

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

Work Session

MINUTES

October 6, 2014

Vice President Dominique called the work session to order at 6:44 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The work session was called for the administration to provide an overview of the BEST (Building Educational Success Together) Home School program, including a tour of the BEST offices, and to provide an update on assessment strategy.

Present:

Heidi Haas, President (by phone)
Wendy Dominique, Vice President
John Thies, Treasurer
Allyson Lambert, Clerk
Sue Hull, Member
Sean Rice, Member

Absent:

Lisa Gentry, Member

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer
Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Instruction
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction
Kathy Hughes, Executive Director of Research and Accountability
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Johanna Carson, Director of Community and Public Relations
Katie Sanders, Director of Library Media
Daniel Domke, Director of Career Technical Education
Dr. Ellis Ott, Research Associate and Accountability Coordinator
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

BEST Home School [0:30]

Kathy Hughes, executive director of alternative instruction and accountability, guided board members through a tour of the BEST facility on the second floor of the Administrative Center. Ms. Hughes then provided an overview of the district's BEST (Building Education Success Together) home school program. The board and administration reviewed the BEST program's:

- home school and online handbooks and monthly calendars;
- enrollment and projection numbers from 2010-11 through 2014-15;
- partnerships with local attendance area schools;
- executive director's responsibilities; and
- marketing strategies.

Mr. Thies left the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

BEST Home School (continued)

Other discussion topics regarding correspondence programs included:

- EED information related to correspondence schools, including current and proposed regulations;
- statewide correspondence school enrollments;
- information and comparisons with Mat-Su and other state home school programs;
- considerations regarding growing the district's correspondence program, including consideration of a separate facility, funding, and legislative support; and
- the possibility of hiring a consultant to explore interest in an expanded home school program and associated costs.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Item for discussion only.

Assessment Strategy [01:28:40]

Dr. Ellis Ott, research associate and accountability coordinator, provided the board with assessment comparison information on MAP, TerraNova 3rd Edition, and Stanford 10 Online. Peggy Carlson, executive director of curriculum and instruction, updated the board on the staff and student technology assessments.

Dr. Karen Gaborik, interim superintendent, provided the board with the administration's recommendation regarding districtwide assessments. If the board wanted to move away from AIMS Web, the administration recommended that Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) be adopted for assessment purposes.

Supporting reasons:

- MAP provided nationally norm-referenced data desired by the board and could be implemented in grades 3-10.
- MAP could be used to meet some of the district's RTI needs.
- MAP had the potential for use as an assessment within the new teacher evaluation system.
- MAP could be used for RTI and teacher evaluation purposes in grades K-2 and 11-12.
- District had funds to pilot MAP during the spring semester, potentially during 3rd quarter.

Potential concerns:

- MAP could not be used for progress monitoring within the current RTI framework.
- Teachers needed to be trained prior to spring pilot.
- MAP required one hour of testing, 3 days per year, adding testing demands on schools and teachers and would require additional support from research and accountability.
- Research and accountability was currently functioning at maximum capacity had been unable to sustain the number of projects and reports supported with past staffing levels.
- MAP testing in grades 3-10 and possibly K-12, three times per year, would require additional personnel or further elimination of lower-priority tasks.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Dr. Gaborik recommended piloting MAP in the spring. Board members voiced support for Dr. Gaborik's recommendation.

Board Comments/Announcements

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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