

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

December 2, 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 Woodriver Elementary Jazz Band led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the board under the guidance of Sue Waltman, band 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."*

Present:

Heidi Haas, President
Wendy Dominique, Vice President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
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:

None

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer (Incoming)
Sandy Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Kathy Hughes, Executive Director of Alternative Instruction & Accountability
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
Bob Hadaway, Executive Director of Special Education
Kathie Wassmann, Executive Director of Special Education (Incoming)
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Johanna Carson, Director of Public Relations
Elizabeth Schaffhauser, Director of Employment & Educational Opportunity
Katie Sanders, Director of Library Media Services
Dan Domke, Director of Career Technical Education
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

2014 Outstanding Youth Group in Philanthropy Award [0:08:57]

As part of a senior class project, West Valley students were selected by the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals to receive the 2014 Outstanding Youth Group in Philanthropy Award. The Association of Fundraising Professionals worked to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education, and certification programs. West Valley

2014 Outstanding Youth Group in Philanthropy Award (continued)

seniors Eleanor Guthrie, Sally Kuhn, Prince Cooks, Charles Sudduth, Summer Britton, and JoJo Maier were selected by their senior class to represent the group. Dave Foshee, West Valley interim principal, made the presentation and thanked the group's advisors Kathleen Doran and Greg Kahoe.

2014 ASAA First National Bowl Small Schools State Football Champions [0:15:53]

Due to the road conditions, the recognition of the Ben Eielson High School Football Team was postponed to February 17, 2015.

ESP of the Month [0:16:15]

Kim Gatto, materials development specialist in the curriculum department, was recognized as the Extra Special Support Staff Person for December 2014. Michelle Daml, curriculum coordinator, made the presentation.

Alaska Association of Career Technical Education 2014-15 Business Technology Teacher of the Year [0:20:43]

The Alaska Association of Career Technical Education recognized Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High Teacher Sharon Ashlock as the 2014-15 Business/Technology Teacher of the Year at their state conference in Anchorage on October 22, 2014. Mario Gatto, Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School principal, made the presentation.

Alaska Association of Career Technical Education 2014-15 Career Guidance Award [0:24:27]

The Alaska Association of Career Technical Education recognized Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High Counselor Joni Simpson with the 2014-15 Career Guidance Award at their state conference in Anchorage on October 22, 2014. Mario Gatto, Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School principal, made the presentation.

National Association of Secondary School Principals 2014 Alaska State Principal of the Year [0:28:19]

Heather Stewart, Ryan Middle School principal, was selected as the 2014 State Principal of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). Shaun Kraska, interim assistant superintendent of secondary education, made the presentation.

Staff Introductions [0:33:20]

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik introduced Lisa Pearce who would replace Mike Fisher when he retired at the end of January as the district's new chief financial officer, and Kathie Wassmann, who would replace Bob Hadaway as the new executive director of special education when Mr. Hadaway retired in February.

AGENDA [0:38:29]

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

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the award from the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development in the amount of \$25,800 for the We the People Competition, per Fiscal Note 2015-29.

accepted the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska subaward in the amount of \$40,000, per Fiscal Note 2015-30.

Consent Agenda (continued)

accepted the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska subaward in the amount of \$40,000, per Fiscal Note 2015-30.

accepted the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska subaward in the amount of \$80,000, per Fiscal Note 2015-31.

accepted the Monthly Management Reports for October 2014.

approved the minutes from the special meetings on November 17 & 24; the work session on November 17, and the regular meeting on November 18, 2014, as submitted.

awarded IFB 15-R0004 for Copy Paper to Frontier Paper, Inc. for \$42,275 and Unisource for \$579,836.35, for a total award of \$622,111.35.

approved Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School's request to send students to Italy, March 13-23, 2015, where students will study the culture and history of Italy while touring with Education First Tours, at no cost to the district, and if the State Department issues travel warnings, students will not travel.

accepted the gift of \$1,220.77 from the Badger Road PTA to Badger Road Elementary School to purchase a new laminating machine for the school.

accepted the gift of \$1,674 from the USAWOA Top of the World Chapter to Lathrop High School to support the school's JROTC program.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period November 8-21, 2014.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period November 8-21, 2014.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for December 2, 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. 7 AYES
(S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS [0:42:40]

Patrice Lee, 676 Hillcrest Drive, appreciated the board's work and discussion regarding the borough's air quality challenges and working to safeguard district students. Ms. Lee urged the board to continue their discussions and work with the borough and others to clean up the air to ensure students were safe and able to obtain their optimal development.

