

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

November 4, 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 Pavva Inupiaq Dancers led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the school board under the guidance of Amy Topkok.

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

Absent:

Allyson Lambert, Treasurer

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Sandy Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
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
Heather Rauenhorst, Director of Grants & Special Projects
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

ESP of the Month [0:09:04]

Urszula Morun, district lead printer, was recognized as the Extra Special Support Staff Person for November 2014. Robin Mullins, director of business services, made the presentation.

2014 National Blue Ribbon School [0:15:15]

Crawford Elementary School was one of 337 schools selected as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2014 based on its overall academic excellence or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Sandra Kowalski, assistant superintendent of elementary instruction, presented a certificate of appreciation and achievement to Crawford School, represented by Barbara Sperl, Crawford Elementary School principal.

Staff Introductions [0:19:33]

Traci Gatewood, executive director of human resources, introduced Krista Lord, director of compliance and training. Janet Cobb, executive director of technology, introduced Tim Larrabee, director of business information systems.

AGENDA [0:24:11]

Board Clerk, Lisa Gentry, recused herself from the adoption of the agenda with consent items due to her interest in consent item F3: Conflict of Interest Notification – Lisa Gentry. Mrs. Gentry moved to the audience while the agenda was adopted and consent items read into the public record.

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

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the award from the Federal Department of Education via the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$5,739,950.85 for the Title VI-B grant program, per Fiscal Note 2015-19.

accepted the award from the Federal Department of Education via the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$114,991.75 for the Section 619 Preschool Disabled program, per Fiscal Note 2015-20.

accepted the award from the Federal Department of Education in the amount of \$6,311,904.44 for the Elementary & Secondary Education Act Consolidated Application grant, per Fiscal Notes 2015-21 through 2015-27.

accepted the award from the Alaska, Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development in the amount of \$206,649 for the Nutritional Alaskan Foods for Schools, designated legislative grant, per Fiscal Note 2015-28.

approved the minutes approve the minutes from the special meeting and work session on October 20, and the regular meeting on October 21, 2014, as submitted.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-020: Human Resources Exempt Senior Technician in the amount of \$97,149.

approved submission of the Nike N7 Fund Grant application in the amount of \$9,010.

awarded IFB 15-F0008 for Vans, Cargo, Compact – For FMD to Seekins Ford Lincoln Mercury for \$48,903.28.

approved Ryan Middle School's National Junior Honor Society and Student Council's request to raise funds to help provide clean energy lighting for economically challenged people in Indonesia, at no cost to the recipients or district.

approved Lathrop and Hutchison High Schools request to raise funds to send students to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, March 11-21, 2015, where students will build on their Spanish language skills and visit historical sites, at no cost to the district and if the State Department issues travel warnings students will not travel.

Consent Agenda (continued)

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

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period October 11-24, 2014.

acknowledged Board Member Lisa Gentry's employment relationship with KeyCorp and its subsidiaries, as noted in the affidavit:

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ALASKA

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COUNTY OF FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

I, Lisa Gentry, having been duly cautioned and sworn hereby state the following based upon personal knowledge:

1. I am a member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board with the School Board Member, Seat A.
2. I am also an employee of KeyBank National Association ("KeyBank") Business Banking Group and serve as a Business Relationship Manager.
3. KeyBank and KeyBanc Capital Markets Inc. ("KBCM") are each subsidiaries of KeyCorp.
4. I am not an officer or employee of KeyCorp.
5. I own stock in KeyCorp, which represents less than .1% of the outstanding shares of that company.
6. In connection with my commencement of service on Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board, I am providing notice of my association with, and plan to withdraw from all decisions and deliberations related in any manner to matters related to my employer.



