

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

Work Session

MINUTES

November 3, 2014

President Haas called the work session to order at 6:06 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The work session was called to discuss high school options.

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  
Lisa Gentry, Clerk  
Sue Hull, Member  
Michael O'Brien, Member

Absent:

Allyson Lambert, Treasurer  
Sean Rice, Member

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Instruction  
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction  
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources  
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology  
Johanna Carson, Director of Community and Public Relations  
Daniel Domke, Director of Career Technical Education  
Elizabeth Schaffhauser, Director of Employment and Educational Opportunity  
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs  
Katie Sanders, Director of Library Media  
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

**High School Options** [0:00:33]

Dr. Karen Gaborik, interim superintendent, Shaun Kraska, interim assistant superintendent of secondary education, and Daniel Domke, director of career technical education, reviewed current and possible future educational options available in district high schools including:

- High School Advisory [0:03:09]
  - Currently 30 minutes twice a week (Tuesday/Thursday)
  - Not graded and operates differently at each school
  - No specific curriculum for teachers to follow
  - If advisory not continued need to plan on how to deliver numerous general lessons, information, and planning opportunities
- Current Bell Schedules [0:05:43]
  - High schools currently run on a modified block schedule with 6 classes
  - Other options to consider include:
    - 4x4 block – allowing for 8 classes a year with more electives and options for credit recovery
    - A/B block – allowing for 8 classes a year
    - Virtual/Async classes – fully online/outside school day
    - Hybrid – both online and face-to-face/outside school day

## High School Options (continued)

- Possibilities for Course Offerings [0:08:51]
  - There are several options regarding course offerings:
    - Traditional
    - Distance
    - Online classes
    - BEST
    - Asynchronous
    - AKLN – Alaska’s Learning Network
    - Hybrid
    - Dual Enrollment – CTC, UAF, & Western Oregon
  
- Possibilities for 2015-16 [0:11:15]
  - There were many exciting possibilities for 2015-16 including:
    - Advisory for credit
    - Increasing graduation requirements allowing for more elective options
    - New bell schedule allowing for more classes and options
    - Remove limitations on outside credit
    - Expansion of existing distance delivery program
    - Asynchronous classes through AKLN or create our own
    - Challenging of courses
    - Online credit recovery options – eliminating requirement that students take the same class for credit recovery
    - Allow access to Hutchison for elective options/part-time status
    - Allowing courses at Pipeline Center
    - Establish an honors diploma for students who take more credits
  
- Challenges [0:13:09]
  - While there were many exciting possibilities for 2015-16, there were also many challenges to implementing some of the programs and options:
    - Aligning schedules between schools
    - Transportation alignment on common bell schedule
    - Cost of new equipment for expanding distance delivery program
    - Professional development for teachers in distance delivery program
    - Cost of iPads or Chromebooks for distance delivery or online, hybrid, or async classes
    - Technology and personnel support for distance delivery or other types of courses
    - Costs for online courses through AKLN/CTC
    - Increasing graduation requirements
    - New schedules may mean need for more staffing
  
- Career Technical Education (CTE) [0:33:05]
  - Current Status:
    - Career technical education courses and offerings were available at all district high schools by face-to-face instruction and/or distance delivery
    - Current programs include the construction academy, welding academy, Cold Climate Housing Research Center program, school-to-apprenticeship program, and the UAF/CTC CNA program.
  
  - New for 2014-15:
    - Heavy equipment operator pathway
    - North Pole High School renovation
    - Distance delivery CTE offerings including medical terminology, intro to healthcare occupations, and technical writing
    - Work-based learning MOA with City of Fairbanks
    - Technical Writing
    - Expanding Hutchison High School CTE enrollment
    - District CTE safety plan
  
  - 2015-2016 Program Additions Based on Current Funding Levels:
    - Add joint Pipeline Training Center after-school classes
    - Alaska Works Partnership trainings & certifications during the regular school day held at specific schools
    - Cold Climate Housing Research Center training during the regular school day at specific schools
    - Heavy equipment operator curriculum continued development
    - Construction academy expansion
    - UAF justice department partnership
    - Post-graduate heavy equipment operator capstone
    - Hutchison High School program expansion

## High School Options (continued)

- Future of CTE:
  - Plan of study alignment with national and state employment data
  - Dual enrollment options
  - Long term facility upgrade
  - CTE wing addition at Lathrop
  - Aviation academies
  - Online coursework
  - Distance delivery expansion
  - Effie Kokrine Charter School CTE expansion

### BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS [0:18:05 through 00:33:00 and 00:53:00 through 01:20:00]

Board discussion ensued. Board members had questions about the current capacity of the district's distance delivery program and the costs and challenges including funding and space in growing the program. Other areas of discussion included optimizing use of the digital teaching initiative; advisories – both for and against; different scheduling options to maximize student offerings; aligning bell schedules; transportation and scheduling issues related to utilizing programs at other schools and facilities; the pros and cons of online courses versus face-to-face interaction for both regular courses and credit recovery; increased student participation in receiving dual enrollment and credit; STEM; outside credit and credit recovery; course offerings of interest to keep students in school and/or draw them to school; K-3 technology; and increased electronic devices in the hands of students.

Board members were excited about the possibilities in high school options, especially as it related to increased career technical education offerings. Mrs. Hull, a long-time proponent of career technical education, literally jumped for joy at the completion of the presentation. There were many new CTE courses being offered to district students related to career opportunities including in the areas of heavy equipment operators, aviation, medical and health fields, welding, engineering, and construction. Apprenticeship opportunities were also increasing.

Board member discussion surrounding staffing and funding for growing the district's secondary and career technical education opportunities centered on the possibility of legislative funding and grants. They agreed it was important to share the district's innovative and growing programs with legislators.

### Recommendations [01:20:12]

The board was asked to consider five questions:

1. **Advisory:** What is the school board's recommendation with regard to high school advisory?

Administrative recommendation: It was recommended advisory be dropped from the high school program beginning in the 2015-2016 school year, and high school schedules be adjusted accordingly to retain alignment across the district for purposes of distance delivery and access to elective courses between schools. High schools during Spring 2015, under the direction of the assistant superintendent for secondary, would determine how non-traditional topics would be delivered in the 2015-2016 school year. Previous models included a monthly "assembly" schedule that provided for a 30 minute session to present prepared materials to students on the desired topics.

Board consensus was to accept the administration's recommendation regarding advisory.

## **Recommendations (continued)**

2. **Bell Schedule:** What is the school board's recommendation with regard to expansion of the high school bell schedule?

Administrative recommendation: District administration supported expansion of the high school bell schedule, with the understanding alignment of all high school bell schedules across the district would be critical in order to ensure student access to course options between high schools and through distance delivery. It was recommended planning for bell schedule expansion begin this Spring 2015 and continue through Fall 2015 in order to allow for building adjustments to staffing and master schedules by January 2016. This time would also be needed for board consideration of high school graduation credit requirements and budget implications. If the strategic plan supported expansion, the target implementation date for an expanded bell schedule and possible new graduation requirements would be Fall 2016.

Board consensus was to look at the options of expanding the high school bell schedule.

3. **Distance Delivery:** Does the school board recommend expansion of the distance delivery program in 2015 - 2016? If not, does the school board support the addition of 5.0 classified staff (1 staff per high school) to maintain the current level of delivery?

Administrative recommendation: The district recommended expansion of the distance delivery program with the goal of each high school sending and receiving courses every period of the day. The recommendation would require additional funds for equipment, materials, iPads, professional development, support staff at the building level, and ITT technical support.

Board consensus was to accept the administration's recommendation to expand distance delivery if legislative funding could be secured.

Dr. Gaborik stated if legislative funding could not be secured to expand the program, the administration could add the additional support help to their budget request for next year to help maintain the program's current level of delivery.

4. **Outside Credit/Credit Recovery:** Does the board recommend the district begin planning to expand outside credit/credit recovery options for the 2015 – 2016 school year?

Administrative recommendation: The district would like to add classified staff in computer "lab" settings at each of the high schools to support student access to outside credit. It would require additional staffing and would likely also require an additional laptop cart at some high schools. As students not only took an increased number of outside credits to meet graduation requirements, but as they began to challenge high school courses for credit, a decreased number of teachers in core areas would be needed. In anticipation of this, initially the funds for 1.0 FTE teacher at each high school could be reallocated to cover the cost of 1.0 classified staff to provide supervision. Remaining funds from the 1.0 FTE average teacher salary could be used to offset the cost of tuition for outside credit courses. Funds for additional laptops would need to be added to administration's upcoming budget request.

The board agreed on having conversions on outside credit and credit recovery. Board members expressed hope there may be some legislative funding to address the issue.

**Board Comments/Announcements**

The administration spoke about their recent tour of Fort Wainwright and all the technological and career opportunities offered through the Army. President Haas thought it would be informative for board members to take the tour.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

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