President Haas stated she had been invited to speak at the borough's December 10, 2014 Town Hall Meeting on air quality.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy 170: Tobacco and Nicotine-Free School District (Second Reading) [0:44:18]

The school board requested the Policy Review Committee consider a comprehensive tobacco policy for the school district. The Policy Review Committee considered a model comprehensive policy and existing district policies and administrative regulations before forwarding the policy to the board. Legal counsel had vetted the new proposed policy. The administration recommended adoption of Policy 170. There were no changes from first reading.

Board Priority: Provide a safe learning environment.

HULL MOVED, GENTRY SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING,
PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 170: TOBACCO AND
NICOTINE-FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dean Gustafson, 529 Sixth Avenue, health educator with the American Lung Association, spoke in support of the comprehensive tobacco policy and the adoption of the Gold Standard Policy. Mr. Gustafson spoke to the positive effects of the policy and the example the Fairbanks school district was setting for other school districts across the state. He thanked the board for their action on the policy; it would help to save lives within the Fairbanks community.

Sara Riley, 1209 28th Avenue, Anne Wien Elementary student, accompanied by her mother, Sholanda Riley, thanked the school board for the comprehensive tobacco policy; she would not have to worry about walking through a cloud of smoke when she was walking out of school. Mrs. Riley also thanked the board for the comprehensive tobacco policy; it would help children learn about health and safety. The policy clarified the district's expectations. Mrs. Riley appreciated the board's work in adopting the policy and it set a good example for students.

Kris Riley, 1209 28th Avenue, West Valley High School student and athlete, spoke in support of the comprehensive tobacco policy and how second-hand smoke affected him and his fellow students.

Flora Roddy, 480 Jeannette Way, curriculum administrative secretary and volunteer with the American Cancer Society, extended her appreciation to the board for supporting a comprehensive tobacco policy. Ms. Roddy stated the American Cancer Society believed e-cigarettes were harmful to health. It was healthy anytime a person inhaled anything into their lungs. She and the American Cancer Society appreciated the board's consideration of the policy and helping to keep firsthand and secondhand smoke away from students and staff.

Octavia Harris, 1353 Joyce Drive, with the American Lung Association, thanked the board for considering the comprehensive tobacco-free and nicotine-free policy. Ms. Harris could not stress enough the importance of the board's action. As a parent, it was important to her that her child and others recognized tobacco was not a benign drug; it was very addictive and hazardous to their health. It was a gateway drug for illicit drug use and abuse. When adults utilized tobacco on school grounds, it set an example for youth that smoking was acceptable, when it absolutely should not be. Ms. Harris appreciated the efforts of the school board; prevention was key. She shared that student leaders within the district and state had recently voted to support a more comprehensive policy during their fall Alaska Association of Student Governments conference. They voted unanimously in support of tobacco-free and nicotine-free campuses.

Policy 170: Tobacco and Nicotine-Free School District (Second Reading)

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hull thanked Mr. Gustafson, Ms. Harris, and the Policy Review Committee for their work on the policy. The district had operated as tobacco-free for many years, but it was good to have it spelled out and clarified in policy.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (ZEMP, HOYES, L. RICE)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES
(LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, HAAS)

Policy 537: Tobacco-Free School Premises (Second Reading) [0:55:39]

Since the school board adopted the proposed comprehensive tobacco and nicotine policy, revisions were necessary to Policy 537 in order for the existing policy to be consistent. Legal counsel had vetted the proposed policy. The administration recommended adoption of Policy 537 as revised. There were no changes from first reading.

Board Priority: Provide a safe learning environment.

GENTRY MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING,
PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 537: TOBACCO-FREE
SCHOOL PREMISES.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Flora Roddy, 480 Jeannette Way, curriculum administrative secretary and volunteer with the American Cancer Society, let the board know she had smoke-free Alaska workplace signature cards available. The names of people signing the cards would be included in a spreadsheet sent to Juneau in February. People were welcome to email her or stop by her desk to pick up a signature card or have their picture taken with the smoke-free workplace sign.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (L. RICE, ZEMP, HOYES)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES
(GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, HAAS)

Policy 1049.3: Tobacco or Nicotine Violations (Second Reading) [0:57:52]

The school board adopted the proposed comprehensive tobacco and nicotine policy, and revisions were necessary to Policy 1049.3 Tobacco or Nicotine Violations in order for the existing policy to be consistent. Legal counsel had vetted the proposed policy. The administration recommended adoption of Policy 1049.3 as revised. There were no changes from first reading.