Lisa Gentry

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 26th day of Sept, 2014;
 Notary Public LAURA A. GILLEN State of Alaska
 My Commission Expires Dec. 8, 2016



Notary Public

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period October 11-24, 2014.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report or November 4, 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: (S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)
 1 RECUSED: (GENTRY)

Mrs. Gentry rejoined the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS [0:30:00]

Jimmy Fox, 560 Yak Road, spoke to the issue of air quality, specifically as wood smoke and other factors contributed to the poor air quality affecting students and staff in several district schools. Mr. Fox recognized the school board had no authority to remove wood burners, but it did have the responsibility to provide a quality education to all students in a safe learning environment. There were measures the district could take to improve air quality in district schools and mitigate the effects on students and staff. He urged the board to be bold and take on the issue of air quality. Mr. Fox asked the board to protect students and his children.

Board members questioned Mr. Fox regarding the schools in hot spots, the map of hot spots in the documentation he had provided, and his recommendations for dealing with the situation. Mr. Fox would like to see the board work with the borough and state to obtain additional monitors and revise the air quality policies. Board members asked the administration about the cancellation of events and the timing of those cancellations. Board members appreciated Mr. Fox's testimony and advocacy. President Haas would be checking with the borough on what might be done regarding air quality. She had heard there might be an ordinance change coming.

Tim Doran, 512 Windsor Drive, retired district principal, spoke in support of the board appointing Dr. Gaborik as superintendent of schools rather than conducting a full search. Mr. Doran did not believe there was anyone better qualified than Dr. Gaborik to lead the district. Offering Dr. Gaborik a contract would help maintain continuity within the district, something the district needed at the present time. Mr. Doran hoped the board would approve the superintendent contract; he thought it would bring some closure to what the district had gone through over the past spring. Mr. Doran was very happy with the direction the board was headed.

OLD BUSINESS

Included in the Consent Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2015-09: Honoring American Education Week [0:43:00]

Resolution 2015-09 honored American Education Week and proclaimed the week of November 16-22, 2014 for educators, parents, and community partners to celebrate excellence in our public schools.

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

The board, through the resolution, encouraged schools to celebrate their excellence in education by hosting kickoff events and activities, inviting parents into the classroom for a firsthand look at their children's school day, recognizing support staff and substitute educators for all they did, and inviting agency partners and current community leaders into the schools to join educators and support staff as they educated the future community leaders.

GENTRY MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2015-09: HONORING AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK.

President Haas read the resolution for the public record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tammy Smith, 2118 S. Cushman, FEA president, appreciated the resolution and the board bringing it forward. Ms. Smith especially appreciated the statements regarding the importance of the public's support of education dating back to 1919. Ms. Smith announced November 19 was the National Education Support Professional (ESP) Day. She spoke to the critical role provided by support professionals in education and classrooms. Ms. Smith thanked the district's education support personnel for their work and dedication and the board for the resolution.

Resolution 2015-09: Honoring American Education Week (continued)

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

President Haas thanked all district staff and the community for their work and support of education; it really did take a village.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES: (ZEMP, HOYES, L. RICE)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

6 AYES: (DOMINIQUE, S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, HAAS)

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Superintendent Update: 2014-15 Calendar Revision for Testing & Other Topics [0:49:11]

Interim Superintendent Dr. Karen Gaborik provided an update on the revisions to the 2014-15 school calendar in regards to testing.

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

The administration was working hard to get things ready for testing next year. There were still some glitches including the functionality of the electronic devices. The district would begin pushing out calendar and testing information as soon as it could.

Dr. Gaborik noted there was a great deal of history regarding air quality. She was getting information on the current status and what had happened in the past regarding air quality, along with meeting regularly with borough representatives. The district purchased HEPA filters last year and asked principals to identify a room, usually the nurse's office or other small room, where there was clean air if students or staff were experiencing breathing or other issues.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hull noted the state board had specifically asked about the functionality of the iPads in regards to testing and the vendor had promised the testing would work with the devices. The state board had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on experience with the new tests.

Mrs. Hull wanted the public to be aware the district had been monitoring and making some effort in the past regarding air quality. She thought it would be helpful to look at how the district might be able to do more to mitigate the issue.

