

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

Regular Meeting

MINUTES

April 21, 2015

Vice President Dominique called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The Crawford Elementary Singers and Junior Singers led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed for the board under the guidance of Cynthia Sibitzky, music director.

Vice President 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, Vice President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Lisa Gentry, Clerk
Sue Hull, Member
Michael O'Brien, Member
Sidney Zemp, Post Representative
Wyatt Hoyes, Student Representative

Absent:

Heidi Haas, President
Sean Rice, Member
Larry Rice, Base 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
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
Kathie Wassmann, Executive Director of Special Education
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

Spirit of Youth Award [0:14:33]

Gerritt Vreeman, West Valley High School student, was nominated and selected as a winner for the 17th Annual Spirit of Youth Awards. Sarah Gillam, West Valley High School assistant principal, made the presentation. Mr. Vreeman was unable to attend the meeting and his award was accepted by his mother.

2015 State History Day Winners [0:17:10]

The State History Day Competition was held March 23-27, 2015, in Anchorage. History Day was an American academic competition focusing on history for students in grades 6-12. Secondary students who placed first in state and elementary students who placed first in district were recognized. Maida Buckley, History Day coordinator, made the presentation.

2015 State History Day Winners (continued)

Joey Crawford (North Pole Elementary School)
Novice Individual Exhibit
"The Fab Four"

Gracie Cooper & Sophia Padilla (North Pole Elementary School)
Novice Group Exhibit
"Amelia Earhart"

Jagan Nautiyal (Barnette Magnet School)
Junior Division Paper Category
"Mahatma Gandhi's Message: Live & Lead 'as if You Were to Die Tomorrow'"

Bailey Young (West Valley High School)
Senior Division Individual Website Category
"Penicillin: Leading the War Against Disease"

Hailey Baker (Ben Eielson High School)
Senior Division Paper Category
"Evita Peron"

Nieca Murphy (West Valley High School)
Senior Division Individual Exhibit Category
"Bayard Rustin"

Kendall Nicholson & Angie Randall (West Valley High School)
Senior Division Group Exhibit Category
"Picasso: The Great & Terrible"

Annemarie Timling (West Valley High School)
Senior Division Individual Documentary Category
"Bach: Behind the Trend – Ahead of His Time"

Peyton Presler & Lauren Criss-Carboy (West Valley High School)
Senior Division Group Documentary Category
"McDonald vs. United Airlines"

ASAA/First National Bank Alaska 2015 4A Wrestling State Champion [0:26:22]

Andrew 'Dew' Rogers, North Pole High School/BEST sophomore, won the 138-pound title at the ASAA/First National Bank Alaska 2015 4A Wrestling Championships held in early February, in Anchorage. Junior Lambert, North Pole High coach, made the presentation.

Staff Announcements/Introductions [0:29:00]

Due to staff being out of town, staff announcements were postponed to a future meeting.

Spotlight: UAF School of Education Naturally 1:1 Initiative [0:29:21]

Naturally 1:1 was a program that put Apple technology devices in the hands of both faculty and students. UAF Education graduates would be on the cutting edge of incorporating technology in their classes, both from a student's perspective and as a future educator. Allan Morotti, Dean, UAF School of Education; Roy Roehl, assistant professor and co-chair, secondary; Philip Patterson, associate professor, special education; Diane Kardash, term assistant professor, elementary; and Nicole Sletterink, IS net tech VI, made the presentation.

Board member discussion ensued. The board appreciated the presentation.

AGENDA [0:52:44]

GENTRY MOVED, O'BRIEN SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT ITEMS.

Mrs. Hull asked to have consent item E1: Curriculum Consent Item: Career & Technical Education Revision removed from the consent agenda.

Vice President Dominique hearing no objection moved consent item E1: Curriculum Consent Item: Career & Technical Education Revision to New Business.

