

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

March 24, 2015

President Haas called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. Arctic Light Elementary School's band and orchestra led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the board under the guidance of Gwendolyn Brazier, music 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 (by phone)
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Lisa Gentry, Clerk
Sue Hull, Member
Michael O'Brien, Member
Sean Rice, Member
Larry Rice, Base Representative
Wyatt Hoyes, Student Representative

Absent:

Sidney Zemp, Post Representative

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Sandy Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources
Kathie Wassmann, Executive Director of Special Education
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Johanna Carson, Director of Public Relations
Melanie Hadaway, Director of Alternative Instruction
Elizabeth Schaffhauser, Director of Employment & Educational Opportunity
Katie Sanders, Director of Library Media Services
Dan Domke, Director of Career Technical Education
Heather Rauenhorst, Director of Grants & Special Projects
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board

PRELIMINARY ITEMS

ASAA/First National Bank Alaska 2015 Nordic Skiing Boys' State Skimeister [0:06:04]

Max Donaldson, West Valley student, won the boys' state Skimeister title at the state ski championships. This was the third year in a row Mr. Donaldson has won the Skimeister title. Greg Whisenhant, West Valley coach, made the presentation.

Spotlight: Assistive Technology [0:11:14]

Stephen Bailey, assistive technology specialist, and Mary Burtness, alternative/augmentative communication specialist, provided an overview of assistive technology and how it was utilized throughout the district, including videos and snapshots of students utilizing the technology.

Board members appreciated the presentation.

AGENDA [0:26:18]

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

The following consent items were moved:

accepted Amendment 3 in the amount of \$10,000 from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, for the Statewide Professional Development program, per Fiscal Note 2015-37.

accepted the Amendment 2 award in the amount of \$67,416 for the Alaska 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant from the State of Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, per Fiscal Note 2015-40.

approved the minutes from the special meetings on February 27, March 2, and March 13; the work session on March 2; and the regular meeting on March 3, 2015, as submitted.

approved the administration's engagement of the law firm Sedor, Wendlandt, Evans, & Filippi, LLC on an ongoing basis to conduct the daily business of the school district.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-076: Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School for \$64,041.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-77: Anderson Elementary School for \$34,011.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-080: Temporaries & Substitute Salaries & Benefits in the amount of \$269,565.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-081: Anne Wien Elementary School in the amount of \$70,714.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-082: Arctic Light Elementary School in the amount of \$95,288.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-083: Star of the North Charter School in the amount of \$92,514.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-084: Star of the North Charter School in the amount of \$129,350.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-087: Board of Education in the amount of \$40,000.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-088: Badger Elementary School in the amount of \$27,456.

approved submission of the revised Indian Education Formula grant Part I.

approved North Pole Elementary School's request to raise funds to continue its Accelerated Reader program.

Consent Agenda (continued)

approved Ticasuk Brown and University Park Elementary Schools' request to send students to Denali Park on May 15, 2015, where students will study ecosystems, encompassing both the living and nonliving factors in Alaska, at no cost to the district.

approved Two Rivers School's request to send all of its students to Denali Park on May 14, 2015, where students will participate in activities at the Murie Science and Learning Center, with costs being paid from Title I Student Transportation.

approved West Valley High School's request to send its Academic Decathlon team to Garden Grove, California, April 15-19, 2015, to participate in the Academic Decathlon National Competition, with travel expenses paid by GCI Communications and at no cost to the district.

approved Randy Smith Middle School's request to raise funds to send its robotics team to Carlsbad, California, May 15-17, 2015, to participate in the North American First Lego League Open Championship, at no cost to the district.

approved West Valley High School's request to raise funds to send its girls' basketball team to Las Vegas, Nevada, December 18-22, 2015, to participate in the Nike Tournament of Champions, at no cost to the district.

accepted the gift of \$5,000 from the Fairbanks 2014 Arctic Winter Games to the district's Alaska Native Education department to support the Native Youth Olympics program.

accepted the gift of \$2,000 from Kinross Fort Knox to the district's Alaska Native Education department to support the district's Alaska Native Education program.

accepted the gift of \$1,200 from the American Legion Gaming Account to Hutchison High School to support the school's robotics program.

accepted the gift of \$5,500 from the University of Alaska – Fairbanks (Alaska Future Farmers of America (FFA) Premiere Leadership grant) to North Pole High School to support the school's Future Farmers of America chapter.

