

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

October 21, 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. North Pole High School's Jazz Choir led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed the National Anthem and two additional songs for the board under the direction of Bruce Hanson, choir 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."*

A new mission spotlight feature was being added to one meeting a month. The administration would provide a video spotlight highlighting activities throughout the district representative of the district's mission statement. Julie Wild-Curry, director of after school programs, and Yatibaey Evans, Alaska Native Education coordinator, were spotlighted as American Graduate Champions. [12:15]

Present:

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

Absent:

Lisa Gentry, Member
Larry Rice, Base Representative
Sidney Zemp, Post Representative
Wyatt Hoyes, Student Representative

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Sandy Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Kathy Hughes, Executive Director of Alternative Instruction & Accountability
Bob Hadaway, Executive Director of Special Education
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
Heather Rauenhorst, Director of Grants & Special Projects
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

School Board Member Recognition [0:17:02]

John Thies was recognized for his service on the school board. President Haas made the presentation and presented Mr. Thies with a goldpanner pen set. Mr. Thies was elected to the school board in October 2011 and served as board treasurer during the past year. Mr. Thies served on the citizen budget review and audit committees for one year and the career technical education advisory committee for two years. Mr. Thies thanked everyone for their support over the past three years; he enjoyed his time on the school board.

AGENDA [0:20:10]

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

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the award from the Associated General Contractors of Alaska in the amount of \$200,000 for the Alaska Construction Academy program, per Fiscal Note 2015-17.

accepted the award from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$94,870 for the Title IA, Part D, Subpart 2 Neglected and Delinquent Competitive Grant, per Fiscal Note 2015-18.

accepted the Monthly Management Reports for September 2014.

approved the minutes from the special meeting on October 6; the work sessions on October 6 and 11; and the regular meeting on October 7, 2014, as submitted.

adopted the revised Principles of Biomedical Science course.

adopted the revised Technical Writing course.

approved submission of the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant application in the amount of \$26,345.

accepted the gift of \$1,000 from Fairbanks Youth Sports to Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School for the purchase of safety mats.

accepted the gift of \$1,000 from the American Legion Gaming Account to Lathrop High School to support the school's JROTC program.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period September 27 – October 10, 2014.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period September 27 – October 10, 2014.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for October 21, 2014.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES
(RICE, HULL, LAMBERT, THIES, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS [0:23:05]

Kendi Lesley, PO Box 73974, an itinerant music teacher, spoke in support of music education. Ms. Lesley loved her job. She shared her philosophy regarding how music affected and enriched the lives of students and people. Every person had the capacity to learn music. Music helped brains make more connections. Music could open doors that might otherwise be closed. Ms. Lesley thanked the board for supporting music.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS (continued)

Phyllis Tugman-Alexander, PO Box 81374, a grandmother to a district student, spoke in opposition to the PTA fundraiser at North Pole Elementary School. Ms. Tugman-Alexander believed the fundraiser endorsed racism by offering Duck Dynasty products in the fundraiser. Students had the right to a safe environment and should not be exposed to this type of bigotry.

Helenmarie Matesi, 3725 Non Road, spoke in opposition to the PTA fundraiser at North Pole Elementary School that featured Duck Dynasty products. Ms. Matesi believed the district should not endorse a product that was connected to someone who regularly expressed anti-gay and racist views. Many people found the items upsetting. Ms. Matesi believed the Duck Dynasty products needed to be pulled from the pamphlet. She thought the products were divisive and offensive. The community needed to move in a direction that promoted more cohesive, rather than divisive, types of thinking.

Representative Scott Kawasaki, 2008 Carr Avenue, as a former district student, spoke to the value of music education. Mr. Kawasaki recalled his music education from when he attended Joy, Tanana, and Lathrop. He knew the value of education, especially in regards to music. Mr. Kawasaki knew school music programs increased graduation rates, but recognized the challenges facing the district with maintaining programs in light of budget reductions. Mr. Kawasaki recounted the electives he had taken in school, but were no longer offered. As a legislator, Representative Kawasaki said he needed to hear a strong message from the school board about what it would take to keep classroom sizes from increasing.

Jenifer Cameron, PO Box 117, district art coordinator, thanked the school board for the district's support offered in regards to some wonderful things happening in the arts throughout the community. Ms. Cameron shared a recent News-Miner editorial regarding the arts in the community. The Fairbanks community offered many opportunities and was very successful in growing their own artists. Ms. Cameron thanked the school district for the use of West Valley High School for a recent conference.

