

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

Special Meeting

MINUTES

December 2, 2014

President Haas called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The special meeting was called for discussion regarding litigation against the district (Case No. 4FA-14-02138CI), to include a possible executive session with the borough attorney's office to discuss matters within the attorney client privilege, including to give direction to the attorney for the purposes of resolving the matter at mediation.

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

Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

Others Present:

Jill Dolan, Assistant Borough Attorney

**Public Testimony** – *limited to items on the agenda only* [0:00:45]

President Haas called for public testimony. Hearing none, testimony was closed.

**Discussion regarding litigation against the district (Case No. 4FA-14-02138CI)** [0:00:50]

President Haas announced mediation on the case had begun in Seattle on Monday and the board would need to meet in executive session to hear the outcome of the mediation and to provide direction to counsel if needed.

**Executive Session** [0:01:15]

DOMINIQUE MOVED, HULL SECONDED, TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH THE BOROUGH ATTORNEY'S OFFICE BY PHONE TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITHIN THE ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE, INCLUDING TO GIVE DIRECTION TO THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PURPOSES OF RESOLVING THE MATTER AT MEDIATION.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE CONSENT OF FIVE MEMBERS (O'BRIEN, HULL, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)

The board convened to executive session at 6:01 p.m.

Mr. Rice arrived at 6:30 p.m.

**Executive Session (continued)** [0:01:32]

At 6:31 p.m. President Haas came out of executive session to announce Jill Dolan, assistant borough attorney, would now be joining the board in executive session in person. She had been participating by phone as her flight was late arriving.

President Haas rejoined the board in executive session.

Mrs. Gentry arrived at 6:50 p.m.

The executive session adjourned at 6:57 p.m. [0:01:45]

DOMINIQUE MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO ACCEPT THE MEDIATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$920,000.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES  
(RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE, HAAS)

President Haas announced the district and Doe plaintiffs had reached an agreement on Monday that resolved the civil lawsuit arising from allegations of sexual abuse by a tutor at Hutchison High School for \$920,000, of which all but approximately \$250,000 was covered by the borough's insurance. The agreement was reached after a nine-hour mediation and both parties believed it was a fair and reasonable settlement of all claims. The agreement was subject to final court approval because it would settle a claim involving a minor child.

The parties were hopeful the agreement would help bring closure to them both and allow everyone to move forward. The board would continue its efforts to ensure it had an effective system in place for handling allegations of employee misconduct, and it was committed to the safety and well-being of its students.

**Board Comments/Discussion** [0:03:03]

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

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