

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

September 16, 2014

President Haas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. West Valley High School's Jazz Band led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the board under the guidance of Liesl Wietgreffe, band director.

President Haas read the district's mission statement: *"Our mission is to provide an excellent and equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students can become productive members of a diverse and changing society."*

Present:

Heidi Haas, President
Wendy Dominique, Vice President
John Thies, Treasurer
Allyson Lambert, Clerk
Lisa Gentry, Member
Sue Hull, Member
Sean Rice, Member
Larry Rice, Base Representative
Wyatt Hoyes, Student Representative

Absent:

Sidney Zemp, Post Representative

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer
Sandy Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Kathy Hughes, Executive Director of Alternative Instruction & Accountability
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
Bob Hadaway, Executive Director of Special Education
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Johanna Carson, Director of Public Relations
Bett Schaffhauser, Director of Employment & Educational Opportunity
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs
Katie Sanders, Director of Library Media Services
Dan Domke, Director of Career Technical Education
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

Staff Introductions [0:12:51]

Johanna Carson, director of community and public relations, introduced Rebecca Hurbi, the new community and public relations coordinator.

AGENDA [0:14:36]

GENTRY MOVED, THIES SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS.

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the award from the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, through the Fairbanks North Star Borough, in the amount of \$218,182 for the West Valley/North Pole High Schools Headbolts project, per Fiscal Note 2014-49.

accepted the award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$10,320 for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program, per Fiscal Note 2015-11.

accepted the initial award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$2,214 for the Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Postvention project, per Fiscal Note 2015-12.

accepted the initial award from the U.S. Department of Education, via the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, in the amount of \$1,398,037 for the Alaska 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, per Fiscal Note 2015-13.

accepted the Monthly Management Reports for August 2014.

approved the minutes from the special meetings on September 2 and 9, and the regular meeting on September 2, 2014, as submitted.

approved the Fairbanks BEST curriculum notice.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-005: Snow Removal Equipment Rentals in the amount of \$40,000.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-007: Human Resources Investigation Specialist in the amount of \$125,477.

approved Hutchison High School's request to raise funds to send its girls' basketball team to Kona, Hawaii, December 26, 2014 – January 1, 2015, to participate in a basketball camp and tournament, at no cost to the district.

approved Lathrop High School's request to raise funds to send its foreign language students to Peru, March 12-21, 2015, where students will build their foreign language skills and learn about ancient Native American art and history, at no cost to the district, and if the State Department issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

accepted the gift of \$1,500 from the Interior Girls' Softball Association to Lathrop High School to support its girls' softball program.

accepted the gift of \$3,550 from the Northern Area Aquatics Committee to Lathrop High School to support the Hutchison and Lathrop swim programs.

accepted the gift of \$1,000 from the Fairbanks Youth Soccer Association to Lathrop High School to support its girls' soccer program.

Consent Agenda (continued)

accepted the gift of \$4,607 from Running Club North to North Pole High School to support its cross country running program.

accepted the gift of \$2,150 from the Northern Area Aquatics Committee to West Valley High School to support its swim program.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period August 22 – September 5, 2014.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period August 22 – September 5, 2014.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for September 16, 2014.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (L. RICE, HOYES)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES
(S. RICE, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, THIES, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS [0:18:42]

Colby Freel, 3525 Kaltag Drive, encouraged the board to support and recognize October as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Month throughout the district. National statistics showed LGBT students were at an academic disadvantage, often feared for their safety, and felt unwelcomed at school, which could contribute to the high suicide rate amongst LGBT students. Mr. Freel believed the board recognizing the month would help provide respect, fight ignorance, and improve the school environment for students and staff.

Austen Whitney, PO Box 751703, spoke in support of the school board recognizing October as LGBT Month. Mr. Whitney felt it might have helped him if his school had done more outreach and shown more acceptance. Supporting October as LGBT Month could possibly make it easier for students. The school district's mission statement promoted diversity for an ever changing society and this society needed the board's help. He urged the board to promote equity for all students by recognizing October as LGBT Month.