Board Priority: Provide a safe learning environment.

GENTRY MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING,
PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 1049.3: TOBACCO OR
NICOTINE VIOLATIONS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Policy 1049.3: Tobacco or Nicotine Violations (Second Reading) (continued)

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (HOYES, L. RICE, ZEMP)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES
(HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HAAS)

Policy 1156: Gifts & Donations (Second Reading) [0:59:04]

The school board adopted the proposed comprehensive tobacco and nicotine policy, so it was appropriate to revise Policy 1156 in order to include similar language. Legal counsel had vetted the proposed policy. The administration recommended adoption of Policy 1156 as revised. There were no changes from first reading.

Board Priority: Provide a safe learning environment.

GENTRY MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO APPROVE SECOND READING,
PUBLIC HEARING, AND ADOPTION OF POLICY 1156: GIFTS & DONATIONS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr. O'Brien thought the tobacco policies were important first steps for clean air in schools. He applauded the American Lung Association for their efforts and hoped they would continue. Cigarette smoke could be kept out of schools by posting signs, but signs could not keep dirty air out of schools. He hoped the board would be able to partner with other agencies to take the next step in making air clean for schools and the community.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (ZEMP, HOYES, L. RICE)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES
(O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, S. RICE, HAAS)

President Haas thanked everyone involved with the policies, especially the Policy Review Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2015-11: Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. [1:01:34]

School Board Resolution 2015-11 honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and proclaimed the week of January 19, 2015, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. activities throughout the district.

Board Priority: Respect for the diversity and dignity of all individuals and groups is essential.

DOMINIQUE MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION
2015-11: HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mrs. Dominique read the resolution for the public record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Resolution 2015-11: Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (continued)

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr. Rice appreciated the resolution. Over the summer he had enjoyed visiting Dr. King's childhood home, the church where he preached, and the graves where he and his wife were buried.

Mrs. Dominique was honored to see the resolution before the board and the district recognizing it as a holiday within the school district. She was thankful for the resolution and appreciated the district's continued support for Dr. King and his work.

Mrs. Hull agreed with Mr. Rice and Mrs. Dominique; she was glad the district recognized the holiday and the work of Dr. King. Dr. King's work had inspired people of all diversities. She too had the opportunity to visit the church where Dr. King had preached and found it very inspirational.

Mr. O'Brien stated that while there was so much to be pleased about within the district, there was still room for improvement, such as in the area of equity, as stated in the resolution. The district needed to be certain all economic groups regardless of race or creed had equity in their education. The district was not there yet. The resolution and the work Dr. King did should not be something to remember, but rather a goal to strive for. Mr. O'Brien was very happy the board was acknowledging the work of Dr. King through the resolution.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (L. RICE, ZEMP, HOYES)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES
(S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)

Commencement of Education Support Staff Association (ESSA) Negotiations and Selection of Chief Negotiator [1:07:19]

State statute provided that before commencing bargaining, the school board shall provide opportunities for public comment on the issues to be addressed in the collective bargaining process. Therefore, the school board was providing a formal opportunity for public input on classified salaries, benefits, and any other contractual issues prior to beginning negotiations with the Education Support Staff Association (ESSA), at any regular school board meeting. The public was also invited to send written comments to the School Board Office, 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-4756.

The current contract between ESSA and the district would expire on June 30, 2015. In order to begin negotiations with ESSA, the board needed to name a chief negotiator. Kim Saner, the district's director of labor relations, was recommended to serve as the school board's chief negotiator.

Board Priority: Recruit, hire, and retain a diverse workforce with the talents and abilities to fulfill the district's mission.

Mrs. Dominique recused herself from the action item due to her son's affiliation with ESSA and moved to the audience.

GENTRY MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED, TO NAME KIM SANER, DIRECTOR OF LABOR RELATIONS, AS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION.

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik, in collaboration with Traci Gatewood, executive director of human resources, proposed Mr. Saner as chief negotiator for the school board. Mr. Saner had extensive knowledge and experience in negotiations with a variety of contracts and organizations. He would be well-suited to lead the board's negotiations.

Commencement of Education Support Staff Association (ESSA) Negotiations and Selection of Chief Negotiator (continued)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (HOYES, L. RICE, ZEMP)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 6 AYES
(S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, HAAS)
RECUSED: DOMINIQUE

Mrs. Dominique rejoined the board.

