

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

October 7, 2014

President Haas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The Hunter Elementary Bell Choir led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the board under the guidance of Linda Mason, music specialist.

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
Sue Hull, Member
Larry Rice, Base Representative
Sidney Zemp, Post Representative
Wyatt Hoyes, Student Representative

Absent:

Lisa Gentry, Member
Sean Rice, Member

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
Johanna Carson, Director of Public Relations
Elizabeth 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
Heather Rauenhorst, Director of Grants & Special Projects
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

ESP of the Month [0:05:41]

Tina Fitzpatrick, Denali Elementary English language learner tutor, was recognized as the Extra Special Support Staff Person for October 2014. Deborah Hall, Denali Elementary principal, made the presentation.

Spotlight: Alaska Native Education (ANE) Program [0:09:21]

Yatibaey Evans, Alaska Native Education (ANE) coordinator, shared the Cultural Connections made by the ANE program, including vision boards, quarterly exploration into individual Native Cultures, and work with Youth Fairbanks and Elders. Ms. Evans also shared about activities scheduled throughout the district in honor of Alaska Native and American Indian Heritage Month,

Spotlight: Alaska Native Education (ANE) Program (Continued)

as well as a few other upcoming events including the 4th Annual Literacy Challenge in October, an ANE Heritage Celebration on November 5, and an Athabascan Immersion Day on December 5. Fairbanks would be hosting a Fairbanks version of the Elders and Youth Conference at the Morris Thompson Cultural Center.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

AGENDA [0:23:07]

HULL MOVED, THIES SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE:

REMOVE ITEM E2: RESOLUTION 2015-07: OPPOSING BALLOT MEASURE 2, AND ACT TO TAX AND REGULATE THE PRODUCTION, SALE, AND USE OF MARIJUANA.

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the initial award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$25,000 for the Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Postvention project, per Fiscal Note 2015-14.

accepted the award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$10,000 for the Statewide Professional Development professional services contract, per Fiscal Note 2015-15.

accepted the award from the U.S. Department of Education via the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$24,324 for the Title X, Part C, McKinney-Vento Homeless Competitive grant, per Fiscal Note 2015-16.

approved the minutes from the special meeting and work session on September 15, and the regular meeting on September 16, 2014, as submitted.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-009: Intervention Support in the amount of \$636,987.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-012: Supply and Equipment Accounts in the amount of \$39,140.

approved Lathrop High School's request to send its cross country running team to Portland, Oregon, October 9-12, 2014, to compete in the George Fox Cross Country Classic, at no cost to the district.

approved West Valley High School's request to raise funds to send its cross country running team to Portland, Oregon, October 9-12, 2014, to compete in the George Fox Cross Country Classic, at no cost to the district.

accepted the gift of \$4,850 from the Interior Baseball League to Lathrop High School to support various student activities.

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

Consent Agenda (continued)

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period September 6-26, 2014.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period September 6-26, 2014.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for October 7, 2014.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (L. RICE, ZEMP, HOYES)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 5 AYES
(HULL, LAMBERT, THIES, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)

President Haas announced any member of the public interested in testifying on the resolution opposing Ballot Measure 2, an act to tax and regulate the production, sale, and use of marijuana that was pulled from the agenda were welcome to testify during public comment on nonagenda items.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS [0:26:54]

Joe Byrnes, 696 Slater Drive, a lifelong Fairbanksan and fire fighter, spoke in support of the board's resolution against Ballot Measure 2 regarding the legalization of marijuana. Mr. Burns did not feel regulation would eliminate back door sales. He urged people to vote no on Ballot Measure 2 on November 4.

Christine Higgins, 3295 Craft, a product of the school district and a parent of students who attended the district, spoke against the legalization of marijuana. Ms. Higgins stated that just because people could vote to legalize marijuana, did not mean they should. She stood strongly in support of the school board's resolution and strongly against the passage of Measure 2.

President Haas explained the reason the resolution was pulled was because there was a Department of Education regulation that limited the authority of the board to pass resolutions regarding ballot measures. The board had researched the issue and thought it had done its due diligence, but determined the regulation could have created some concerns. She wanted to assure the public the resolution was not pulled because the board did not want to discuss the issue, but rather because of the regulation. The board appreciated the public testimony.

Sandy Clark, 2941 Gold Hill Road, a retired music teacher, spoke in support of the district's music programs. Ms. Clark was concerned staffing and scheduling changes would erode the district's music programs. She spoke to the correlation between higher student achievement and music participation. No other subject offered so many benefits. Ms. Clark would like to see decisions based on the value of educational benefit.

President Haas asked the administration for a breakdown of the music programs by school.

Stefani Borrego, 2920 Riverview Drive, a Ryan teacher, spoke in support of the board's resolution against Ballot Measure 2. Ms. Borrego shared some recent statistics from Colorado where similar marijuana legislation had passed. She spoke to many of the harmful effects to teens such as lower IQs, anxiety, and depression. Ms. Borrego pointed out the potential harm of second hand smoke to toddlers and the negative affect it could have on the educational system when the toddlers reached school age. Ms. Borrego suggested the board pass a resolution reaffirming the district's drug policies, similar to what a couple other districts had done.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS (Continued)

Kobe Rizk, 2612 Chief Alexander Drive, a student and newly elected chair of the Regional Student Council, spoke against Ballot Measure 2. Mr. Rizk believed every child had the right to a drug free home. He felt the legalization of marijuana would lead to other problems, drawing attention to issues affecting education in Colorado, where marijuana was recently legalized. Mr. Rizk stated the November election would decide Alaska's future.