Tim Doran, 512 Windsor Drive, retired district principal, thanked the district and administration for their support for his participation in the Brazil Administrator Exchange Program conducted through the United States Department of State. It had been a great experience. Brazilian principals shadowed him at Denali and he then visited their schools in Brazil. Brazil educators faced some of the same travel and logistical issues facing Alaska educators. The spirit and professionalism of the Brazilian participants were similar to district staff, although their resources were much more limited than the district's.

Jeff Walters, 2454 Killarney Way, West Valley High School counselor and co-sponsor of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance student group, appreciated working in the school district and was proud to be part of the district as it was somewhat a leader in the state regarding sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination policies, although there was still a lot of work to be done. The district's mission statement spoke to supporting a diverse and changing society, providing a safe, supportive environment, and providing an equitable education for all students. He did not believe all students felt they were treated equitably. Mr. Walters did not feel it was enough for the district to state it would not discriminate; it should celebrate. He supported the school board recognizing LGBT Month.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS (continued)

President Haas explained the Board Diversity Committee had reviewed a resolution supporting October as LGBT Month throughout the school district, but there was not a quorum present at the meeting, so they were unable to take an advisory vote to move the resolution forward to the next step. The board would not see the resolution for the upcoming October, but the process was started. The Board Diversity Committee was anticipating further discussions on the resolution before it was forwarded to management team and then the board.

OLD BUSINESS

Included in the Consent Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the Consent Agenda.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Ryan Conceptual Design Presentation [0:33:40]

Tracy Vanairsdale and Alex Bettisworth, with Bettisworth North, and borough staff, Bud Marschner, project manager, and Scott Johnson, director of public works, provided the board with a briefing on the Ryan Middle School renovation and replacement project.

Board Priority: Maintain excellent school facilities and manage capital improvement projects.

The Ryan Middle School renovation and replacement project was at 35 percent, on schedule, and on budget, with many improvements scheduled for energy efficiency and integrated technology. The new design would provide for a safe learning environment, provide access to daylight, provide safe and sufficient circulation to the recently renovated gym wing, flexibility for future educational trends, and improve site amenities and access for students and community use.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Informational item; no action required.

Nutrition Services & Vending [1:20:06]

Mike Fisher, chief financial officer, Amy Rouse, nutrition services director, and Bart Grahek, purchasing manager, provided the board with an update on nutrition services and vending machines.

Board Priority: Develop long-term sustainability of overall district operations.

During the 2013-14 school year, the district nutrition services department prepared and served, on a daily average, 1,677 breakfasts, 4,500 lunches, and had \$2,630 in ala carte sales at 32 sites throughout the district. Additionally, the program provided 300 snacks to after school students every day. The reauthorization of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act by Congress in 2010 required major changes to breakfast and lunch meals. Meals had to contain minimum portion sizes of fruits, vegetables, proteins, grains, and fluid milk, with guidelines regarding the types of grains and vegetables and caloric limits.

Nutrition Services & Vending (continued)

The United States Department of Agriculture provided standards - *Smart Snacks in Schools* – which defined the school day and governed all food and beverages sold during the school day, regardless of the source. The standards, required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, would allow schools to offer healthier snack foods to students and limit junk food. Vending machines, school clubs, school stores, etc. – were all governed by the *Smart Snacks in School* standards. The standards did not apply to any food or beverages brought from home or given to students during the school day. School vending revenues had dropped significantly over the past few years due to the mandated standards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Informational item; no action required.

Student Assessment Results for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District - 2013-14 School Year [1:42:55]

Dr. Ellis Ott, research associate and accountability coordinator, provided a staff report on district level results of the Alaska Standards Based Assessments (SBAs), Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE), WorkKeys, and TerraNova taken by district students during the 2013-14 school year, including information regarding achievement gaps and the state scoring system. Interim Superintendent Dr. Gaborik provided the board with several administrative recommendations related to the report.

Board Priority: Use data-supported decision making annual school planning.