Approval of 2015-16 Legislative Priorities [1:10:07]

The administration recommended legislative priorities for the 2015 Alaska State Legislative session. The priorities would guide district and board member communication through the spring budget season.

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

DOMINIQUE MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE 2015-16 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES.

President Haas clarified the board would be voting on the priorities as listed on the front side of the priorities sheet, not the document itself. It was important to leave the wording of the document as a fluid document which could be revised as needed by the Legislative Committee.

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik stated the document was a fluid document and available for changes throughout the session and as the year progressed. The priorities should not change – they should remain steady.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hull clarified the board would be approving the priorities. She asked about the district cost factor.

President Haas stated the board had decided through the Legislative Committee that the district cost factor would be mentioned in the supporting documentation.

Mrs. Hull asked about the start up funding for magnet schools, as the board had discussed at their work session the previous evening. President Haas stated the board could amend the priorities to include language for magnet schools to the priorities or list it in the supporting documentation.

Dr. Gaborik stated the administration had drafted language that could be added listed under the priority of Personalize Education.

Mrs. Dominique did not believe the board had enough information on the issue to add it as a priority at the current time.

Approval of 2015-16 Legislative Priorities (continued)

President Haas clarified if the board wished to make the magnet school start-up request a priority, it would need to be done through an amendment, but if it was to be used as supporting documentation, no amendment was needed.

Dr. Gaborik stated the Base Student Allocation needed to remain the number one priority for investing in the future and promoting quality instruction.

Mrs. Lambert voiced her confusion on what the board was being asked to approve.

President Haas explained the board was being asked to only approve the priorities as listed on the document. The document itself would remain a fluid document that could be revised as needed. She reiterated if the board wanted magnet school start-up funding as a priority, there would need to be an amendment put forward, but if the board was satisfied with listing the magnet school start-up request as supporting documentation, no amendment was needed.

HULL MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO AMEND THE PRIORITIES TO INCLUDE THE LANGUAGE DRAFTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AS A BOARD PRIORITY.

President Haas stated Mrs. Hull needed to state the priority and where she would propose it be placed.

Mrs. Hull would like to do as Dr. Gaborik suggested earlier and place it under Personalize Education. She did not have the language drafted by the administration.

Mrs. Hull amended her amendment.

HULL MOVED, GENTRY SECONDED, TO AMEND THE PRIORITIES TO INCLUDE THE LANGUAGE DRAFTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AS A BOARD PRIORITY UNDER PERSONALIZE EDUCATION.

President Haas asked if Dr. Gaborik suggested Personalize Education or Invest in the Future. Dr. Gaborik believed it should go under Invest in the Future, as supporting documentation, under Promoting Quality Instruction [she inadvertently stated Personalize Education earlier].

Mrs. Hull clarified the board was not approving the language in the document.

President Haas stated Mrs. Hull was correct. The Legislative Committee had determined it wanted a statement regarding quality instruction, with supporting documentation on what quality instruction looked like for the school district. The board had the BSA and the district cost factor already listed and the administration was proposing to add language regarding magnet school start-up funding. Mrs. Hull's amendment would place the magnet school start-up funding as a bullet point under Personalize Education.

Mrs. Hull requested to withdraw her amendment.

President Haas asked for any objection to Mrs. Hull withdrawing her amendment, hearing none, the amendment was withdrawn.

Mrs. Hull thought the bold sentence under district cost center needed to be cleaned up. She thought the board was asking the legislature to bring Fairbanks to the same level of state funding as other like-sized districts. The district currently had the same cost factor as the district that was most like Fairbanks-size, which was Mat-Su. Mrs. Hull did not think the issue was about the size of the district, but rather the operational costs. She thought the language needed to be revised.

Approval of 2015-16 Legislative Priorities (continued)

Dr. Gaborik stated Mr. Fisher had stated the same concern as Mrs. Hull regarding the cost factor language and they had already begun working on revised language.

President Haas thought some of the confusion stemmed from the board's original discussion about Fairbanks being like-sized to Mat-Su. She pointed out Mrs. Hull's suggestion to clean up the language was a good example of why the document itself needed to remain fluid.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (ZEMP, HOYES, L. RICE)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES
(LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, HAAS)

Lobbyist Contract Approval [1:24:09]

The lobbyist contract with John Ringstad ended June 30, 2014. If it was the school board's intent to extend a contract for the remainder of the school year, a new contract would need to be approved for the period December 2, 2014 through June 30, 2015, at a cost of \$36,000.