The following consent items were moved:

accepted the Monthly Management Reports for February and March 2015.

approved the minutes from the work sessions on March 12 & 23, 2015, and the special meeting on April 6, 2015, as submitted.

approved Budget Transfer 2015-112: Career & Technical Education, in the amount of \$190,450.

approved submission of the Military-Connected Local Educational Agencies for Academic and Support Programs (MCASP) grant application in the amount of \$1,500,000.

approved Ladd Elementary School's request to send students to Denali Park, Alaska on May 11, 2015, to participate in the Kids to Park Day, at no cost to the district.

approved Pearl Creek Elementary School's request to send students to Denali Park, Alaska on May 18, 2015, to participate in the School Science Program, at no cost to the district.

approved Tanana Middle School's request to send students to Denali Park, Alaska on April 24, 2015, to study ecology, at no cost to the district.

approved West Valley High School's request to send students to Hunt Valley, Maryland, April 28-May 3, 2015, to participate in the 2015 National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium competition, with substitute costs paid by the district.

accepted the gift of \$1,500 from the Arctic Audubon Society to the Districtwide Elementary Art Center for repair of the program's educational bird collection.

accepted the gift of \$5,000 from the Rotary Club of North Pole to North Pole Elementary School for a school garden.

accepted the gift of \$1,000 from the Eielson Officer Spouses' Club to Ben Eielson Junior-Senior High School for student travel expenses and the purchase of uniforms.

accepted the gift of \$1,803 from the Malemute Ski Team Booster Club to Lathrop High School to support the school's cross country ski program.

accepted the gift of \$1,500 from Susan Stitham to Lathrop High School to support the Boycott and Stitham scholarships.

accepted the gift of \$19,768.50 from the Lathrop High School Hockey Booster Club to Lathrop High School to support the school's hockey program.

Consent Agenda (continued)

approved the Personnel Action Report for the period March 30 – April 10, 2015.

acknowledged the Personnel Information Report for the period March 28 – April 10, 2015.

acknowledged the Superintendent's Budget Transfer Report for April 21, 2015.

acknowledged the Long Term Suspensions and Expulsions for the 2014-15 school year, as of April 14, 2015.

acknowledged the Board's Reading File.

acknowledged the Coming Events and Meeting Announcements.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (ZEMP, HOYES)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 5 AYES
(O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE)

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NONAGENDA ITEMS [0:58:03]

Yatibaey Evans, 2526 Talkeetna Avenue, Alaska Native Education coordinator, spoke to the importance of advocating for Alaska Native Education/American Indian students and families to be a part of the advanced math courses available for students who were excelling in the area of math, as it could afford them opportunities beyond school, such as the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP). Due to the low number of Alaska Native/American Indian students in advanced math in grades 6-8, the district's ANSEP cohort did not materialize. Ms. Evans reiterated the importance of more parents knowing about the opportunities advanced math provided for students.

Board members asked what would be done in the future to encourage students, specifically Alaska Native students, to enroll in advanced math, starting in 6-8 grade. Ms. Evans was working on developing additional means of getting the word out to students and families. Board members encouraged the district to get the mathematics pathway chart they had seen during the mathematics curriculum adoption out to the public – it was very helpful.

Board members asked about Anchorage and Mat-Su's participation in the ANSEP program for the current year. They also inquired as to how the new math curriculum course descriptions and higher expectations might affect students applying to ANSEP.

OLD BUSINESS

Included in the Consent Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum Consent Item: Career & Technical Education Revision [1:09:20]

HULL MOVED, LAMBERT SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSES.

Mrs. Hull explained she pulled the CTE revisions from the consent agenda because she was uncomfortable with the board approving curriculum revisions that could be substantive. Margaret Salisbury, interim secondary curriculum coordinator, and Daniel Domke, career and technical education director, stated the changes were mostly formatting changes to include the new standards.

Curriculum Consent Item: Career & Technical Education Revision (continued)

Mrs. Hull questioned if the changes were substantive. Mr. Domke stated the content of the curriculum remained unchanged; the changes were a matter of aligning the courses to current state, federal, and industry standards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hull was hopeful that as curriculum changes were made, they would come before the board for review.

ADVISORY VOTES. 2 AYES (HOYES, ZEMP)

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE. 5 AYES

(O'BRIEN, HULL, GENTRY, LAMBERT, DOMINIQUE)

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Superintendent Report [1:18:05]

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

Shaun Kraska, interim assistant superintendent of secondary education, updated the board regarding the district's cohort that was suppose to have participated in the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program's (ANSEP) spring academy. The academy was open to all students and Mrs. Kraska thought the district was in a good position with 212 qualified applicants originally identified as participants. She had been working with Dr. Herb Schroeder, ANSEP vice provost and founder, to facilitate the district's student cohort. Dr. Schroeder had shared with Mrs. Kraska the Fairbanks group was cancelled due to a lack of qualified applicants. Mrs. Kraska believed there were several factors that affected the district's participation – timing – taking students out of class for 10 days so close to the end of school, a miscommunication regarding recruitment, and a lack of the necessary percentage of qualified Alaska Native participants. All participants were also required to have completed Algebra 1 by the end of 8th grade.