For the most part, district students outperformed students in the state and were competitive with the “Big Four” and national students. On the Standard Based Assessments (SBAs), the district’s results were better than for the state in every subject (reading, writing, math, and science) and similar to the “Big Four” results with the exception of middle school where the district showed lower scores. For the TerraNova and High School Graduating Qualifying Exam (HSGQE), district results were better than the state and similar to the “Big Four” results and competitive with the nation for the TerraNova. Using the Alaska School Performance Index, district schools averaged 85.3 points, which would be equivalent to a 4-star rating; 69 percent of schools received a 4 or 5 star rating.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Karen Gaborik reviewed the administration’s recommendations including addressing achievement gaps, focusing on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), expanding RTI, providing additional support for students with disabilities, exploring reasons for lower middle school SBA scores, and supporting transition to the college and career readiness exams.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Informational item; no action required.

Enrollment Update [2:32:27]

Mike Fisher, chief financial officer, Shaun Kraska, interim assistant superintendent of secondary education, and Janet Cobb, executive director of technology, provided a staff report on student enrollment, student transfer/exit codes, and a snapshot of secondary class sizes.

Enrollment Update (continued)

Board Priority: Support class sizes that are conducive to learning.

The district's enrollment as of September 16 was 13,902. The official count period would take place in October. Secondary class PTR in core courses ranged from a high of 32 to a low of 12.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Doran, 512 Windsor Drive, retired district principal, shared a frontline perspective in dealing with projections and the effect on schools. Mr. Doran felt the district's projection process worked well; noting the administrative team worked hard during the first 10-days of school to adjust class sizes and staff. They worked collaboratively with principals about options and specifics. Mr. Doran felt the administration needed to be congratulated for their work.

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Board discussion ensued. Informational item; no action required.

At 9:55 p.m.: [2:54:43]

THIES MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO CONTINUE THE MEETING TO 10:30 P.M.

Asking for and hearing no objection, President Haas continued the meeting.

Strategic Planning Update [2:55:00]

President Haas provided an update on the board's strategic planning process.

Board Priority: Develop long-term sustainability of overall district operations.

President Haas provided information and costs from three organizations: Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), OnStrategy, and the Foraker Group.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Board discussion ensued.

After board discussion, there was board consensus for President Haas to work with OnStrategy regarding their services for facilitating the district's development of a strategic plan.

Association of Alaska School Boards' (AASB) Call for Resolutions [3:00:23]

The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) was soliciting resolutions from local school boards for consideration at the 2014 Annual Conference in November. School boards were asked to discuss the resolution changes and/or submit resolutions of their own. Administration reviewed the AASB proposed resolutions and supported the positions taken. While some resolutions did not affect the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, administration supported AASB's efforts to positively impact education decisions and procedures statewide. At the board's September 2 meeting, a request for additional time to consider the resolutions was made.

Board Priority: Student learning is at the center of everything we do.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Association of Alaska School Boards' (AASB) Call for Resolutions (continued)

BOARD COMMENTS

None. Informational item; no action required.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS [3:01:32]

On behalf of the entire board, President Haas thanked the West Valley High School Jazz Band. She welcomed Ms. Hurbi to the district. She thanked the representatives from Bettisworth North and the borough for their report on the Ryan Middle School renovation project. President Haas thanked district administrative staff for their reports.

President Haas had several announcements:

- Work Session with Borough Finance Committee regarding the 2015-16 budget on Thursday, September 18 at 5:30 p.m.
- Potluck Celebration in Memory of Eugene DeWild on Saturday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m. at Pioneer Park
- Board Legislative Committee Meeting on Wednesday, September 24 at 5:30 p.m.
- Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on Friday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the JP Jones Community Center

President Haas thanked Interim Superintendent Dr. Gaborik, Dan Domke, director of career and technical education, and Johanna Carson, director of public relations, for the State of the Schools presentations at Chamber. The presentations were informative and well-presented. She also thanked the administrative staff and specifically, Traci Gatewood, executive director of human resources for their work on behalf of students and the district. President Haas encouraged everyone to visit the district's website to view the video clips of Yatibaey Evans, Alaska Native Education coordinator, and Julie Wild-Curry, director of after school programs, in the Stories of Champions – special videos produced by KUAC as part of the upcoming American Graduate Day program. The clips would be airing on KUAC and Ms. Evan's would be carried nationally.