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

GENTRY MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE LOBBYIST CONTRACT FOR JOHN RINGSTAD FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 2, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015, AT A COST OF \$36,000.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Dominique thought employing a lobbyist was a great way of conducting business. She thought Mr. Ringstad was the right person for the job and would represent the board and district well.

President Haas stated the board had not budgeted for a lobbyist, but had budgeted for more travel funding for board members to travel to Juneau to meet with legislators themselves. She agreed with Mrs. Dominique and appreciated her asking to bring the lobbyist contract forward for board action. President Haas noted the district's new staff and thought everyone could learn a lot from Mr. Ringstad.

ADVISORY VOTES. 3 AYES (HOYES, L. RICE, ZEMP)
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES
(HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HAAS)

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Superintendent Report [1:26:40]

Dr. Gaborik provided the superintendent report.

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

Dr. Gaborik reviewed the draft document, *6 Key Points for Parents*. The administration would work to finalize the document and the language would parallel the board's priorities. Once finalized, the document would be shared with principals and others.

Superintendent Report (continued)

Dr. Gaborik met with Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Lovell, borough staff, on air quality. She would work on getting additional information for the board. The borough was very interested in working with the district on monitoring and improving air quality. She had learned a lot about monitoring, wind shifts etc. during her meeting with Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Lovell. Air quality monitoring was a complex issue that varied across the borough. Dr. Gaborik extended an invitation from Mr. Lovell encouraging board members to meet with him. He, Mr. Jacobson, and the borough were very interested in working with the board and supporting any air quality policies.

President Haas invited board members to attend the borough's December 10 Town Hall meeting on air quality. She thought there would be a lot of good information. She was very passionate about the issue now that she lived in a hotspot. The board needed to keep apprised of the issue.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hull thought the board might need to look at the capital projects list and what might need to be done in regards to air quality. She did not believe the board had previously talked about how the air quality issue would fit into the capital projects list.

President Haas thanked the administration for the document for parents; it was very clear and very well done.

Mrs. Hull liked the wording regarding local funding on the *6 Key Points for Parents*.

Elementary Counseling Program Update [1:33:20]

Michelle Daml, elementary curriculum coordinator, provided an update on the counseling program at the elementary schools.

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

Mrs. Daml reviewed the responsibilities, duties, and services provided by elementary counselors in schools around the district. The district had 18 elementary school counselors. With the exception of Salcha and Two Rivers which shared a counselor and Watershed and Chinook Charter Schools which did not have counselors on site, schools had their own counselor. The ratio of students to counselors at the elementary level within the district was 404 students to 1 counselor. The recommended ratio was 250 to 1.

Students who participated in social and emotional learning programs had grade point averages 11 percent higher than their peers, scored higher on standardized tests, and were less likely to engage in high-risk behavior that interfered with learning, such as violence and drug and alcohol use. Schools that taught social and emotional learning programs had fewer suspensions and expulsions and better student attendance. School counselors were needed in schools.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Dominique clarified the national recommendation was 1 counselor to 250 students. Ms. Daml stated Mrs. Dominique was correct.

A report on secondary counselors would be presented to the board at its January 20, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Transportation Contract Update [1:41:19]

Mike Fisher, chief financial officer, and Renee Tonne, transportation coordinator, provided an update on the district's transportation contract.

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

The district had a transportation contract with First Student to provide home to school busing for students totaling approximately \$12 million. First Student operated approximately 93 regular routes and 43 special education routes. The buses operated out of bus barns in Fairbanks and Moose Creek. Bus barns were a necessity to keep seat temperatures at no colder than 40 degrees, as required by state statute. Fairbanks was currently the only large district that required warm storage as part of the transportation contract.

The district ran a three-tier system in Fairbanks and a two-tier system in the North Pole area, as the elementary, middle, and high schools typically had different start times. Elementary busing had the highest need with most all buses running at that time. Elementary busing basically determined how many buses the district needed to contract for. There was a gap in the middle of the day when most buses did not run.

The reason the district ran three tiers of busing was due to costs. If elementary, middle, and high schools all ran the same schedule, it would take considerably more buses to provide coverage with acceptable ride times. To run all routes for all schools at once, it could easily take a third more buses, at an annual cost of \$77,000 for a regular bus and \$108,000 for a special-needs bus. The district was currently able to pay for the transportation contract totally from state funds, without subsidizing from the operating fund. That has not always been the case and would not continue to remain the case for long. The district contracted each bus on a daily rate, not an hourly rate. There was no other alternative use for buses when they were not transporting district students. A contractor's rate must cover the cost of all buses required by the contract. Any established daily or hourly rate would be set to cover the full cost of operating the bus during the bid process. A daily rate provided the district much more flexibility.

