

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

Work Session

MINUTES

June 23, 2011

President Brophy called the work session to order at 6:50 p.m. in the Superintendent Conference Room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The work session was called to discuss board protocols, board planning, and the superintendent evaluation tool.

Present:

Kristina Brophy, President
Sharon McConnell, Vice President
Sue Hull, Treasurer
Silver Chord, Member
Wendy Dominique, Member
Leslie Hajdukovich, Member

Absent:

Sean Rice, Clerk

Staff Present:

Pete Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the School Board

Superintendent Evaluation Instrument

The Board discussed the superintendent's evaluation instrument. Most board members had found the current evaluation tool somewhat arduous to interpret and apply to the superintendent's performance. President Brophy had revised the evaluation tool and presented a draft copy to board members. The revised evaluation document utilized the eight standards of the previous document, but had been streamlined for ease of use. Some board members suggested possible changes to the standards' qualifiers and some word-smithing. Board members would review the document and provide input.

The board and Superintendent Lewis discussed evaluation options, including completing the evaluation together. It was determined each board member would complete their individual evaluation form as each board member heard comments and received input from different constituents within the community. All board member comments would be compiled and discussed with Superintendent Lewis. The evaluation discussion would result in a consensus summary for each standard on the final evaluation document.

Board members were asked to submit their feedback to the board secretary by July 7, 2011. The revisions would be made and a revised document would be sent to board members by July 8. If there were no substantial changes, board members would complete their individual evaluations and submit them by July 20 to present the evaluation to Superintendent Lewis on July 25. If there were substantial changes and further review was necessary, the board would schedule another meeting to further discuss the evaluation tool.

Priorities and Planning

Board members discussed updating the district's priorities. It was suggested the priorities be data based. Board members spoke about taking a fresh approach to the document and process. The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) priorities setting process was mentioned. Previously, the administration would draft a priorities document from the board's discussions through the year. Superintendent Lewis suggested soliciting public input for the priorities in the early fall, at the same time as the budget. By November, the election will have taken place and they would have input to finalize the priorities. Superintendent Lewis would provide the board with a timeline, some data, and other information to start the process at their August 1 work session. It would be helpful to board members to get the information in advance, not only for this meeting, but other meetings as well.

Priorities and Planning (continued)

Board members discussed holding work sessions on a regular basis. Board members agreed, when needed, work sessions would be held each Monday prior to a regular meeting. Board members agreed meetings should be scheduled for times most conducive to the majority of members and work would move forward with a quorum present. The board had previously determined to move their Monday noon special meetings for discipline to the evening. There would still be a couple of noon meetings – January 2 and April 30 due to other scheduling issues.

Miscellaneous

Board members reviewed several future work session topics, including attendance, student discipline, priorities, parent involvement, budget, board protocols and communication, agenda items, a program evaluation and analysis system, student assessment options, and special education. Board members expressed the need to have more “one topic” work sessions to enable them to thoroughly exam and discuss issues. Superintendent Lewis and President Brophy would work on the board’s calendar to schedule the next few upcoming work sessions. The board’s next work session was scheduled for July 25 at 5:30 p.m. to tentatively cover the superintendent’s evaluation and discuss board planning.

Mrs. Hull had asked for a copy of the district’s CTE plan. A copy was provided to board members. Mrs. Hull asked when a final CTE draft would be available. Board members would like to hold a work session on career technical education (CTE) in August to discuss the CTE plan.

Other Discussion

President Brophy reminded board members about sponsoring a hole in the Kids Voting Golf Classic. Board members offered private donations toward the sponsorship.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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