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period February 23 – March 12, 2015.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period February 21 – March 12, 2015.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for March 24, 2015.

acknowledged the long term suspensions and expulsions for the 2014-2015 school year, as of March 2, 2015.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (L. RICE, HOYES)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES

(S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE (phone), HAAS)

Public Comment On Nonagenda Items [0:00:00]

Katie Sanders, PO Box 80982, library media services director, spoke in support of the library media department and director positions. She shared the many services the department provided to and for staff, students, and schools.

Public Testimony (continued)

Jim Hameister, PO Box 80471, library technician, spoke in support of the library media director and department positions. He spoke to the responsibilities provided by the director, including the importance of the training provided to staff by a certified librarian.

Cindy Binkley, 4209 York Avenue, library technician, spoke in support of the library media director position. She shared a personal story when as a library associate she benefited from the support provided by the director of library media services. Elementary library associates were not required to be certified librarians and benefited from the experience, expertise, and knowledge of a certified librarian. Libraries touched every student in the school.

Eric Fitts, PO Box 56741, district student, spoke against the proposed budget cuts to the district's fine arts programs. Music kept students coming to school. He suggested other areas be considered for cuts, such as sports.

Greg Hill, PO Box 196, Noel Wien library director, spoke in support of school libraries. Fairbanks schools had good libraries, mostly because of the quality of the library media department. He provided the board a copy of the article, "The Importance of School Libraries" by Dr. Keith Curry Lance, director, Library Research Service, Colorado State Library.

Johan Brun, 4482 Dartmouth Road, spoke in support of the district's music programs and counselors. He could not believe the district would even be considering cuts in those areas. Counselors were one of the most important resources for students. Mr. Brun shared how his son's counselor had helped him. His son received good support at home, but it helped his son to know there was someone at school for him as well.

President Haas provided a brief overview of the proposed reductions. Board members encouraged people to consider providing testimony to the borough assembly and legislature.

Janine Baird, 5820 Cleveland Avenue, Salcha Elementary nurse, asked the board to reconsider the reduction to school nurses. Ms. Baird spoke to the many responsibilities of school nurses including the importance of having a school nurse available to provide the first line of assessments. She voiced concern about the distance between Salcha Elementary School and medical care.

Andrea Wade, 3170 Brookview Lane, North Pole High School counselor, district parent, and product of the school district, spoke in support of school counselors. Previously, when their school had a reduction in counselors, some services had to be eliminated. They were struggling and it was difficult to provide services to students and parents. She did not want to see other schools in the same position.

Steve Malcott, 3191 Kris Kringle Drive, Hunter Elementary School counselor, spoke to the importance of school counselors and the influence they had on student success by sharing a story of a student he had worked with throughout the year and how the student had grown and matured into a good man.

Quinn Vinlove, 711 Darrell Drive, West Valley High School sophomore, applauded the district for providing outstanding programs. Mr. Vinlove understood budget cuts had to be made, due to the state's financial situation. But the state needed to realize investing in education was essential. He suggested an education tax. Mr. Vinlove asked the legislature, school board, teachers, and parents, to pledge their support for an education tax rather than pinching pennies.

Deborah Rinio, PO Box 205, Hutchison High School librarian, spoke in support of the library media director position and the many important services the director provided. She asked the board to restore the media director position to the budget.

Public Testimony (continued)

Eric Smith, 4020 Pine Street, Arctic Light Elementary parent, spoke in support of the district's music programs. Mr. Smith's daughter played violin with the Arctic Light group earlier in the evening and was blown away by how good the group was. His daughter's grades had improved she since became involved in music. Music also taught students about discipline and structure. Mr. Smith said the board needed to demand the legislature and borough provide the district with the budget necessary to maintain programs. Cutting music was unacceptable.

Rebecca Kahoe, 4750 Old Nenana Highway, West Valley High School freshman, spoke to the importance music played in her education. Music touched all areas. Ms. Kahoe expressed her concern the board had stated the music program would not be cut further, but on the same day as the Music In Our Schools Concert, music teachers received notices about their jobs.