The board and district often heard comments about low ridership on buses and how money could be saved by combining routes. If the district were to combine all grade levels, then all schools would have to start at the same time, and the cost would be somewhat prohibitive, even considering some increased efficiencies in ridership. The district had written criteria that determined who could ride and how scheduled routes were scheduled, including walking zones, minimum ridership, duplicate mileage, hazard routes etc. The district used the same criteria used by the state when they approved and funded individual routes. In 2004, the state changed from approving individual routes to providing a "per student" funding level for each district (and a different amount for each district). The district did not change and has kept the same criteria in place, which was a good thing, because the administration expected the state to go back to approving individual routes in the near future, using similar criteria.

While the district identified locations that qualified for bus service, it was still the responsibility of the parent or student's guardian or guardians to request service which would then lead to the district scheduling routes and bus stops. Although bus routes were based and scheduled on service requests, it did not mean that all students who requested service rode the bus every day. Some students did not ride at all; some did not ride when they had before or after school activities; some only rode during cold days; some only during warm days, some when they were at their dad's house versus their mom's house or grandma or day care; some only if their car broke down; and some rode based on their parent's work schedule. The district did its best to keep ride times at an acceptable level, but some parents felt the routes were too long and consequently, students did not ride the bus.

Transportation Contract Update (continued)

Industry standard 71 passenger school buses were made for high mileage and required less maintenance. They were the standard across the nation and provided the most flexibility. If the district had high density populations it could probably fill 71 passenger buses with acceptable drive times, but it didn't. The administration considered 66 students a maximum load and routes typically had between 25-45 scheduled pickups, although perhaps not active riders. Some routes had more, some less. Scheduled riders all qualified for bus service based on approved criteria and bus service had been requested by the parent. Because of how spread out the Fairbanks community was, it is not possible to fill each bus, even if all students scheduled to ride, did so. The ride time would not be acceptable to parents. Most of the district's maximum ride times were between 30-45 minutes, with some shorter and some longer. Mr. Fisher believed the shortest route ride was 11 minutes and the longest was one at approximately one and a half hours and one route almost two hours long.

When the administration made schedule changes, there were a number of considerations. Every stop added time. Changing the number of stops for any reason (adding or dropping) could change the current scheduled bus stop times along the whole route. Understandably, most families did not like disruption in their routines. The administration tended to tweak route times once in late fall and once again in the spring. Since First Student was currently experiencing some driver shortages, there had been adjustments and doubling up of some routes to help address that issue. While some buses had low ridership, most routes had an appropriate number of scheduled or potential riders and reasonable drive times. That was the district's goal.

The district was currently in the fourth year of a five year contract, ending August 2016. Typically in the fourth year, the district would either issue an RFP for services or exercise a mutually agreeable extension per terms of the existing contract. The current contract allowed for a five year extension. There were a number of bus safety and compliance provisions both in state statute and/or regulations and in the contract that made it reasonable that contract extensions be multi-year. An example Mr. Fisher provided was if a contractor was required to replace buses of a certain age, the expectation was that they could have them manufactured, brought up from outside and placed in service long enough to recover a substantial part of the costs.

Mr. Fisher and Bart Grahek, the district's director of procurement and warehousing, had met and believed it was probably in the best interest of the district to negotiate a five year contract extension with the current contractor. Since the board had previously approved the existing contract that included a five-year extension provision, the extension would not typically come before the board for approval.

In addition to it being the fourth year of the district's contract, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) has also been holding a number of meetings with the big five districts in response to the legislature's requests that they review transportation contracts. There have been a number of meetings and teleconferences over the summer with the goal being to revise contract language so to attract as many potential contractors as possible and help keep the cost of transportation under control. Under consideration was:

- a. making sure contract language was as consistent as possible among districts;
- b. consider requiring ten-year contract terms;
- c. align large districts on the same bid cycle;
- d. provide some sort of standard fuel adjustment in the contract;
- e. possibly providing for state funded bus barns where appropriate; and
- f. possibly requiring districts to purchase and lease back their own buses.