Tim Doran, 512 Windsor Drive, retired principal, spoke about the recent district professional development day. Mr. Doran complimented Dr. Gaborik, interim superintendent, and Tammy Smith, FEA president, for their great presentation. The entire professional development was a positive experience. He had attended a breakout session on the Danielson framework that was truly impressive and a great reflection on the professionalism and high skill of district staff. Mr. Doran also commended the board for moving forward on a strategic plan.

Colby Freel, 3525 Kaltag Drive, the previous school board student representative, spoke in support of the board's resolution opposing Ballot Measure 2 and the legalization of marijuana. He noted that every board action was a teaching moment.

Melanie Linton, 3779 Mitchell Avenue, Ticasuk music teacher, spoke in support of the district's music programs. Ms. Linton felt one problem affecting the music programs was the fact program decisions were being made on a site basis. She understood many decisions were being made due to funding. Ms. Linton voiced concern that many decisions being made at the elementary level would be affecting high schools as students moved up. She was also concerned about the inequity of programs across the district. Ms. Linton invited board members to talk with her about program options.

OLD BUSINESS

Included in the Consent Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2015-06: *Lights on Afterschool!* [0:53:22]

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District's 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Community Afterschool programs has celebrated "Lights On" with communities across the nation for the last fourteen years. The event was sponsored by the Afterschool Alliance and drew attention to the programs available, as well as the need for more programs. The resolution called on leaders of the district and community, on the day of October 23, 2014, to assure awareness of the need for every child to have access to a safe, friendly place where the lights were on afterschool and to support *Lights On Afterschool!*

Board Priority: Provide educational options to families and students.

LAMBERT MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2015-06:
SUPPORT FOR *LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL!*

Julie Wild-Curry, after school program director, provided a brief staff report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Doran, 512 Windsor Drive, spoke in support of the district's after school program and the resolution. The afterschool program was a wonderful program. He was pleased with the proactive effort the afterschool programs had put forth to work with other agencies in the community.

Resolution 2015-06: Lights on Afterschool! (Continued)

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Lambert read the resolution for the public record. Board discussion ensued.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (ZEMP, HOYES, L. RICE)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 5 AYES
(THIES, DOMINIQUE, HULL, LAMBERT, HAAS)

Policy 984: Graduation Requirements

Policy 984.1: Certificate of Achievement Requirements

Policy 984.2: Transfers (First Reading) [1:02:17]

Kathy Hughes, executive director of alternative instruction and accountability, provided an overview of the changes regarding graduation requirements. The proposed changes aligned with state statutes. The administration recommended the adoption of the proposed policy revisions that had been vetted by borough legal counsel.

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

THIES MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO APPROVE FIRST READING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADVANCEMENT TO SECOND READING OF POLICY 984: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS; POLICY 984.1: CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT REQUIREMENTS; AND POLICY 984.2: TRANSFERS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. For second reading, board member suggestions for second reading included striking the wording, "the total credit waived shall not exceed one-full credit" and a minor edit in changing ½ health credit to .5 health credit to align with other editorial changes.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (L. RICE, ZEMP, HOYES)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 5 AYES
(LAMBERT, THIES, DOMINIQUE, HULL, HAAS)

Policy 1064.2: Restraint and Seclusion (First Reading) [1:09:09]

Bob Hadaway, executive director of special education, and Stacy Eddleton, special education coordinator, reported on the district's safety program regarding the restraint and seclusion of students. An administrative committee drafted the proposed policy, which had been vetted by legal counsel. The administration recommended adoption of Policy 1064.2 in order to comply with federal guidelines and state statute. Elizabeth Schaffhauser, employment and educational opportunity director, reviewed the proposed policy.

Board Priority: Provide a safe learning environment.

HULL MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO APPROVE FIRST READING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADVANCEMENT TO SECOND READING OF POLICY 1064.2: RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Doran, 512 Windsor Drive, was pleased with the proposed policy overall and appreciated the care that had been taken in drafting it. Mr. Doran offered a couple of editing suggestions. He would like to see a different word than "secluded" used when referring to a student voluntarily

Policy 1064.2: Restraint and Seclusion (First Reading) (Continued)

choosing to enter a “secluded environment.” He also suggested deleting the language, “on his or her back or stomach” in item 5d. He thought simplifying the sentence to state, “the student is not placed in a manner that restricts the student’s breathing” would avoid confusion. The district offered excellent trainings on de-escalation and to avoid restraints whenever possible, but sometimes it was necessary. In those situations, staffs were trained to quickly move out of the situation. The focus was on safety.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. No amendments were made to the policy, but board suggestions for second reading included consideration of Mr. Doran’s comments, as well as to re-term the students option to deescalate. It was also suggested the policy language be aligned to mirror state statute language, specifically as it related to the exceptions when physical restraint and seclusion could be used by staff in emergency situations and the policy as it related to law enforcement.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (HOYES, L. RICE, ZEMP)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 5 AYES
(LAMBERT, THIES, DOMINIQUE, HULL, HAAS)

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Results of Parent Opinion Polls: 2013-14 School Year [1:30:02]

Kathy Hughes, executive director of alternative instruction and accountability, provided a brief overview of the Parent Opinion Polls completed by parents of Fairbanks North Star Borough School District students in the spring semester of the 2013-14 school year. The survey was administered every other year.