Karen Lane, Arctic Winter Games (AWG) general manager, thanked the school district and board for their support of the Arctic Winter Games. The games could not have taken place without the district's support. The AWG committee appreciated the use of district schools and the work of staff and volunteers. The final report on the Arctic Winter Games was complete and available for review. Ms. Lane provided board members with a video bracelet of the souvenir Games video, which was also available on the Arctic Winter Games website.

President Haas appreciated the recycling containers given to district schools from the Games. She thanked Ms. Lane for her work with the games. She also thanked Ms. Lane and her husband for chairing this year's community United Way Campaign.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy 984: Graduation Requirements

Policy 984.1: Certificate of Achievement Requirements

Policy 984.2: Transfers (Second Reading) [0:44:59]

Kathy Hughes, executive director of alternative instruction and accountability, provided an overview of the changes regarding graduation requirements. The administration recommended the adoption of the proposed policy revisions which were vetted by borough legal counsel. There were a couple of editorial changes from first reading. The policies aligned with state statute.

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

Policy 984: Graduation Requirements
Policy 984.1: Certificate of Achievement Requirements
Policy 984.2: Transfers (Second Reading) (continued)

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

Dr. Gaborik spoke to a board member's interest expressed during first reading regarding the possibility of waiving all the PE graduation credits. Graduation credits were scheduled to be part of a larger conversation during the November 3, 2014 work session on high school options. Dr. Gaborik felt she needed more input from principals, teachers, and the content leadership team before she could make a well-researched recommendation to the board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Discussion ensued. Board members were interested in the testing guidelines regarding WorkKeys, ACT, and SAT's.

Upon further discussion, it was determined the administration would seek legal advice and clarification regarding Administrative Code and PE graduation requirements. They would also seek input from curriculum and the PE content leadership team.

If the board requested a change in the graduation credits after the November 3 work session on high school options, a proposed policy change could be brought forward.

Mrs. Hull expressed interest in allowing as much flexibility as possible in terms of waiving the PE credit requirements for graduation. She was also interested in a work session on math.

Mrs. Dominique was interested in allowing public testimony if the board held a work session on math.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES
(THIES, DOMINIQUE, RICE, HULL, LAMBERT, HAAS)

Policy 1064.2: Restraint and Seclusion (Second Reading) [1:12:04]

The administration revised the previous draft of the restraint and seclusion policy to reflect the concerns of board members and the public stated at the first reading. The revised proposed draft was by legal counsel. The administration recommended adoption of Policy 1064.2 in order to comply with federal guidelines and state statute.

Board Priority: Provide a safe learning environment.

LAMBERT MOVED, THIES SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 1064.2: RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION.

Elizabeth Schaffhauser, employment and educational opportunity director, reviewed the revisions from first reading.

Policy 1064.2: Restraint and Seclusion (Second Reading) (continued)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES
(LAMBERT, THIES, DOMINIQUE, RICE, HULL, HAAS)

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2015-08: Honoring Alaska Native and American Indian Heritage Month [1:17:40]

Resolution 2015-08 honors Alaska Native and American Indian Heritage Month and proclaims the month of November 2014 for Native cultural activities throughout the district.

Board Priority: Increase communication with, and support for, and respect of students and families of diverse populations.

HULL MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2015-08:
HONORING ALASKA NATIVE AND AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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

Board members voiced their appreciation for the resolution.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES
(LAMBERT, THIES, DOMINIQUE, RICE, HULL, HAAS)

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District 2014-2015 Priorities [1:23:32]

The administration presented the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District 2014-2015 Priorities for the board's consideration. The priorities were drafted from input provided by the school board.

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

DOMINIQUE MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE FAIRBANKS
NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 2014-2015 PRIORITIES.

Dr. Gaborik explained the board, at their October 11 work session, had suggested and agreed to remove the indicators from the priorities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Hull proposed an amendment.

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District 2014-2015 Priorities (continued)

HULL MOVED, RICE SECONDED TO AMEND THE PRIORITIES BY MOVING CURRENT ITEM #B – STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TO ITEM #A AND CURRENT ITEM #A – DIVERSITY TO ITEM #B.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS ON AMENDMENT

Discussion continued.

Mrs. Dominique thought the top priority needed to emphasize diversity so students felt comfortable in school, which would lead to increased student achievement.

Mrs. Hull agreed with Mrs. Dominique, but believed the focus should be student achievement.