Transportation Contract Update (continued)

Consistent language and aligning contract bid cycles had been in place for a few years already. Neither item really provided much incentive for better pricing. A ten-year contract term would provide more incentive to a contractor thinking about submitting a bid, which was close to the district's contract language, which allowed for an initial five year term and then a five year extension. Financing bus barns and buses each had numerous concerns and issues to address - financial and other, and were no longer being considered in the short term.

The fuel adjustment was something the state supported, but Mr. Fisher was not necessarily in favor of it and believed it may even cost the district. Regardless, it was something that might have to be added to any new contract the district entered into, which he felt was another plus for extending the district's existing contract. The district would not have to incorporate the fuel adjustment in the extended contract, and could wait to see how whatever the state came up with worked for other districts.

Mr. Fisher thanked all the bus drivers, attendants, and other First Student employees who did a great job in getting children to and from school safely each and every school day.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board member questions and comments included the changing price of fuel; the state requirement for maintaining bus temperatures and warm storage; bus driver training and appropriate behavior; lighted bus stops; guidelines for determining routes and review of existing routes; how adjusting school start times might affect busing and the current transportation contract; and the possibility and cost for providing transportation both to and from school for flex-day kindergarten students. Mr. Fisher stated bus driver training could be negotiated and suggested the board might address better lighting for student bus stops with the borough.

The board was interested in seeing the negotiated contract extension, as there were things such as student safety and driver training they wanted to see in place. Mr. Fisher stated the administration could bring the negotiated contract extension before the board prior to it going out.

Class Size Report – Fall 2014 [2:10:24]

Kathy Hughes, executive director of alternative instruction and accountability, presented the 2014 Class Size Report. Class size averages in the report were based on enrollment data for the district on October 1, 2014.

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

Mrs. Hughes thanked Janet Cobb, executive director of technology and Emily Gracik, research and accountability secretary, for their assistance with the report. Mrs. Hughes presented the average number of students enrolled in elementary, middle, and high school classes on October 1. Appendix A of the report presented individual elementary school enrollments in regular classes; Appendix B presented enrollment data for each period of the day in secondary schools. Class size data for 2014 showed: 7,051 K-6 students in elementary schools, with an average class size of 23.3; 1,692 students in middle and junior high schools, with an average class size of 22.6; and 3,480 students in high schools, with an average class size of 23.5.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

Class Size Report – Fall 2014 (continued)

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board members appreciated Mrs. Hughes' report on class size. Board members voiced concern over some large classrooms at Tanana Middle School and Lathrop High School. Other concerns and comments included the quality of education in kindergarten; distribution of the report; the possibility of reporting the medium versus average class size; African American male math achievement given the large size of some classes; appreciation for the individual class listing in the appendices; and teacher requests to allow student enrollment once enrollment limits had been reached in their individual classes.

Shaun Kraska, interim assistant superintendent of secondary education, stated she had been working with Mr. Platt at Tanana to address the class size issues for second semester. Mrs. Kraska did not have the data regarding African American male math achievement at hand, but would get it for the board.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS [2:38:45]

President Haas, on behalf of the entire board, thanked the Woodriver Elementary Jazz Band for their festive performance. She congratulated the West Valley High School students for their philanthropy award, Kim Gatto for her ESP award, Sharon Ashlock and Joni Simpson for their CTE awards, and Heather Stewart for her NASSP 2014 Alaska State Principal of the Year award. President Haas also thanked the students and others for their testimonies and work on the tobacco policies.

On behalf of the entire board, President Haas extended a special thank you to the district's management team for their work throughout the year. The board very much appreciated their dedication and service to the students and district. The board presented each management team member a holiday card and gift card.

President Haas would be sending an email update to board members in the next few days. She reminded board members of the work session with the Interior Delegation on Wednesday, December 10 at 4:00, followed by the PTA potluck at 5:15 p.m. There was also a special meeting for student discipline scheduled for Monday, December 15 at noon. President Haas said there may be a need for another special meeting for student discipline on January 5, 2015 at noon, and asked board members to mark their calendars.

President Haas reported the Board Diversity Committee (BDC) meeting for December had been cancelled. The next BDC meeting was scheduled for January 8, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

Colonel Zemp spoke about the recent visitors to both Fort Wainwright and Eielson. It was good for them to experience what soldiers and their families had to go through in Alaska. He appreciated the full-host of Veteran Day events throughout the community, highlighting the Festival Fairbanks event at the Westmark. The presentations by school children, JROTC groups, and others were touching and there wasn't a dry eye in the place. Colonel Zemp appreciated the great outpouring the Fairbanks community had for military members and their families.

