

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

Work Session

MINUTES

November 17, 2014

President Haas called the work session to order at 6:18 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The work session was called to provide the board with an overview of the district's 2014-2017 Technology Plan and to discuss the discipline rubric.

Present:

Heidi Haas, President
Wendy Dominique, Vice President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Sue Hull, Member
Michael O'Brien, Member
Sean Rice, Member

Absent:

Lisa Gentry, Clerk

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Johanna Carson, Director of Community and Public Relations
Elizabeth Schaffhauser, Director of Employment and Educational Opportunity
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs
Katie Sanders, Director of Library Media
Kathy Port, Technology Curriculum Coordinator
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Dr. Gaborik introduced Lisa Pearce, the district's new chief financial officer. Ms. Pearce would replace Mike Fisher, who would be retiring at the end of January.

2014-2017 District Technology Plan [0:01:12]

Janet Cobb, executive director of technology, and Kathy Port, technology curriculum coordinator, reviewed the district's 2014-2017 Technology Plan. The presentation started with a video highlighting how technology within the district had changed through the years. The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Education Technology Plan was an interactive document that outlined multi-year technology goals developed by a broad range of departments. The technology plan sought to:

- describe how the district planned for the effective use and implementation of instructional technology;
- provide a multi-year strategic vision of technology in the district that encompassed the school board's mission, vision, and priorities;
- demonstrate forward thinking to maintain agility and flexibility to meet future needs;
- provide the required information by the Alaska Department of Education; and
- meet E-rate compliance and the Alaska Department of Education's Educational Technology Plan requirements.

2014-2017 District Technology Plan (continued)

Mrs. Cobb and Mrs. Port's presentation showcased how technology was used through instruction; student and parent educational tools; business, payroll, human resources, and communication applications; professional development; safety; facilities management; student assessments; and staff evaluations. The role of technology in schools would continue to grow as assessments moved toward the online environment. Static tests would be replaced by adaptive testing in order to further personalize learning for students.

The district continued to be at the forefront within the state in providing innovative and effective use of technology. Technology was an integral part of the district's day-to-day operations. In addition to the instructional supports it provided, technology also linked schools to the wider community. Parents accessed information via the district website and district mobile app, PowerSchool (the district's student information system) and individual teacher websites and blogs.

Technology challenges facing the district centered on infrastructure and other hardware; staff professional development, updated and working devices, a device replacement plan, and funding. The district had funding for a two-year infrastructure upgrade which would help address some of the infrastructure concerns, but more funding and upgrades were needed.

Preparing students for a world rich in technology with the appropriate 21st century skills and knowledge required access to various forms of technology including computers, mobile devices, web-based applications to support curricular goals, and appropriate instruction, including digital citizenship, to navigate in a digital world.

The required investment in training and staff development continued to grow and the district was striving to integrate new and innovative technologies into instructional and administrative programs. The increased Internet and network traffic would continue to require greater network bandwidth and sufficient security measures for classrooms and administrative offices.

Technology changed and evolved constantly. The district's technology team met on a regular basis to review technology policies, needs, and concerns.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Item for information only. No action required.

Board member questions and discussions included technology limitation factors within the district – infrastructure, professional development, and funding; effective use of technology; one-to-one program options; staff and classroom teacher technology support; legislative grant support; digital learning; and technology policies.

Board members voiced their support in making certain all students had access to learning whether it was through technology or textbooks. Board members briefly discussed the board's vision for technology and how it would correlate to the district's strategic plan, believing it would have a significant role in the plan.

Discipline Rubric [0:56:52]

Elizabeth Schaffhauser, director of employment and education opportunity, reviewed the district's discipline rubric used to help ensure consistent disciplinary consequences. The motivation behind the rubric was input from board members during discipline case reviews and was developed through input from principals and administrative staff. The rubric provided guidance to principals for more serious or repeated offenses outside what was already outlined in the district's administrative regulations.

Mrs. Dominique left at 7:26 p.m.

Discipline Rubric (continued)

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Item for information only. No action required.

Board members raised individual concerns regarding specific discipline issues they recalled from past cases and current parent comments. Other discussion included questions and comments on the definition of deadly weapons, possession and use of weapons, parent and public comment opportunities, and elementary versus secondary offenses and appropriate discipline.

Board Comments/Announcements

None

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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