

Legislative Committee Meeting Notes
Wednesday, December 13, 2017

[Meeting Audio](#)

Call to Order

Superintendent and Legislative Committee Chair, Dr. Karen Gaborik, called the committee meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the boardroom of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent and Committee Chair
Heidi Haas, Board President
Allyson Lambert, Board Vice President
Tom Bartels, Board Treasurer arrived at 5:39 p.m.
Sandi Ryan, FEA President arrived at 5:34 p.m.
Bart LeBon, Community Representative

Committee Members Absent

Grant Guy, FPA President
Irene Matheis, ESSA President
Jimmy Fox, Parent Representative
Macy Bateman, Student Representative
John Ringstad, District Lobbyist

Staff Present

Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Rebecca Hurbi, Digital Communications Manager
Sharon Tuttle, Board Executive Assistant & Committee Administrative Support

2018-2019 Budget Document [0:01:35]

Dr. Gaborik introduced Rebecca Hurbi, digital communications manager. Ms. Hurbi would be responsible for the work behind the scene designing the 2018-2019 Legislative Priority Brochure. Ms. Hurbi spoke to the administration's plan to redesign the budget document for the 2018-2019 budget year. Instead of the large budget book from previous years, the budget document for 2018-2019 was expected to be significantly condensed.

Priorities & Strategic Plan/Funding/Lobbying & Messaging [0:02:19]

The committee reviewed examples of legislative priority brochures from other Alaska school districts. Committee members worked through the district's 2017-2018 legislative priorities to determine their recommendations for the 2018-2019 budget priorities. The committee agreed it was important to align the priorities to the district's strategic plan. It was noted the current version of the district's legislative priorities brochure had been useful and effective last year.

Superintendent Gaborik would incorporate the committee's legislative recommendations into a memo to present to the board for consideration and approval at the January 16, 2018 Regular School Board Meeting. Once the priorities were approved by the school board, the administration would be tasked to develop a draft brochure for the committee's final approval at its next meeting on January 24, 2018.

The administration and committee members spoke to the district's fund balance, responsible use of fund balance, and sustaining a fund balance. The Budget Committee had recommended a four-year utilization/draw-down from the district's fund balance which equated to approximately 2.0 percent use per year. It would provide approximately \$3 million a year in fund balance for four years. The district's funding came from a variety of sources, such as the state, the borough, and the federal government. The district had worked hard over the past several years to increase efficiencies and reduce costs. Other topics discussed included the amount of projected borough funding and the comparison of the district to the Big Five districts in regards to the percent of local funding to the cap.

Mr. LeBon left the meeting at 6:48 p.m. due to a prior commitment.

Dr. Gaborik thought it would be important to formulate a central message to legislators to be used during legislative conversations and visits, so everyone was using the current education and legislative phrases and terms. It was suggested the finished brochure could be emailed to legislators, staffers, and others as appropriate. It was also suggested the district consider providing weekly or bi-weekly updates to legislators. Discussion and determinations would need to be made in regards to Juneau visits with legislators. In previous years, board members had visited with legislators during the Association of Alaska School Board's fly-ins and/or scheduled individual legislator visits with Mr. Ringstad, the district lobbyist. Dr. Gaborik and Ms. Pearce also visited legislators in Juneau during session and in Fairbanks before the session.

Approval of Minutes [1:34:32]

The minutes from the board's Legislative Committee of the Whole meeting on December 7, 2016 were before the committee for approval.

HAAS MOVED, BARTELS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD'S DECEMBER 7, 2016 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, AS SUBMITTED.

Asking for and hearing no objection, Dr. Gaborik moved the minutes approved.

General Committee Comments/Announcements

The committee was scheduled to meet again on January 24, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the board room. Additional meetings, if needed, were scheduled for January 30, 2018 and February 21, 2018.

The Legislative Committee meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Meeting notes submitted by Sharon Tuttle, executive assistant to the school board and committee administrative support.