President Haas announced there would be town hall meeting on December 10 at the borough building to discuss some steps the borough assembly wanted to see taken regarding air quality. She said securing funding to address issues at 33 district sites would be substantial.

K-8 Math Materials Communication Update [0:58:10]

Peggy Carlson, executive director of curriculum and instruction, provided an update on how information regarding the enVision Math and GO Math! K-8 math materials had been communicated within schools and the community.

Board Priority: Focus instruction and resources on areas of need, such as career and technical education, math and writing improvement, and the gender achievement gap.

The K-8 math materials had been shared through a number of venues including staff inservice trainings and professional development opportunities, workshops, parent math nights, a parent support webpage, content coaches, special education teacher support, ELL and RTI math program training, parent-teacher conferences, the Charlie O'Toole radio show, and training from Pearson trainers and Harcourt Houghton Mifflin trainers.

K-8 Math Materials Communication Update (continued)

Mrs. Carlson reviewed the curriculum review process. The curriculum department worked with teachers to review curriculum every 6 years by state statute. Additionally, the district was looking at curriculums on a regular basis through the content leadership teams.

Alaska was one of four states that did not adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Alaska adopted the Alaska State Standards which were closely aligned to the Common Core, but the rigor went beyond the Common Core. The Alaska Math and English/Language Arts Standards (AKSS) were adopted in 2012. The district and many community members selected enVision Math and GO Math! as the best fit for district students and the math programs that were closest aligned to the AKSS. As Alaska was a small state in population, the district had to choose materials from publishers who published materials for the CCSS. Students were being taught to the Alaska State Standards.

Curriculum would be hosting additional math nights in December: December 1 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at North Pole Elementary; and December 8 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at University Park. Parents were encouraged to attend to learn more about the district's new math curriculum.

The 9-12 math curriculum revision was still in the review process. Comments were received for the 3rd draft. The content leadership team and Board Curriculum Advisory Committee would be meeting to discuss and review the comments. Curriculum would either publish a 4th or final draft depending upon the outcome of the comments and input.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board members had questions about the difficulty in navigating the district's website in regards to the math curriculum, tutorials, and portal sign-in pages. Additional board questions and discussion included the concern of whether the new curriculum drilled math facts or if it was more memorization; providing support and bridge efforts as students transitioned from the old curriculum to the new curriculum; support and resources for students and families without computers; increased rigor and the possibility of lower proficiency levels; distributing information on the standards consistently and on a regular basis; providing families with information on the curriculum; and the availability of textbooks. The new curriculum used more word problems than drilling and memorization – requiring more critical thinking. There was concern expressed about students encountering problems understanding word problems because of language and reading comprehension issues.

In response to emails from the public with concerns about Algebra 1.5, board members asked about the course. Mrs. Carlson stated Algebra 1.5 was piloted as a transitional course to help students who had completed Algebra 1, but were not ready to go on to Algebra 2. She explained students received graduation credit for Algebra 1.5, but did not receive credit toward the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS).

President Haas, on behalf of the entire board, thanked Mrs. Carlson and the curriculum staff for their work and report. She encouraged parents to contact curriculum with any questions or problems navigating the curriculum web pages and sign-in portals. Mrs. Carlson would be working with staff regarding navigating the math curriculum web pages and other accessibility issues.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS [2:13:20]

President Haas welcomed Mr. O'Brien to the board. President Haas, on behalf of the entire board, thanked the Pavva Inupiaq Dancers and Amy Topkok for their wonderful performance. She also congratulated Urszula Morun as the ESP for November and the Crawford Elementary School staff for their selection as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

President Haas announced the board's luncheon with the Regional Student Council scheduled for the next day at 11:30 a.m. The luncheon was a great opportunity to hear from students. She announced several upcoming Veteran Day events and the ANE celebration. She had finalized board committee appointments.