The administration had worked hard to reach out to students, making individual contacts with applicants. The administration had learned after the fact, they could have reached out to free and reduced lunch students to meet the necessary percentage of qualified participants.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Board members questioned and commented on the district's plan for future outreach in regards to the academy; plans for encouraging 6th-8th grade students to take Algebra 1; gender, grade level, and teacher chaperone requirements; and concerns regarding the higher standards and the interpretation and qualification of course descriptions by ANSEP – the administration did not want students excluded because of a course title. It was suggested the district consider collaborating with another school district next time if necessary to fulfill the necessary 54 student slots for a full cohort. The administration would also look at early fall academy dates in September and October, which might work better for district students and teacher chaperones.

Board members also expressed their appreciation to the administration for their hard work on behalf of Fairbanks students. The administration noted ANSEP had invited 10 district students to participate in their July summer camp in Anchorage.

Superintendent Report (continued)

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik drew attention to the military-connected grant submission on the consent agenda. If the district was awarded funds, they would be used to pilot a 1st-3rd grade early literacy 1:1 initiative program at five military-connected schools – Anderson, Arctic Light, Ladd, Crawford, and Badger Elementary Schools. The district was working hard to find ways to get devices into the hands of students.

FNSBSD Reduction in Force Plan [1:47:36]

The administration was working with legal counsel to draft a layoff plan. Superintendent Dr. Karen Gaborik presented the current draft language and provided an update regarding state education funding

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

Dr. Gaborik stated with the uncertainty in Juneau regarding education funding, the administration needed a reduction in force plan. The plan would put some foundational bases in place for large cuts, if needed. Dr. Gaborik was working closely with legal counsel on developing the district's plan. She hoped the legislature would provide additional funding and the plan would not be needed. Dr. Gaborik planned to bring the plan back before the board for approval at the May 5 Regular Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tammy Smith, 2118 South Cushman, FEA president, appreciated Dr. Gaborik notifying her about the plan. Ms. Smith thought it was good to have a plan in place. She had not had time to thoroughly review the document or compare it to the negotiated agreement, but did not anticipate any real conflicts. Ms. Smith noted having advanced information on what might happen would be helpful in keeping people informed and calmer.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Vice President Dominique had gone through a RIF at her work where employees were forced to take a week off. She thought a plan was helpful.

2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Draft School Calendars [1:52:35]

The administration developed draft calendars for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years, each consisting of the required 180 student contact days. The draft calendars would be distributed to the news and social media, shared through the district's mobile app, and provided to PTAs, schools, and community members for public review, and brought back to the school board for adoption in May.

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

Johanna Carson, public relations director, spoke to the draft calendars. In developing the calendars, she had contacted the university and other organizations throughout the community about possible events. Starting tomorrow, the calendars would be available on the web with an instant comment form, along with being shared through social media and other means.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mr. O'Brien asked about public comments. Ms. Carson stated public comments would be accepted through May 8. Public comments would also be accepted at the May 12 meeting when the calendars would be before the board for action.

Career & Technical Education Curriculum Revision and Report [1:55:03]

The proposed Career & Technical Education Curriculum Revision was included in the agenda for the school board's review and consideration. Margaret Salisbury, interim curriculum coordinator, and Daniel Domke, director of career & technical education, summarized the revisions. Several courses were revised to align and reflect the new Alaska Standards for English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math, Common Career Technical Core Standards (CCTCS), Career Ready Practices, and Occupational Standards, were applicable.

Other courses were revised with current Student Knowledge & Skill Statements, instructional headings, course descriptions, and updated standards. The Student Knowledge and Skill Statements reflected specific learner objectives with application, demonstrating learner outcomes as described within the course. There was an expectation of a student's ability to describe, explain, apply, or utilize an appropriate technology. Course titles reflected 1A/1B to indicate specific semester-based courses and aligned with other course descriptors across the CTE curriculum.