Greg Kahoe, 4750 Old Nenana Highway, West Valley High School teacher and parent, spoke against the recent cuts and notices and did not understand why it was necessary to send out notices to 200+ counselors and music teachers for only 1.5 positions. Mr. Kahoe questioned if the board was concerned about how they were perceived by staff. The board needed to work to get the funding needed to balance the budget.

Wendy Ward, 803 Haida Lane, retired music teacher, spoke in support of the district's music programs and music teachers. Ms. Ward shared a personal story about the importance of music in development and keeping students in school. She was concerned about the possibility of cutting the fourth grade music program; it was often a student's first contact with music.

Melanie Linton, 3779 Mitchell Avenue, Ticasuk Brown Elementary School music teacher, spoke in support of the district's music programs. She shared how much music had personally helped her through school. She didn't know what would have happened to her without music.

Jessica Schaffler, 4555 Woodriver Drive, Salcha teacher, spoke in support of the Response to Intervention (RTI) program. Having heard the board discussion at a work session about the possibility of teachers administering RTI assessments, Ms. Schaffler was concerned about when teachers would have time to do that. She had no time in her schedule. The RTI tutors were needed.

Vanessa Jackson, 3947 Boysenberry Avenue, North Pole Middle music teacher, provided the board with a visual music poster. Ms. Jackson was grateful the board opted to keep the elementary band and orchestra teachers. She suggested the music program could be restructured rather than cut, as suggested by principals.

Mr. O'Brien clarified principals had not recommended that elementary band and orchestra programs be eliminated. The board had asked for reduction recommendations away from the classroom and principals had suggested if cuts had to be made, they might be made to the music programs, but by no means to eliminate them.

Melanie Engram, PO Box 84171, West Valley High School parent, supported the continuation of the foreign language program. She was pleased when her daughter told her she was interested in taking Chinese, as it would stretch her brain and challenge her intellect. She was pleased the district offered Chinese, as it would help students stay on the leading edge globally. She strongly urged the board to continue the Chinese language program at West Valley.

Craig Helmuth, PO Box 236, North Pole Middle School intervention room aide, encouraged the board to reinstate the intervention room aide positions back in the budget. He shared the important role of the aides and did not believe they deserved to be treated as callously as they were in the budget. He believed the budget was setting the district's at-risk students up to fail. He provided several cost saving options to help restore some of the intervention aide positions.

Public Testimony (continued)

Heidi Collins, 1504 22nd Avenue, district art specialist and president of the Alaska Art Association, spoke in support of the arts in schools. She reviewed the number of cuts made to the arts over the past couple of years – with some schools having lost 40-50 percent of their programs. Ms. Collins encouraged the board to reinstate the one district art specialist that was proposed to be cut.

Kathy Bertram, 3560 Ida Lane, district parent, supported the music programs in district schools. About two years ago, Ms. Bertram's daughter had suffered a traumatic brain injury at school; her daughter was still recovering. The one thing that helped her daughter through the months of recovery and even to this day, was music. Research documented the value of learning music. Her daughter's speech and language therapist advocated learning music as a primary tool to increase healing in youths and adults. Ms. Bertram was greatly opposed to cutting music at any level.

Katherine Helmuth, PO Box 236, Randy Smith Middle School intervention room aide and parent, prompted the board to be mindful of the district's mission and to focus on a safe and supportive learning environment for all students, especially those in suspension status. Ms. Helmuth encouraged the board to support the intervention room aid positions.

Bob Sands, 3128 Lawrence Road, shared how teachers and counselors had helped him when he was in school. Mr. Sands believed the budget cuts were totally counterproductive to education. The two most important aspects of school were the students and teachers. The people with the most direct contact with students had the most important jobs within the school district structure – anything short of that was a failure of the system. Mr. Sands suggested cuts be made to any other area that did not directly impact students.

The one hour allotted time for non-agenda public testimony had expired. The president asked if there was any objection to allowing the remaining eight individuals who had signed up to testify speak.

HULL MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ALLOW THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SIGNED UP TO TESTIFY.

Jenna Dreydoppel, PO Box 55012, North Pole High School student, beautifully sang the National Anthem, while other students and supporters joined her. Ms. Dreydoppel noted she and the other students would not have been able to do what they had just done without the district's music educators. She spoke to the importance of music. Music spoke what words could not express.

