had done a great job.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Havrilek, executive assistant to the assistant superintendent.