President Haas asked board members to contact the board office if they were not receiving the meeting agenda links.

Colonel Rice appreciated Dr. Gaborik and the administrative team scheduling a meeting with him and Colonel Zemp regarding the enrollment projection process and its affect on military students, parents, and staff. He was excited to get the dialogue started and hoped it would help. Colonel Rice appreciated the district recognizing the military's concerns.

Mrs. Hull announced the upcoming State Board of Education meeting, scheduled for September 18 and 19, in Anchorage. She added her appreciation to Dr. Gaborik and Mr. Domke for their presentations at chamber. She announced the upcoming Policy Review Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, September 22 at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Hull stressed the importance of informing the public about the possibility of a change in test scores for district students, and voiced her concern about advisory periods and the need to offer CTE opportunities to more students. Mrs. Hull appreciated President Haas' announcement at the last meeting regarding her intent to seek the board presidency for another year.

President Haas stated the State Board of Education meeting could be live streamed for anyone interested in listening.

Mrs. Gentry was also impressed with Dr. Gaborik's presentation at chamber. She thanked President Haas for her work over the past year. Mrs. Gentry was pleased with the direction and atmosphere of the district and how it had grown over the last year.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

President Haas thanked Mrs. Gentry for her comments; she thought the entire board had worked well together over the past year.

Mr. Thies added his congratulations to Dr. Gaborik and Mr. Domke for their presentations. It was great to be able to share the good things the district was doing with community members. Mr. Thies appreciated the Ryan presentation. He announced the upcoming Career Technical Education Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Dominique announced she would not be running for vice president next year. She announced the upcoming Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 24 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was open to the public and she encouraged everyone to attend.

Mrs. Dominique appreciated Mr. Domke's attendance and CTE presentation at the African American Student Leadership Conference and shared how students were so excited to speak with him about CTE opportunities. Mrs. Dominique appreciated the district's staff and how they were working so hard for children. There were a lot of great things happening in the district and it was important to get that information out to everyone. Mrs. Dominique shared her enthusiasm and insight on the recent Little League World Series and how inspired she was about Mo'Ne Davis and the great example the coaches set in how they interacted with the children.

Mrs. Lambert enjoyed the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) fall conference over the weekend. She enjoyed the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) presentation and thought it was something the district could offer and implement for a minimal cost. While at the recent assembly meeting, Mrs. Lambert was asked about dropouts/transfers and where the students were going. She appreciated the information in the report and asked if the information could be relayed to the assembly. Mrs. Lambert thanked everyone for the reports.

Mr. Rice also attended the AASB conference over the weekend and enjoyed the ANSEP presentation, as well as the Boys to Men presentation. Mr. Rice announced the upcoming Board Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for October 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Hoyes commended the young men who testified earlier in support of LGBT. He supported their efforts.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Gaborik spoke about the great presentation the West Valley High School Gay-Straight Alliance presented to their building staff; noting they would be presenting it to other school staffs. Dr. Gaborik thanked Johanna Carson for her assistance with the three presentations/speeches she delivered throughout the day at the African American Leadership breakfast and conference and the chamber luncheon.

Dr. Gaborik pointed out a change in the 2014-15 school calendar. With the state no longer requiring the HSGQE, October 7-9 would be regular school days for all students. Additional changes to the calendar would come later as the administration worked through the new testing requirements. Dr. Gaborik announced the upcoming ANE Literacy Challenge and that music teachers were looking for a logo for Music in our Schools Month. She encouraged board members to check out the progress at Ryan Middle School if they had a chance; it was great.

President Haas spoke about the AASB conference and thanked Mrs. Hull for her help in facilitating the event. People were pleased with Fairbanks' warm weather. The conference offered a good opportunity for one-to-one conversations with other board members throughout the state. She asked board members to contact the board office if they were interested in attending the AASB Annual Conference in November in Anchorage.

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

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