David Dreydoppel, PO Box 55012, was proud of his daughter and all the music students he had contact with. Mr. Dreydoppel was a member of the music booster club and totally supported the arts. He noted the many excellent points that had already been made on the importance of music and arts through previous testimony. Music was important to the emotional, physical, and intellectual growth of students. To do without music and art would be a travesty. Mr. Dreydoppel shared how his wife, as a retired music teacher, had touched generations of students who could still recall songs and how important music was to their lives. She impacted the life of every student in her schools. Mr. Dreydoppel's three daughters had also been affected by the district's music programs through the years. He reiterated the importance of music teachers, teachers, and counselors on the daily lives of students.

Mr. Rice noted Ms. Dreydoppel and her father, Mr. Dreydoppel traveled with the North Pole High group to New York where Ms. Dreydoppel sang the National Anthem at the 911 Memorial. Mr. Rice was the proud father of two daughters who were also in that same music group.

Public Testimony (continued)

Sarah Curtis, 234 Minnie Street, Lathrop student and member of the choir, shared her sadness at hearing the music teachers received notices they may lose their jobs, including her choir teacher, Mrs. Soderlund. Ms. Curtis stated it was during choir that she was able to just shrug off all the bad things that happened during the day and become a new person. Music helped people be happy; it was a wonderful experience. She wanted to be a math and music teacher and questioned whether Fairbanks was the place she wanted to return to teach.

Joe Griek, 3237 Anella Avenue, Star of the North Charter School counselor and Barnette parent, thanked the board for their hard work on the budget. Mr. Griek recognized the difficulty of cutting \$11 million from the budget; the board was in a thankless position. He recalled the Citizen Budget Review Committee had suggested splitting counselors among schools and he thought the board had decided not to do that. As a counselor at Star of the North's two campuses, he knew it was difficult to counsel students at multiple locations. When a crisis occurred at one campus and he was unavailable, it was very difficult and it affected students.

Maddie Gayle, PO Box 84171, West Valley High School student, encouraged the board not to cut the Chinese language program at West Valley. She enjoyed the class and had learned about the culture on multiple levels. Ms. Gayle was distressed to hear the program might be cut and her teacher may not have a job next year.

President Haas noted the board had not talked about cutting Chinese. It was important to hear the importance of the program, but the board had not talked about cutting it. President Haas encouraged Ms. Gayle and other students in the program to speak to their principal.

Mrs. Hull noted the board had set a priority to keep the cuts from the classroom, but with the district's declining enrollment, there would be some cuts, which might affect teachers and course offerings.

Dr. Gaborik stated that even with declining enrollment, Chinese was slated to remain status quo for next school year.

President Haas thanked the students for their advocacy.

Jamie Gibson, 4930 Drake Street, Lathrop High School senior, was preparing to graduate and move to California, but would not be able to do that with a clear conscience without knowing that music, art, sports, counselors, and Chinese classes were still going to be in the daily curriculum for students next year. Music had been the best outlet for Ms. Gibson. She shared a phrase from her beautiful choir teacher, Mrs. Soderlund, "Let me teach you how to fly." Ms. Gibson's flying was being in front of the board currently speaking about something important to her. She said five years ago, she would have fainted; she would have been too scared to ever come before the board. She shared a personal and touching story of a conversation between her and her niece about how her niece thought music made Ms. Gibson beautiful.

Collin Rogers, 714 Suncrest Drive, Lathrop High School student, spoke to what music meant to him. Music was the reason Mr. Rogers went to school. It motivated him to get out of bed in the morning – to get to Jazz Band. Without music in the schools, there would be a number of students without a home. Football players hung out with each other; hockey players hung out with each other; and band students did the same – they were like a big family. Taking away music was like tearing apart a family. Mr. Rogers shared how music had taught him a lot about emotions, math, history, and language – it was as essential as any core course he had ever taken. Studies showed students in music had increased test scores, language skills, and math skills. Keeping music in the schools was essential to every subject.

