

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Board Of Education
Legislative Committee Meeting

Committee of the Whole

MINUTES

January 22, 2015

Legislative Chair Dominique called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

Chair Dominique 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:

Wendy Dominique, Chair & Board Vice President
Heidi Haas, Board President (by phone)
Allyson Lambert, Board Treasurer
Lisa Gentry, Board Clerk
Sue Hull, Board Member (by phone)
Michael O'Brien, Board Member
Sean Rice, Board Member

Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer (Incoming)
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
Johanna Carson, Director of Public Relations
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

Others:

John Ringstad

Agenda Adoption with Consent Agenda Item [0:00:37]

**1. November 11, 2014 Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

GENTRY MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH
CONSENT AGENDA ITEM.

HEARING NO OBJECTION, MOTION CARRIED.

(O'BRIEN, HULL [phone], GENTRY, LAMBERT, HAAS [phone], DOMINIQUE)

Public Testimony – *limited to items on the agenda only* [0:01:00]

Chair Dominique called for public testimony. Hearing none, testimony was closed.

Legislative Priorities [0:01:05]

No changes were suggested to the previously approved legislative priorities.

Mr. Rice arrived at 5:48 p.m.

Education Legislation [0:05:09]

Mr. Ringstad provided a brief overview of education legislation, including bills addressing student data and state reporting; civics education; constitutional curriculum; and pre-k program funding. The administration and committee discussed the legislative bills and what they had been hearing from

Education Legislation (continued)

legislators and others regarding education legislation, including discussions around restructuring current practices to make education more effective, the situation regarding Anchorage's funding, and the overall budget outlook. The board hoped the legislature would honor the commitment to education funding.

Capital Projects [0:33:52]

The final phase for Barnette Magnet School's renovation was #5 on the state's list. Some had heard there might be funding available through project #9; but nothing was certain, especially with the governor's proposal regarding supplemental funding. There had also been some discussion about funding a lesser amount for Barnette and Mr. Norum had provided the requested information. It had been indicated there might have been an offhanded remark regarding the district's small grant funding requests being considered unreasonable. More research would be done into the situation to determine what the actual concern might have been and what could be done to clarify the district's requests. There might have been some confusion between the district and borough's requests.

Funding [0:48:37]

Mr. Ringstad felt the board needed to determine how far they wanted to push the district cost factor issue; there might not be support outside the Interior Delegation. With energy costs falling and the state's budget situation, the board was not in as strong a position regarding the issue, as they had been in the past. The board agreed it would be important to see the results of the education studies regarding the funding formula, salary schedules, and insurance.

Juneau Travel [0:51:19]

Board members discussed Juneau legislative visits and travel. The board needed to be strategic with their trips whether it was through individual visits, travel with Mr. Ringstad, district lobbyist, or AASB legislative fly-ins. Board members agreed it was important to get the biggest bang for their buck and discussed the pros and cons of traveling as part of a large group, such as AASB or as individual representatives of the district. Chair Dominique would develop a strategic travel schedule.

Strategies/Communication/Implementation [1:17:45]

Johanna Carson, public relations director, reviewed the communication flyers and other resources in place to push out legislative/budget information. Board members discussed developing a strategic plan for communication. It was important to get parents mobilized and advocating to the legislature and borough. It was suggested that following each of the board's trips to Juneau, information obtained from the visit could be pushed out to identified groups, such as PTAs and others – each trip could be followed with a specific message.

The board's legislative priorities and budget information for parents had been pushed to the front page of the district's website. Additional information would be developed as needed. The board would look at both internal and external communication/information events such as school visits, PTA presentations, and community presentations. It was important for board members to present a unified message.

The board asked the administration to draft a document as a leave-behind for board visits about what the district's instructional program would look like if no additional funding was provided. A suggestion was made to develop one calendar with travel, presentations/visits, and communication dates.

The committee meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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