AMENDMENT FAILED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

5 NAYS: RICE, LAMBERT, THIES, DOMINIQUE, HAAS; 1 AYE: HULL

The board voted on the original motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES
(HULL, LAMBERT, THIES, DOMINIQUE, RICE, HAAS)

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Response to Intervention (RTI) Update [1:31:02]

Assistant Superintendent Sandra Kowalski provided an update on the district's Response to Intervention (RTI) program. She introduced Jonette Poole, the district's new RTI coordinator, and Tori Brannan, previous RTI coordinator and current Salcha interim principal.

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

Ms. Kowalski's presentation included:

- What is Response to Intervention (RTI)?
 - Purpose is to improve academic achievement and educational outcomes of every student in grades K-6.
 - Universal screening of all academic skills.
 - High quality, research-based instruction by qualified staff in general education setting.
 - Program began in 2009-10. Planning begun in the 2008-09 school year.
- Federal and State Guidance
- AIMSweb
- Interventions
 - Tiered interventions.
 - Three times per year (fall, winter, spring).
 - Screenings for reading and math.
- Districtwide Support
 - Curriculum support in Tier I programs and professional development support in Tier II and III.
 - RTI coordinator support in Tier II and Tier II program Implementation.
 - Special education support in Tier II and Tier III programs.
- Data

Response to Intervention (RTI) Update (continued)

- Common Misconceptions
 - RTI is not a program that serves only those who struggle; but rather, framework that encompasses all students, ensuring each student is monitored and given the appropriate instruction.
 - RTI does not provide interventions at Tier II and III only; but rather, at each level, students receive needed support at the time they need it.
- Considerations
 - As new assessments come on board, new data will be integrated into the screening and intervention planning process. A robust data picture is key to good decision-making.
 - Staff development was key.
 - Technical and program support for sites for assessments and for intervention program implementation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Information only; no action required.

Board members appreciated the graphs depicting districtwide data following the same class from second grade to sixth grade and the improvement in testing scores. Data reported in previous RTI reports had not always been clear. It would be good to get the information out to the public; it was suggested the data be posted to the website.

Mrs. Hull continued to hear concerns from staff regarding the RTI program; teachers would like students to remain in class. She would like the district to be open to other models to be certain the district was using the best model and getting the best bang for the buck.

Board members asked about pull-outs versus push-ins. Different schools had different models. Some interventions had specific strategies and required one-on-one or small group instruction, requiring pull-outs. It was noted students were not removed from class during core instruction time. Board members also asked about the time spent per screening.

Mr. Rice left the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Distance Delivery Update [2:06:17]

Shaun Kraska, interim assistant superintendent of secondary education, provided an update on the district's distance delivery program.

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

Ms. Kraska reviewed the distance delivery courses by semester for school years 2014-15, 2013-14, and 2012-13. Each year the program had grown to include more schools, students, and courses. She provided a snapshot of how the program had grown from one course in two high schools, serving two students in 2012-2013 to nine courses with all high schools participating, serving 197 students in 2014-15. In 2012-13, there were two iPads used by distance delivery students. In 2014-15, there are 197 iPads being used by distance delivery students. Distance delivery courses were designed for students of all levels, not just AP students.

Distance Delivery Update (continued)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Information only; no action required.

Board members asked about students taking the iPads home. Ms. Kraska explained students carried the iPads like they would a book. Staff met with students and parents about the acceptable use of the iPad and technology prior to classes beginning. Board members also had questions about the grades for distance delivery versus standard courses; individual course capacity; and capacity of growing the program.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the distance delivery program and felt the district was doing it correctly. The district's program was a model for the rest of the state.

Annual Report for SY 2014-15 Policy Review and Evaluation [2:35:20]

The administration provided an annual report to the school board on policies it would review during the school year.

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

Elizabeth Schaffhauser, employment and educational opportunity director, reviewed the policies under consideration for the 2014-15 school year, some of which included:

- Chapter 11: Community
- Chapter 12: Agency Relations (research in schools)
- Chapter 1: Foundations (miscellaneous policies remaining from last school year)
- Chapter 2: School Board Governance (miscellaneous policies remaining from last school year)
- Chapter 3: Administration (miscellaneous policies remaining from last school year)
- Comprehensive Tobacco Policy
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Social Media Policy Development

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board discussion ensued. Information only; no action required.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS [2:41:10]

On behalf of the entire school board, President Haas thanked the North Pole High School Jazz Choir and Mr. Hanson for their musical performance. She expressed the board's appreciation to Mr. Thies for his service on the school board. President Haas thanked the staff for their work, reports, and presentations. She appreciated the board's work session on Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School's charter renewal.