Public Testimony (continued)

Dawn Brashear, 775 Merlin Lane, Woodriver Elementary School counselor, stated her original message a couple of hours ago was to keep the hearts and souls in the schools – music, the arts, and counselors. During the meeting, she had heard the board was keeping most of the heart and soul of the schools, for which she was thankful. Ms. Brashear was also a parent and publically thanked the staff who helped her son. As a counselor, she received her notice letter on Friday. As a licensed counselor, she could always open her own practice if needed, but the notice had hit her heart and soul and it hurt and felt like an insult. She wondered about the “human” in human resources. She wondered why she and so many counselors had to endure receiving a notice if counselors were not slated to be cut. She thanked the board for not cutting the counselors, but when they chipped away at the counselors, like at North Pole High School or others, the logistical work still got done, it was the heart and soul work that took the bigger hit.

President Haas, on behalf of the entire board, thanked everyone for their testimony. One individual who had not signed up to testify asked the board for permission to speak. Hearing no objection, President Haas allowed the gentleman to speak.

Brennan McKennon, PO Box 124, spoke in support of music. Mr. McKennon had centered his life around music for a long time; it was the one thing he had to hold on to when he needed something. He shared that if not for music, he probably would not be alive today. Mr. McKennon noted the board stated they were making minimal cuts, but asked for how long. Music taught social interaction, which was a valuable life skill. He asked the board not to cut music or music education in the schools.

President Haas thanked everyone who came out; she hoped people would consider showing the same support when the district presented its budget to the assembly on April 16. She expressed a special thank you to all the students who testified.

Mrs. Hull stated every board member would have liked to have said yes to every request made during testimony. The board did not what to make any cuts. She noted every position in the Administrative Center could be cut, and it still would not satisfy the budget shortfall. Where the board needed help, was in getting additional revenue. On April 16, the board would be going before the assembly to ask them to raise taxes – which would not be easy for the assembly. And without public outcry, Mrs. Hull did not think it would happen. The board would not be able to reinstate all the positions cut, but some could be saved, if the board was able to prevail at the assembly level. She explained Fairbanks had room under the maximum cap of contribution, unlike Anchorage, Kenai, and Juneau, which were all bumped up to the maximum of their local contribution. She did not think the Fairbanks community cared less for their schools than people in Anchorage, Kenai, and Juneau, so she hoped people would turn out in support of raising the local contribution from the assembly so the board would not have to make as deep of cuts as currently anticipated. Mrs. Hull thanked everyone for their testimony.

President Haas encouraged input by email or through the district’s website. The board read all their emails and considered all the input they received.

OLD BUSINESS [2:05:55]

Included in the consent agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2015-16: Requesting Assistance with Clean Air for Schools [2:06:04]

The board was asked to consider Resolution 2015-16 asking for assistance with clean air for schools.

Resolution 2015-16: Requesting Assistance with Clean Air for Schools (continued)

Board Priority: Provide a safe learning environment.

HULL MOVED, GENTRY SECONDED, TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2015-16:
REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH CLEAN AIR FOR SCHOOLS.

President Haas explained the resolution was a result of a joint effort by Mr. James Fox and his work for clean air within the community and work the borough was doing to encourage clean air for the borough and state.

Mr. Fox, read the resolution for the public record.

President Haas asked Mr. Fox about the research behind the resolution. The footnotes supported the statements in the resolution. He applauded the board for taking on the issue. Staff and students had a right to clean air.

President Haas thanked Mr. Fox for starting the process and for providing the research for the resolution. The resolution would be asking for action from others. The board had a responsibility to help provide clean air.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (HOYES, L. RICE)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES

(LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE (phone), S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, HAAS)

Selection of New Chief Negotiator [2:13:39]

The current contract between ESSA and the district would expire on June 30, 2015. Due to a recent personnel change, the board had to name a new chief negotiator for ESSA negotiations. Traci Gatewood, executive director of human resources, was recommended to serve as the school board's new chief negotiator.

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

GENTRY MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO NAME TRACI GATEWOOD,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, AS THE NEW CHIEF
NEGOTIATOR FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF ASSOCIATION.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (L. RICE, HOYES)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 7 AYES

(GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE (phone), S. RICE, O'BRIEN, HULL, HAAS)

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Superintendent Report [2:14:48]

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

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik reviewed the revised 2014-15 calendar, which was revised due to the school closure day in February. The board had already approved the calendar which included three weather days, so no board action was necessary. The district encouraged staff and parents not to make plans for the potential weather days at the end of the school year, in the event they were needed as makeup days.

