

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

Work Session

MINUTES

May 9, 2011

President Brophy called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m. in the superintendent's conference room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The work session was called to discuss the bond resolution and board planning.

Present:

Kristina Brophy, President
Silver Chord, Member
Wendy Dominique, Member
Leslie Hajdukovich, Member

Absent:

Sharon McConnell, Vice President
Sue Hull, Treasurer
Sean Rice, Clerk

Staff Present:

Pete Lewis, Superintendent
Dave Ferree, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities Management
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer
Roxa Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary
Dave Norum, Construction Manager
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Bond Resolution Discussion

Superintendent Lewis announced a tentative meeting had been scheduled for June 2, 2011 for the School Board and Assembly to continue their discussion on the district's proposed 2011 bond request. He would confirm the meeting with the borough clerk's office.

Superintendent Lewis reviewed the draft bond proposal package created for the Assembly.

Facility	Project Title & Description	Total Cost	70%	30%
Construction of a New North Pole School	600 Student Elementary School Phase I – purchase land, engineer & design school, site preparations (70/30 bond cost split)	\$8,500,000	\$5,950,000	\$2,550,000
Ryan Middle School	Renovation Phase I - Phase I will concentrate on renovation of the gym wing	\$9,900,000	\$6,930,000	\$2,970,000
Pearl Creek Elementary	Replace Septic System & Upgrade Plumbing System	\$680,000	\$476,000	\$204,000
North Pole High School	Renovate Vocational Wing	\$3,740,000	\$2,618,000	\$1,122,000
North Pole Middle School	Roof and Clearstory Replacement	\$3,890,000	\$2,723,000	\$1,167,000
Weller Elementary	Septic System Replacement	\$330,000	\$231,000	\$99,000
Salcha Elementary	Roof and Building Envelope Replacement and Upgrades	\$1,140,000	\$798,000	\$342,000
Woodriver Elementary	Gymnasium Upgrade	\$1,620,000	\$1,134,000	\$486,000
TOTALS:		\$29,800,000	\$20,860,000	\$8,940,000

Bond Resolution Discussion (continued)

Board members and the administration discussed many aspects of the bond request including 30/70 funding, proposing the bond package as one request rather than dividing the projects, Barnette Magnet School, phasing in the building of a new North Pole area school, and the state's capital budget. Other topics of discussion included:

- ☑ operational cost of running an elementary school;
 - possibility of converting it to a K-8 school after opening
- ☑ enrollment trends - past and future;
 - relatively flat since 2004, except in the North Pole area
- ☑ transportation plans and associated costs;
 - cost of a bus route exceeds \$70,000
 - transportation cost will increase by approximately \$1.3 million in year one of new transportation contract
 - parent concern voiced over long busing for students and keeping siblings together
- ☑ transportation plan if the new North Pole Elementary is not built;
 - fall 2011 boundary changes will provide some capacity for a period of a few years
- ☑ mothball options for an in-town school or an Eielson elementary school;
 - not a viable option, still need to be heated and maintained, equating to costs
 - transportation issues for 70+ students at Eielson
- ☑ Ryan Middle School renovation or replacement and phasing;
 - would continue to have more physical education space than any other middle school
 - opposed to closing it
 - need for phasing
- ☑ Department of Education & Early Development; and
 - qualified for 81,003 square feet, more than the 63,800 requested by the district
- ☑ willingness to have multiple questions before the voters.
 - Question #1 – new North Pole area elementary school (\$8.5 m)
 - Question #2 – Ryan Middle School & the rest of the project list (\$21.3m)

There was considerable discussion about adding Barnette Magnet School to the list of projects but it was determined not to include it at the present time, as it was currently scheduled to be funded by the Legislature. The Board suggested the Administration research the Department of Defense's next Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list in regards to the future of Eielson Air Force Base.

Although the Administration had recommended one ballot measure at \$29.8 million, after much deliberation, the Board determined to forward two ballot questions to the Borough Assembly. They had voiced concern all projects might be voted down if there was not adequate support for the new North Pole area elementary school. The Board recommended one ballot measure include the request for a new North Pole area elementary school – approximately \$8.5 million and a second ballot measure include the remaining projects – approximately \$21.3 million.

At a previous meeting between the Board and Assembly, assembly members had raised many questions with the Board's bond request. The Administration had drafted a letter addressing the Assembly's questions. Board members offered suggestions in the areas of transportation and mothball options. They requested additional language on how families were affected by transportation issues, as well as further explanation on how the Military Compact affected military families and the district.

Bond Resolution Discussion (continued)

Superintendent Lewis would make the changes to the letter suggested by the Board and get another draft copy ready for their review.

Board members and the Administration discussed the need and their desire to continue conversations with the Assembly on the lapse fund ordinance once the bond request had been determined.

The Board took a short recess at 7:34 p.m. and reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

Board Planning

The Board's regular meeting for June had been rescheduled from June 7 to June 22, 2011. Superintendent Lewis proposed a work session for June 23, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss board priorities and planning. President Brophy also suggested continuing those discussions and moving forward with other work with a work session in July and August. There was no objection from board members. Superintendent Lewis would look at the calendar and schedule a work session in late July and August.

The group discussed completely revamping the current district priorities and goals. It was stated goals should be measurable and guide the Board and Administration in every program and decision. A couple of board members had seen different versions and thought it might also be time to consider different formats.

Board members expressed their dislike of the district's current superintendent evaluation instrument. It was ambiguous, leaving board members with different interpretations and oftentimes causing a wide-range in ratings. Board members agreed a new evaluation tool was needed. Some suggested going back to the previous form, as well as considering an evaluation instrument used by other agencies, such as the federal government. President Brophy had started on a new evaluation form and would get information out to board members when she had it completed.

Dropout rate calculations were discussed. There were many factors, out of the district's control, that could skew the dropout rate. Board members requested a breakdown of the dropout rate by school location. Other topics of discussion included the one-to-one digital learning program, the teacher mentoring program, and the board's self-evaluation.

The Board and Superintendent agreed on the importance of a good working relationship and the need to work together to move the District forward.

Other Discussion

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Tuttle, executive assistant to the Board of Education.