Board Priority: Active partnerships with the family and community are essential to support successful student learning.

Dr. Gaborik reviewed the administration’s recommendations, including administrative action and board recommendations. The data had been provided to building principals. School specific results would be shared with parents and staff at fall PTSA and staff meetings. Results would also be used to improve parent engagement and parent awareness of postsecondary preparation, Personal Learning Career Plans, career technical education options, and library services at the high school level.

Recommendations to the board included support for building level programs and personnel related to school-wide positive behavior intervention, continued support to safe and civil schools training, analyzing and prioritizing recommendations from the Parent Engagement Task Force when they were available, and including school administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and students in the upcoming district strategic planning process.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Doran, 512 Windsor Drive, retired principal, spoke in support of the parent opinion polls. When Mr. Doran was a principal, he surveyed families every year. He found the information extremely valuable and appreciated the parent comments and feedback. Mr. Doran was pleased the district administered the polls.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Information only; no action required.

Curriculum Consent Agenda Items [1:43:18]

Peggy Carlson, executive director of curriculum and instruction, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Dr. Gaborik provided the curriculum department's proposal to bring targeted changes and modifications to currently adopted curriculum before the board as consent agenda items. The changes will have gone through the Board Curriculum Advisory Committee before coming to the board. Board members would be able to pull an item from the consent agenda for further discussion if needed. More substantive changes would continue to go through the formal process for board action.

Board Priority: High achievement evolves from high expectations and educational opportunities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Board members voiced no objection to the proposal to bring targeted changes and modifications forward through the consent agenda.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS [1:45:40]

On behalf of the entire board, President Haas thanked Ms. Mason and the Hunter Elementary Bell Choir for their performance. She congratulated Ms. Fitzpatrick as the ESP for October and thanked Ms. Evans for the spotlight on Alaska Native Education.

President Haas read Governor Parnell's proclamation recognizing School Principals' Month. President Haas expressed the board's appreciation to all principals for their hard work.

President Haas announced the Parent Engagement Task Force had met earlier in the day and would be meeting again on Monday, October 13 at 5:30 p.m. The Board Diversity Committee was scheduled to meet Thursday, October 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Hull was disheartened to have to pull the board's resolution opposing Ballot Measure 2, but she did not want to put the board at risk of litigation. Mrs. Hull would provide the board with a written report from the recent State Board of Education meeting. The Policy Review Committee would begin work on a comprehensive tobacco policy. Mrs. Hull reported on the recent PTA leadership meeting. She shared a flyer on what parents should know about school funding.

Mrs. Hull would like the board to set a date for their annual work session with the Interior Delegation. She thanked the administration and BEST staff for their work on the board's work session on the BEST program. She would like to see the district's homeschool program expanded.

Mr. Thies reported on the recent Career Technical Education Advisory Committee meeting. It was an exciting committee to serve on. The committee would be meeting again on Wednesday, October 30 at 5:30 p.m. at Lathrop High School.

Mrs. Dominique would reschedule the Legislative Committee meeting. Mrs. Dominique would be contacting the administration about a CTE program at Lathrop. Other schools had CTE programs and Lathrop needed one. She thanked Kathy Hughes for her great work with the BEST program and Ellis Ott for his work on reports.

Mrs. Lambert appreciated the public comments during the meeting. She also appreciated the board's work session on the BEST program.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)

Mr. Hoyes shared concerns from students who were not allowed to participate in sports when they did not make grades. The students were not offered any other alternative. Once they were off the team, they were left with a lot of free time and no help

Dr. Gaborik was looking forward to the board's work session on Saturday with AASB and continuing some of the conversations from the work session. She congratulated Crawford Elementary on being named a Blue Ribbon School. The school would be recognized at a future board meeting. Dr. Gaborik thanked Erin Poland, Dan Domke, and Johanna Carson for their work and assistance with the superintendent conference. She also thanked the West Valley High School JROTC, the Hunter Bell Chimes Choir, and the West Valley High School Drum group for their performances at the conference. The administration would be pushing out information on the testing requirements for graduation – SAT, ACT, or Work Keys.

Dr. Gaborik thanked President Haas for reading the Governor's proclamation recognizing Principals' Month.

President Haas enjoyed making welcoming comments at the ESSA professional development presentation and at the superintendents' conference. She appreciated all the positive comments she received about Dr. Gaborik from her peers at the conference.

President Haas encouraged parents to acknowledge the Students Rights and Responsibilities on PowerSchool. She was pleased the curriculum department was working with elementary and middle school teachers on the new math program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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