Melanie Hadaway, acting director of alternative instruction, provided the board with a memo outlining the information the board requested on the BEST program. She reviewed the memo including the scope of work for a potential contractor, the current state of BEST, highlights from other programs, and preliminary data comparing BEST to other programs.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board members discussed the idea of hiring a contractor, including the cost and scope of work. It was estimated the cost of the position would be \$20,000 or less. Mrs. Hull had previously provided Dr. Gaborik with the name of a potential contractor.

There was considerable discussion on the board's idea for the position. The idea was the contractor would research the possibility of, and how to, expand the district's program and offerings to include an independent learning center.

There was board consensus to provide a budget transfer to fund the position of a contractor to start the process. There was also board consensus to have the contractor research expanding the program. Finally, the board agreed there should be some overlap between the contractor who was hired to research the expansion and the person eventually hired to carry out the expansion.

Board members had questions on home school test scores and enrollments of other programs in other districts. It was requested that the person hired for the position look at all aspects and the economics of the programs.

Transportation Contract Update [2:41:10]

Lisa Pearce, chief financial officer, provided an update on the district's transportation contract.

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

Ms. Pearce stated Mr. Fisher had provided the board with a full report in December. The thought was there would be a recommendation in March, but they were not at that point yet. The process was taking longer than expected, as there was not yet a full commitment from the Big 5 districts. Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Mat-Su would need to either extend their contracts or go out for a full bid.

The initial idea was that Fairbanks would not be interested in a new contract and would be considering extending their current contract. Since that time and with the conversations Ms. Pearce had, she has found there was more to the issue – as it had been somewhat of an informal directive from the legislature to move forward in a collaborate effort. Fairbanks was getting close on a deadline date and would push First Student for a definite quote by April 15 and the administration hoped to have a full recommendation by May 1.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None

At 9:47 p.m.

RICE MOVED, GENTRY SECONDED, TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND CONTINUE THE MEETING UNTIL 10:30 P.M.

Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) Update [2:46:00]

Janet Cobb, executive director of technology, and Kathy Port, instructional technology coordinator, presented an update on AMP.

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

Standards Based Assessments were administered for the last time in April 2014 and were replaced with the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP). Alaska had chosen the Achievement and Assessment Institute (AAI) to develop a custom assessment. AMP's test delivery system was an online assessment and called KITE (Kansas Interactive Testing Engine). The new custom assessment, AMP, would be administered for the first time in Spring 2015.

The district was working through some challenges including technology readiness, State EED direction, and change management – the magnitude of deploying software across multiple platforms and locations with over 8,000 students testing with over 5,800 student testing devices. The district had provided two opportunities for students to participate in taking some practice exams, a limited opportunity in January, and a districtwide opportunity in February.

Mrs. Gentry left the meeting at 9:59 p.m.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board members asked how reducing the instructional technology teachers (ITTs) would affect the district's ability to meet the assessment requirements. Mrs. Port stated reducing the ITTs would significantly impact the assessments. The ITTs had done a great job in the current year, but there was still significant professional development needed.

Board members appreciated the report and work on the assessments at the school and administrative levels.

Mr. Hoyes left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Educator Evaluation Update [3:05:28]

Superintendent Dr. Karen Gaborik, Tammy Smith, FEA president, and Peggy Carlson, executive director of curriculum, provided an overview of the district's work on the new Educator Evaluation System.

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

An evaluation workgroup was established in 2012 to work on the new evaluation model and the district's implementation. It was a hardworking group, with consistent membership, and met often. The committee would continue to work to meet new DEED guidelines and provide the board with updates throughout the process. The administration anticipated bringing the Educator Evaluation System before the board for approval later in the spring.

The newly adopted evaluation regulations required that districts modify their existing systems to:

- focus the evaluations on specific standards;
- consider selected cultural standards;
- assign one of four performance levels: exemplary, proficient, basic, and unsatisfactory;
- assign an overall rating that uses the same four performance levels;
- provide training for evaluators to ensure inter-rater reliability; and
- use student learning data in the evaluation of teachers and administrators;

Educator Evaluation Update (continued)

School districts were provided the following options:

- provide a plan for professional growth for an educator receiving a rating of basic on two or more standards; or
- use a department-approved, nationally-recognized evaluation framework.

