

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

Work Session

MINUTES

December 10, 2014

President Haas called the work session to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue for the Interior Delegation Briefing.

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."*

Board Members Present:

Heidi Haas, President
Wendy Dominique, Vice President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Lisa Gentry, Clerk
Sue Hull, Member

Absent:

Michael O'Brien, Member
Sean Rice, Member

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent
Mike Fisher, Chief Financial Officer
Lisa Pearce, Incoming Chief Financial Officer
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent - Secondary
Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent – Elementary
Kathy Hughes, Executive Director of Alternative Instruction and Accountability
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Management
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Helen Clark, Director of Federal Programs
Daniel Domke, Director of Career and Technical Education
Katie Sanders, Director of Library Media Services
Heather Rauenhorst, Director of Grants and Special Projects
John Ringstad, District Lobbyist
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Interior Delegation Members Present:

Senator Click Bishop
Senator John Coghill
Senator Pete Kelly
Meredith Cameron, representing Representative David Guttenberg
Riley Leonard, representing Representative Scott Kawasaki
Representative Tammie Wilson
Samantha Straus, representing Representative-elect Adam Wool

Interior Delegation Briefing

Introductions [0:00:41]

President Haas welcomed everyone and facilitated introductions. The school board presented legislators with a piece of student artwork. The artwork was a collaboration between 4th grade students at Pearl Creek Elementary School and 7th/8th grade English students at Ryan Middle School.

Interior Delegation Briefing (continued)

Budget Overview [0:04:08]

Mike Fisher, chief financial officer, thanked legislators for their work last session on education funding and the increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) for last year and the next two years. He provided a brief overview of the district's operating fund budget outlook for 2015-16. Even with the small increase to the BSA, district anticipated a budget deficit of between \$4-8 million for 2015-16.

Mrs. Gentry arrived at 4:23 p.m.

2015 Legislative Priorities [0:11:09]

President Haas, Mrs. Dominique, and Superintendent Gaborik reviewed the board's 2015 Legislative Priorities:

Invest in the Future

- **Promote Quality Instruction**

The board requested sustainable funding for education. The board appreciated the increase in Base Student Allocation last year and the stability of funding in the next two years, but the future allocation was essentially flat. In order to maintain high quality instruction for students, move forward with innovative education initiatives, and keep up with cost increases, additional operating funds were necessary.

- **District Cost Factor** (\$7,700,000)

The board requested the legislature offset the loss of equitable funding to the Fairbanks School District that resulted from the District Cost Factors (DCF) found within the Foundation Formula funding. The DCF were meant to address funding inequities between districts that resulted from geographical cost differentials. This year, the board requested equitable funding through an adjustment to the Fairbanks DCF to address the disparity between high-cost districts.

- **Invest in Magnet Schools**

The board requested expansion of existing one-time start-up state grant funding for new charter schools to include new district magnet schools.

Personalize Education

- Expanded Credit Options for High School Students (\$2,792,311)
Distance Delivery, Online Credit Recovery, Homeschool Expansion
- Video Surveillance and Technology Upgrades, Phase II (\$2,279,950)
- Student Laptops (\$1,550,400)
- One-to-One Technology Initiative (Grades K-3: \$533,710 and Grades K-5: \$824,130)

Fund Capital Projects

- Capital Funding Requests
 - Barnette Magnet School Renovation, Phase IV (Final Phase) (\$11,467,095)**
 - Joy Roof Replacement (\$1,102,435)
 - West Valley High School Auditorium Sprinkler System Upgrade (\$350,000)
 - Replacement of Walk-in Coolers and Freezers Districtwide (\$885,800)
 - Classroom Furniture Replacement (\$500,000)

** This project was ranked 5th on the CIP list. Should the legislature fund this major maintenance project, the grant request for the participating share would be \$3.15 million.

Discussion

Board member and legislator conversations included discussion and questions about the district's decreased enrollment; start up funding for magnet schools; current requested funding and the costs-to-date for Barnette Magnet School; the cost of educating a student in the district; district fixed and fluctuating costs; the district's upcoming strategic plan; career technical education opportunities, including a request for the district to consider a pipeline offering; school capacities; and expanded educational opportunities such as additional magnet schools, elemiddle concept schools, expanded home school programs, and a campus similar to Mat-Su's program.

Legislators asked for additional information from the school board and district on the costs of magnet school start-ups and detailed data on the district's decreased enrollment.

President Haas, on behalf of the board and Superintendent Gaborik, thanked legislators for attending the work session and the discussion. It was a starting point and they anticipated a lot more conversation working toward January and during the legislative session. The board and district appreciated the work of legislators and their support for students and education. They recognized they had a lot of difficult work ahead of them.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

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