

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

Work Session

MINUTES

April 18, 2011

President Brophy called the work session to order at 5:30 p.m. in Room #426 of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The work session was called to discuss career technical education.

Present:

Kristina Brophy, President
Sharon McConnell, Vice President
Sue Hull, Treasurer
Silver Chord, Member

Absent:

Sean Rice, Clerk
Wendy Dominique, Member
Leslie Hajdukovich, Member

Staff Present:

Pete Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
Wayne Gerke, Assistant Superintendent - Secondary
Roxa Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent – Elementary
Dave Ferree, Assistant Superintendent – Facilities Management
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Ruth Keator, Career Technical Education Coordinator
Jeanette Hayden, Hutchison High School Principal
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Career Technical Education

Several Career Technical Education Advisory Committee members were present. Superintendent Lewis asked for the group's thoughts and assumptions regarding career technical education.

- ✓ CTE would be integrated into curriculum
- ✓ progress would be made
- ✓ concern about delaying CTE curriculum revision process
- ✓ relieved to see CTE curriculum revision slow down with more planning
- ✓ concern about funding issues
- ✓ facility issues – need more support and direction
- ✓ varied perceptions and expectations of CTE

Superintendent Lewis asked the group what they would like to see in a perfect world for career technical education.

- ✓ the district's CTE plan would mirror the state's CTE plan
- ✓ more offerings for students who learned with their hands in all high schools/specifically for boys
- ✓ honest commitment to CTE
- ✓ sustainability of the program in the district
- ✓ integration of academics and career technical activities
- ✓ maintain equipment

Career Technical Education (continued)

The district was projecting a budget shortfall for next year's budget. As part of the budget consideration process, the scheduled CTE curriculum scheduled for revision next year, and projected to cost approximately \$885,000 in materials, was postponed a year to add another year of research and planning. The delay in the CTE curriculum revision was part of the district's overall \$3+ million in budget reductions. The district could face additional cuts, depending on funding from the state and borough. The administration was open to revisiting the possibility of CTE curriculum revision if the legislature appropriated funds for career technical education.

Discussion topics included the history and development of career technical education in the district; current and future CTE needs in regards to space, scheduling, equipment, materials, and preventive maintenance; long term planning; middle school programs and preparations; funding options – district, legislative, department of labor, etc. including one time and sustained funding; current CTE offerings at individual schools; the WorkKeys Program and Alaska Performance Scholarship; the state's CTE plan; collaboration with UAF Community Technical College; providing full pathways versus individual classes; and, staffing.

As the district's career technical education plan developed, it was hoped it would mirror the state's plan. It was noted Anchorage and Mat-Su's CTE plans mirrored the state's plan. Both the state and district's CTE plans would be revolving documents. The state was very interested in receiving public feedback and input on their plan.

The board took a break at 6:44 and reconvened at 6:53 p.m.

Having principals support CTE was key to the success of the CTE program. Mr. Gerke believed principals were interested if additional staffing would be provided. Discussions continued on sustaining and maintaining current CTE offerings; utilizing current programs and spaces more effectively, such as Ryan's woodshop area; flexible scheduling, including the possibility of offering evening school; and having funding available for innovation, balanced with maintaining current offerings.

The group discussed the responsibility of developing the district's career plan. Different options were explored including making it a community committee of parents and business experts; having the career technical education advisory committee develop it; or leaving it to the administration. The group did not reach a consensus on the responsibility for the development of the district's CTE plan.

There had been some frustration voiced over the perceived slow development of CTE in the district. The administration assured the group work on CTE had been progressing; there were many facets and considerations involved. Assistant Superintendent Gerke stated if funding and staffing were available, the district could implement CTE pathways at each of the schools by next school year. There was discussion the legislature was considering CTE categorical funding. The funding could be over \$1 million annually.

Superintendent Lewis summarized the meeting's discussions in relation to the group's earlier thoughts, assumptions, and perfect world scenarios and it was evident the district was on the right path for meeting all the "perfect world" CTE considerations.

Other Discussion

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Tuttle, executive assistant to the board of education.