President Haas thanked Colonel Zemp for acknowledging the community's support of service members.

Colonel Rice thanked Dr. Gaborik and others who attended Eielson and Crawford's Veteran's Day events and Blue Ribbon Celebration. There had been some stellar performances. Colonel Rice was pleased to see the grant for the *We the People* program. He enjoyed judging the event and seeing students speak so elegantly about student government. The *We the People* state competition was scheduled for the following day at the Westmark.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Mr. Rice announced the upcoming Board Curriculum Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. He invited everyone to attend.

Mrs. Hull reported the Policy Review Committee had met recently and worked through some things that had been raised over the past year. She asked people to let her know if they had a policy or concern they would like the committee to consider. She would get it approved with the board president for the committee's consideration.

Mrs. Hull said she could provide a written report on the recent AASB conference if people were interested.

President Haas suggested Mrs. Hull could add any report to the update she was preparing. She noted the agendas and presentations from the AASB conference were available on AASB's website.

Mrs. Hull also reported on the recent Center for Alaska Education Policy Research meeting where the topics of tenure and the teacher salary schedule studies were addressed. She thought the board needed to keep an eye on the discussions. At the meeting she had made the point that school boards were responsible for the policy decisions regarding salaries and thought the study should focus more on how a statewide salary schedule would be structured and what the regional differences would be, etc. She wanted to go on record that she thought there was a good tenure system in place at the current time.

The State Board of Education was scheduled to meet on Thursday and Friday.

Mrs. Hull commented on the board's work session about magnet schools and the elemiddle concept. She hoped people would begin to think about whether or not the community was interested in those learning opportunities. As the board moved forward with their strategic planning process, she was confident the administration would be putting together more information for the public so they could begin to examine the possibilities and whether they were interested in them or not.

Mrs. Hull wished everyone Merry Christmas and hoped they enjoyed their vacation.

Mrs. Lambert reported the Citizen Budget Review Committee would be meeting for the first time the following evening. She invited the public to attend. She appreciated the board adopting the comprehensive tobacco policy and it was a great start; she would like to see it expanded throughout the community. Mrs. Lambert wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

At 9:54 p.m.

DOMINIQUE MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO SUSPEND THE RULES
AND EXTEND THE MEETING TO 10:20 P.M.

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

Mrs. Dominique tagged on to Mrs. Hull's comments regarding magnet and/or elemiddle schools and encouraged the public to contact board members with their thoughts before the board implemented new programs. The implementation may still be a couple of years away, but it was important for board members to hear from the public. The board had discussed utilizing PowerSchool and the website for completing the community survey that would be soliciting input regarding magnet, elemiddle, and other options as part of the strategic planning process.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Mrs. Dominique thanked the administration for their hard work on the legislative priorities. She thanked Mr. Ringstad for his service. As a previous legislator, he had contacts and she felt he would do a great job for the district.

Mrs. Dominique wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mrs. Gentry noted it was good to be back. She was sorry she missed the recent Mayor's Young Artist Show. Her granddaughter had gotten an award. Mrs. Gentry was looking forward to the Career Technical Education Advisory Committee meeting on December 10. She wished Merry Christmas to everyone.

Mr. O'Brien thanked management team for their work on the reports presented to the board. He really appreciated the time they took to be present at the meetings. The report topics were important to board members as they provided them with information to respond to community members' calls and inquiries. Mr. O'Brien enjoyed the Woodriver Jazz Band's performance. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mr. Hoyes wished everyone Happy Holidays and encouraged everyone to make good decisions.

Dr. Gaborik reminded board members to send any suggestions or edits regarding the *6 Key Points for Parents* document. There was another Math Night scheduled for Monday, December 8 at University Park Elementary School from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The event was open to the public. The administration was continuing to get information out on the upcoming Online Assessments. Ryan Middle School was hosting a Fine Arts Friday on Friday, December 5.

Dr. Gaborik noted the administration had posted information on school closure in the event of weather. She explained the information was posted as informational only and there was no suggestion school might be cancelled for the prediction of snow.

Dr. Gaborik announced the process for hiring principals was beginning. The process would include staff, parents, PTA, and the PTA executive board.

President Haas noted she had seen some Facebook comments about closing school. She once again thanked the members of management team and recognized them for their work and service to the district.

President Haas announced she planned to attend the upcoming AASB Fall Boardsmanship Academy where there would be some good conversations and information on the cost study. She would provide the board with a report after the conference.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

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