Colonel Zemp thanked the school district for joining Fort Wainwright for the kickoff of this year's school partnership program. It was a great event that brought together school district leaders, administrators, and teachers with the new leadership teams of U.S. Army Alaska. Colonel Zemp noted that although the event was part of a specific outreach effort to the schools that normally serviced Fort Wainwright families, he extended the Army's resources and expertise to all district schools. The Army looked forward to any opportunity to enrich the community and provide students with opportunities they may not have otherwise. Colonel Zemp encouraged people to contact Michael Campbell, the education liaison to Fort Wainwright, to help in utilizing any of the resources.

Colonel Rice congratulated Crawford Elementary School for their National Blue Ribbon School recognition.

Mr. Rice announced the upcoming Board Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 6 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Rice welcomed Mr. O'Brien.

Mrs. Hull announced the Policy Review Committee would be working on the district's comprehensive tobacco policy. She thanked Larry Ehnert, Lathrop teacher, for inviting her to attend the recent Career Technical Education Advisory Committee meeting which was held in his classroom to showcase Project Lead the Way.

Mrs. Hull spoke about the superintendent search. She wanted to assure the public the board had not made a final decision and encouraged people to contact the board with their input or share their comments during public testimony. The board needed to hear from the public. Mrs. Hull felt there were many reasons at this particular time that it was best for the board to go in the direction of appointing Dr. Gaborik – what had taken place in the district in the spring, a lack of an applicant pool, funding, and more. The district and school board had experience with Dr. Gaborik; she was a known entity. Mrs. Hull had every confidence in Dr. Gaborik's skills. She felt with all the challenges facing the district, now was not the time to shift leadership when the person already doing the job was competent. Mrs. Hull encouraged the public to contact the board with their comments.

Mrs. Hull reported on her recent attendance at the National School Board Association Pacific Regional Conference. Most of the presentations were about association business, ways to improve service to school districts, how to do a new news service, and more. There were two presentations relative to segregation in schools presented by people from Arizona, mostly focused on that state's immigrant and Hispanic children. Mrs. Hull thought it transferred to issues facing other states, including Alaska. She thought the board would be interested in the issue since diversity had been a topic for the board. The facts shared in the presentation were very interesting. It was pretty shocking data on the challenges faced by students who were being segregated in schools for where they lived, poverty levels, etc., even though segregation had been outlawed long ago. There were a lot of conversations about poverty. She would copy the presentations for board members as soon as they were posted online.

Mrs. Hull said there was significant conversation around the table from several state conference representatives about the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program that Juneau was using.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

AVID's mission was "to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society." Juneau had seen significant progress with their Alaska Native students using AVID. They had kept the AVID program through budget cuts last year because it benefited students. The Arizona superintendent who made one of the presentations stated their school district had also used the program and had seen significant gains for their students as well. AVID was focused on college, but it did not need to be college. It could be CTE types of things, not just college. Mrs. Hull shared about some issues and new items of interest she had heard about from districts across the region.

Mrs. Dominique announced a change in speakers for the upcoming NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet scheduled for Saturday, November 15, starting at 6:00 p.m. First Sergeant Brandy Phillips, a mechanic from Fort Wainwright, would be the guest speaker. She had a great story to share. Mrs. Dominique had tickets available at \$65.00 per person. Tickets would be \$70 at the door.

Mrs. Dominique thanked Mrs. Kowalski for her recent RTI report. She had been looking for that type of information on RTI for a long time. She thought it was a great program.

Mrs. Dominique shared a quote she used with her emails, "Speak without offending, listen without defending." She clarified some earlier comments regarding military students. As a military spouse coming to Alaska, she recalled how difficult it was for her children; they were the only African American students in their classrooms.

Mrs. Dominique wanted to stress that although parents and students may receive information, people should not always assume everyone understands the information they receive. She also agreed with earlier comments from board members about students being left behind because parents could not afford computers. Until all students had computers, the district had to remember not every student had access to a computer; every parent did not have a car; not every student could go to the library to research issues. There were many families without equal access to technology and other resources and the district and board had to always remember that and accommodate the needs of all students as much as possible.