The school board would be asked to act on the item at the May 5, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Board Priority: Focus instruction and resources on areas of need, such as career and technical education, math and writing improvement, and the gender achievement gap.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hull thanked Mr. Domke and Ms. Salisbury for their work and report.

9-12 Mathematics Materials Report [2:00:57]

The district's curriculum revision process included the selection of textbooks and materials to support the implementation of adopted curricula. Michelle Daml, curriculum coordinator, reviewed the 9-12 mathematics materials being considered for adoption, including Algebra I, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015; Geometry, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015; and Algebra II, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. The materials would remain available for review and the administration anticipated making a final recommendation to the board at the May 5, 2015 Regular Meeting.

Board Priority: Focus instruction and resources on areas of need, such as career and technical education, math and writing improvement, and the gender achievement gap.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Mrs. Hull thanked Ms. Daml, the curriculum department, the Board Curriculum Advisory Committee and everyone else for their work. She liked the fact the materials flowed with the middle school math materials.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS [2:05:20]

Colonel Zemp announced that on June 13, 2015, from 12:00 – 5:00 p.m., the Army would be celebrating three significant events. On May 12, 2012, President Barack Obama signed a Presidential Proclamation that called for the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War through appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in honor of Vietnam Veterans and their families. Fort Wainwright would host a welcome home ceremony and parade for Vietnam War Veterans. The parade would be held on the historic Ladd Army Airfield, followed by music, food, and other activities in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Ladd Army Airfield and the 240th Army Birthday. The celebration was open to the entire community.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Mrs. Hull thanked the board for Saturday's work session on the strategic plan. She thought it was a great plan. She hoped the plan would get out to the public and the administration as soon as possible. Though the district was facing difficult financial times, Mrs. Hull was encouraged by the vision the board set in the strategic plan to focus on improving services to students.

Mrs. Lambert congratulated Mr. Hoyes on his attendance next year to the Marion Military Institute and then on to West Point the following year. She encouraged the public to attend the May 7 Borough Assembly Meeting where education funding would be discussed; public testimony would be accepted.

Mrs. Gentry noted her enjoyment with Saturday's work session. It had reinvigorated her; she hoped she would be around to see it implemented.

Mr. O'Brien reported on some recent events he attended. He thanked the community for their participation in the strategic plan community survey; the feedback helped the board as they developed the strategic plan. Mr. O'Brien reiterated Mrs. Lambert's comments about advocating for education funding at the May 7 Borough Assembly Meeting.

Dr. Gaborik hoped the strategic plan would be before the board at its June 2 meeting. The administration would begin work on implementing the plan. Dr. Gaborik reported the legislature was still in session with no decision on education funding at the current time. The borough would not be finalizing their budget until mid-May, so it would be May or June before the board could adopt its final budget.

Dr. Gaborik encouraged the public to comment on the proposed calendars. The deadline for input could be extended if needed. She announced Kindergarten Registration Roundup would be Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1.

On behalf of the entire board, Vice President Dominique thanked the Crawford Singers and Junior Singers for their wonderful performance. She congratulated the Spirit of Youth Award Winner, the 2015 State History Day Winners, and the 2015 4A Wrestling Champion. She thanked Dean Morotti and his staff for the spotlight presentation on the UAF School of Education Naturally 1:1 Initiative.

Vice President Dominique agreed with the other board members about the great work session on the strategic plan on Saturday. The board accomplished a lot and she looked forward to approving the final plan in June.

Due to the legislature having not completed the capital budget, Vice President Dominique cancelled the board's work session on the budget scheduled for the next day, Wednesday, April 22. The board would wait to see if there was any movement from the legislature on Wednesday before cancelling their Thursday, April 23 budget work session. Board members discussed their availability and determined they could have a quorum for a Monday, April 27 budget work session at 6:00 p.m. The board secretary would notice the meeting.

Vice President Dominique announced an upcoming year-end summit on youth suicide prevention on April 23 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Pioneer Park. Students would learn about the signs and risks of youth suicide.

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS & COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

In closing, Vice President Dominique sent her condolences to the family and friends of Carl Rose, who had served as the executive director of the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) for many years. She shared a personal story about Mr. Rose. He was a huge asset to the association and education throughout the State of Alaska.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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