The district's evaluation was based on the Danielson Framework for Teaching. Dr. Gaborik reviewed the implementation timeline. The work on the new educator evaluation system was a collaboration between administration, teachers, and union representatives.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hull asked about the parent and student input component of the evaluation. Dr. Gaborik stated the workgroup was still working on that piece, although they did not anticipate a big difference from current practice. Mrs. Hull asked about how parents would be involved in any changes. Dr. Gaborik did not anticipate much change, if any, and thought it would be more of an issue of informing parents and students.

President Haas thanked Dr. Gaborik, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Carlson for the update.

At 10:25 p.m.

O'BRIEN MOVED, RICE SECONDED, TO SUSPEND THE RULES AND CONTINUE THE MEETING UNTIL 10:45 P.M.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS [3:23:55]

On behalf of the entire board, President Haas thanked the Arctic Light band and orchestra for its wonderful performance at the beginning of the meeting and congratulated Mr. Donaldson as the boys' state Skimeister. She thanked Mr. Bailey and Ms. Burtness for the spotlight on assistive technology and Mr. Fox for his work on clean air. She also thanked the staff for their work and report presentations. President Haas announced the assembly would be meeting on Thursday regarding a waiver to the district's lapse fund for this year.

Mr. Rice announced the Board Curriculum Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet on April 2. He thanked everyone for coming out and taking the time to share their testimony with the school board.

Mrs. Hull announced the Policy Review Committee was scheduled to meet on Monday, March 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Hull provided board members with a written report from the State Board of Education's March meeting, which included information and tool definitions on AMP testing. Included in her packet of information was an article on the International Baccalaureate curriculum from Rainer Beach High School in Washington State, as well as an article from the Seattle Times regarding training sessions provided for potential school board members.

Mrs. Lambert thanked everyone for their testimony. She encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming borough assembly meetings.

Mrs. Hull stated she would not be able to attend the borough assembly meeting on Thursday, as she would be traveling to Juneau.

Mrs. Dominique announced the Legislative Committee would meet on Wednesday, April 8. She added her appreciation to everyone for their testimony, especially the students.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

While in Juneau, Mrs. Dominique had been asked where it was stated in education legislation that education included music, art, and nurses. She stressed to legislators the importance of educating a full child. She encouraged board members to read, "The Smartest Kids in the World" by Amanda Ripley, which had been recommended to her by Senator Bishop.

Mr. O'Brien echoed congratulations for Max Donaldson. He was not only an outstanding athlete, but also an outstanding student. Mr. O'Brien had watched him in the We The People Competition.

Mr. O'Brien appreciated all the testimony during the meeting. He recalled testifying about teacher cuts when he was in high school. His hat was off to those who testified, especially the students.

Mr. O'Brien spoke to the district's \$11 million shortfall. The next steps of advocacy were at the borough and state levels. The district was not able to generate additional revenue and depended upon the state and borough for its funding. The board had done the best it could with what it had regarding the proposed reductions, but the cuts would diminish the quality of education. The only way to fix that was not through prioritizing but through added revenue. Mr. O'Brien encouraged people to contact their assembly members and legislators and to be as passionate with them, as they had been with the board.

Dr. Gaborik reminded all parents and students the district's firearms, deadly weapons, and weapons policies and administrative regulations had been updated to meet state reporting requirements. Among the changes, all knives, regardless of blade length, were categorized as deadly weapons and state law dictated a 30-day minimum suspension from school for deadly weapon possession.

Beginning next week, the district would be administering the new computer-based state assessment, the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP). In contrast to previous years, all students would attend school on testing days, but students would not participate in assessments every day. Assessment schedules varied by school.

Dr. Gaborik announced the Interior Science Fair started tomorrow and ran through March 28 at Pioneer Park.

Dr. Gaborik pointed out the "Picturing Fairbanks" book at board members' desks. It was a book on the history of Fairbank, developed by the district's curriculum and public relations departments and funded by a grant.

President Haas reminded everyone to participate in the board's strategic plan community survey. The board valued the opinion of community members.

President Haas had found a stress release in singing and dancing in the car. She encouraged everyone to sing and dance.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

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