Mrs. Dominique announced the upcoming Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Mrs. Gentry explained her recent absences were due to a new job and required training. She was looking forward to serving on the Career Technical Education Advisory Committee.

Mr. O'Brien thanked everyone for his warm welcome to the board. He thanked Mr. Fox for his testimony on the poor air quality affecting district schools. Mr. O'Brien thanked Grant Guy, Woodriver principal, for getting filtration in the school; it had made an impact on air quality for the students and staff. There were individual heroes on the air quality issue, but it would take more than individual efforts to address the bigger problem. He would like the board to take steps to remediate the serious issue of air quality at any school with air issues.

Mr. O'Brien appreciated the emails and calls regarding the newspaper article addressing the superintendent search. He wanted to be clear that none of his comments were directed to Dr. Gaborik's skills, but rather giving her or whoever was hired, the community's full confidence. He believed a very open process would be key in moving the community forward. Mr. O'Brien clarified nothing in his comments or vote should be construed against Dr. Gaborik, but rather it was an issue of process.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Mr. Hoyes endorsed Project Lead the Way; he loved his courses. He had recently attended the Alaska Association of Student Government conference which was really great. Mr. Hoyes applauded the district's new math materials, which were discussed at the conference. Society was headed towards more STEM and anything the district could do to keep up with that was worth the effort.

Dr. Gaborik announced Salcha's recent recognition as one of 41 Reward Schools in the state by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Salcha was the only school in the district to receive the honor.

Dr. Gaborik thanked Montean Jackson, coordinator of safe and drug free schools, for the recent Red Ribbon Week activities. It was such a positive promotion. She also thanked Colonel Zemp, Michael Campbell, and General Shields for arranging the administration's recent tour of Fort Wainwright and its facilities. It was a great tour and really opened their eyes to the opportunities for students and teachers. There was so much on Fort Wainwright for the district to access. She looked forward to conversations about more that could be done with the partnership between Fort Wainwright and the district.

Dr. Gaborik announced several upcoming events:

- ANE Heritage Celebration, November 5 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Hunter
- Tanana Maker Faire, November 6 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Tanana
- Tanana's Military Appreciation Breakfast, November 7 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Tanana's Cafeteria
- Crawford Elementary School's Veteran's Day Assembly, November 7 at 1:00 p.m. at Crawford
- Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School's Veteran's Day Breakfast, November 11 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Ben Eielson's Cafeteria

Dr. Gaborik announced several of the results from Kids Voting. Students elected Sean Parnell as Governor; Forrest Dunbar as U.S. Representative; and Dan Sullivan as U.S. Senator.

President Haas appreciated the board's work session. It was exciting to see the excitement about the many opportunities available to the district's secondary students. She thanked Shaun Kraska, interim superintendent of secondary education, and Daniel Domke, director of career technical education, for their presentations. She had learned a lot.

President Haas spoke to the air quality issue. She lived and worked in hot zones and her children attended a school in a hot zone. The district needed to work collaboratively with the borough to address the air quality issues.

President Haas spoke to the news article regarding the superintendent search. She believed the article lacked some depth. Through the years, previous school boards had used many different processes for hiring a superintendent from appointing to full blown searches by third party agencies. With the hiring of the superintendent scheduled for the board's November 18 meeting, there were two weeks for public input, comments, and testimony which allowed for a lot of transparency and public participation. President Haas stated the hiring process was not closed; the board wanted it to be a very transparent process. She appreciated the feedback the board had already received.

Mrs. Hull shared about the recent tragic events at Marysville School District in Washington State. A school board member from Marysville had been at the conference Mrs. Hull attended. The event and loss of students was traumatic. She sent her condolences to the school district and the community. From the perspective of a board member, school safety and protecting kids was a board's top priority.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

President Haas agreed with Mrs. Hull. At the board level, it was a whole new level when something traumatic happened to students. On behalf of the entire board, she sent condolences to the Marysville school district and community.

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

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