President Haas attended Hunter Elementary School's Red Ribbon Week assembly. The school's counselor designed a t-shirt reflecting the theme "Standing up to Bullying" for every student and staff member. President Haas was impressed with the sea of blue shirts that emphasized the school's united stance against bullying. She commended the school staff and students, as well as Montean Jackson, director of safe and drug free schools.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

President Haas noted some board members had received calls with concerns over the Duck Dynasty products being offered through the PTA fundraiser, as was testified to earlier in the evening.

Mrs. Hull thanked Mr. Thies for his service to the school board. She provided board members with a written report from the September State Board Meeting. She would be attending the NSBA Western Regional Meeting next week. Mrs. Hull thanked Representative Kawasaki for his comments; she would certainly be advocating for the district's needs. She appreciated his comments regarding electives available to him when he was in school. She thought it might be beneficial for the board to have a conversation around electives. She announced the North Star Imagination Library Champions for Children winners: Brenda Riley, Larry Wick, and Cindy Jorgensen. The Champions for Children award dinner would be held November 20 at Pikes.

Mr. Thies thanked everyone for their work over the past three years. As a product of the school district, he had been happy to give back to the school district that had been so good to him.

Mrs. Dominique thanked Mr. Thies for his service; it was a pleasure to have him on the school board. Mr. Thies provided a good perspective as a young person, not long out of high school. Mrs. Dominique commented on the testimony regarding the Duck Dynasty products. She was not for what Duck Dynasty represented, nor did she think anyone on the board was. No one supported the propaganda. Mrs. Dominique would like to see the district provide diversity training for students. The information students were exposed to in today's world was deplorable. Education was the way to combat that influence.

Mrs. Dominique extended her congratulations to the Ben Eielson football team on their recent state championship. She also congratulated Richard Tuck, Lathrop assistant football coach, who was selected the large schools' assistant coach of the year. Mrs. Dominique thanked Timi Tullis with AASB for facilitating the board's October 11 work session. It was a good work session and well needed. She thought it would have been better if more board members had been able to attend.

Mrs. Dominique announced the upcoming NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, scheduled for November 16 at Pikes.

At 9:57 p.m.:

THIES MOVED, HULL SECONDED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO CONTINUE
THE MEETING TO 10:15 P.M.

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

President Haas, on behalf of Mrs. Lambert who was not feeling well and had stepped away from her desk, thanked Mr. Thies for his service and dedication to the school board.

Dr. Gaborik spoke about the PTA fundraiser. The administration would be working with principals regarding PTA fundraisers. They would need to do some review in how materials were considered. Schools needed to work closely with PTAs. She would provide an update when more information was available.

Dr. Gaborik reported both the Anchorage and Mat-Su school districts had temporarily suspended military recruiters access to their schools. Fairbanks had policies in place for all secondary recruiters regarding visit guidelines, notifications, dates, tracking, etc.; it was a very controlled process. Access to students by recruiters was typically done during the lunch period.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Dr. Gaborik had thorough legal reviewing the district's secondary recruiting policies. There had been no indication of any concerns at any Fairbanks schools. As a safeguard, a meeting with military recruiters to review the district's processes and policies had been scheduled for next week. Dr. Gaborik had contacted Brad Johnson, acting police chief, and he had received no indication of concern regarding Fairbanks schools.

Dr. Gaborik announced:

- Human Resources' upcoming "Jump Start Your Job Search with the School District" presentations, scheduled for Wednesday, October 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the JP Jones Community Center & Thursday, October 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Noel Wien Library
- Parent-Teacher Conferences – Monday & Tuesday, October 27 & 28 – no school for students

President Haas spoke to the issue of vending machine revenue from a previous meeting. She was hopeful the district would find ways to reduce the loss of vending machine revenue. Students were going off campus to purchase the same items removed from school vending machines. President Haas supported good health and nutrition, but with the reduction of funding at multiple levels, vending machines might provide additional income. She felt parents should make choices for students.

President Haas encouraged parents to attend parent-teacher conferences. She also invited parents and the community to attend the upcoming Math enVision Night, October 28 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the board room.

Mrs. Hull reported the Oklahoma State Board of Education had sought a waiver to the federal food guidelines in regard to fundraising. She agreed the school board wanted to promote good nutrition, but felt there might be ways to provide students with the items they would purchase elsewhere. She would keep the board updated.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 p.m.

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