

Board Legislative Committee Meeting, by Zoom
April 13, 2021
3:00-4:30 p.m.
Hosted from the Administrative Center, 520 Fifth Avenue

AGENDA

Zoom Meeting Information:

For Devices: Public Zoom Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82992420979>

Or by phone, please dial: +1 346 248 7799, +1 408 638 0968, +1 669 900 6833, +1 253 215 8782, +1 646 876 9923, +1 301 715 8592, +1 312 626 6799, 888 788 0099 (Toll Free), or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free). Webinar ID: 829 9242 0979

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement Statement: *As a committee of the school board, we would like to take this moment to respectfully acknowledge we are residing on the traditional land of the Dena (pronounced duhNAY) people.*
2. District Mission Statement: *Our Mission is to provide an excellent, equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students will succeed and contribute to a diverse and changing society.*
3. Roll Call
Committee Members:
 - Timothy Doran, Committee Chair & Board President
 - Erin Morotti, Committee Representative & Board Treasurer
 - Chrya Sanderson, Committee Representative & Board Clerk
 - Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent
 - Sarah Gillam, FPA President
 - Sandi Ryan, FEA President
 - Jasmine Adkins-Brown, ESSA President
 - Robert Kinnard, Community Representative
Staff:
 - John Ringstad, District Lobbyist
 - Andrea DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer
 - Rebecca Hurbi, Executive Director of Communications, Development, & Engagement
 - Sharon Tuttle, Committee Administrative Support & Board Executive Assistant
4. Adoption of the Agenda with Consent Agenda Item
 - a. Consent Item - *January 22, 2021 Meeting Notes
5. Education Issues/Legislative Update
6. Furthering the District's 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities
7. Adjournment

**Board Legislative Committee Meeting, by Zoom
January 22, 2021**

Meeting Notes

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement Statement

Through video conference, Chair Doran called the Legislative Committee Meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. He read the Land Acknowledgement Statement, "As a committee of the school board, we would like to take this moment to respectfully acknowledge we are residing on the traditional land of the Dena (pronounced duhNAY) people."

Mission Statement

Chair Doran read the district's Mission Statement: *Our mission is to provide an excellent, equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students will succeed and contribute to a diverse and changing society.*

Roll Call [0:00:30]

Committee Members Present & Comprising a Quorum: [0:00:31]

Timothy Doran, Committee Chair & Board President
Chrya Sanderson, Committee Representative & Board Clerk (joined the meeting at 1:19 pm)
Sarah Gillam, FPA President
Sandi Ryan, FEA President
Robert Kinnard, Community Representative

Excused:

Erin Morotti, Committee Representative & Board Treasurer
Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent
Jasmine Adkins-Brown, ESSA President

Staff Present:

John Ringstad, District Lobbyist
Andreau DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer
Mark Nilson, Executive Director of Facilities Maintenance
Rebecca Hurbi, Acting Executive Director of Communications, Development & Engagement
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board & Committee Administrative Support

Adoption of the Agenda [0:01:19]

RYAN MOVED, KINNARD SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AND THE MEETING NOTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2020 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

Asking for and hearing no objection to adopting the agenda and meeting notes, Chair Doran moved the agenda adopted and the meeting notes approved.

Education/Legislative Update [0:01:57]

John Ringstad, district lobbyist, reported on:

- Senate Organization
 - Senators Stedman & Bishop – Finance Co-Chairs
 - Senator Holland – Education Chair

Education/Legislative Update (continued)

- Restricted Juneau State Capitol Building Access
 - Safety and health mitigations in place
- Pre-filed Education Legislation
 - Teacher & Support Staff Retirement Plans
 - State-Tribal Education Compact Schools
- Education Funding

2021-2022 Legislative Priorities Work [0:14:29]

Committee members reviewed the draft legislative priorities brochure, providing input and suggestions to finalize the committee's final draft version. The focus areas of the priorities were based upon the district's resiliency during, and its recovery from, the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Rebecca Hurbi, executive director of communication, development, and engagement, would work with Dr. Gaborik to finalize the document for the school board's consideration. The committee's final draft of the legislative priorities was scheduled to go before the full board for approval at its February 2, 2021 meeting.

Committee Comments/Announcements [1:24:31]

Chair Doran thanked committee members for their time and commitment for serving on the committee. There were no future meetings of the committee scheduled at the present time.

The committee meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Tuttle, Legislative Committee administrative support & Board of Education executive assistant.



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Academic Year 2021-22

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT, EQUITABLE EDUCATION IN A SAFE, SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT SO ALL STUDENTS WILL SUCCEED AND CONTRIBUTE TO A DIVERSE AND CHANGING SOCIETY.

2020-25 STRATEGIC GOALS

- ▷ **Student Success:** Increase academic achievement and social emotional well-being for all students.
- ▷ **Equity & Inclusion:** Provide equitable opportunities and an inclusive environment where all students and staff are respected and feel welcome, safe, and supported.
- ▷ **Communication & Engagement:** Ensure students, staff, families, and the community are informed, connected, and engaged with the district.
- ▷ **Workforce & Organizational Excellence:** Create an environment that supports the strengths and needs of staff so they can create a safe climate where students thrive.

RESILIENCE IN A YEAR OF COVID-19



- 48% growth in eLearning enrollment to 1000+ students
- 6,500 distributed devices to families
- 260% increase in BEST Homeschool enrollment to 1,000+ students
- 1,400 individual staff trainings in social emotional support practices and 2 all-staff events
- 450+ teachers trained in online/remote teaching strategies since March
- 172,400 meals delivered spring 2020 by Nutrition Services and Transportation
- Districtwide Design team of administrators, teachers, and support staff developed Green, Yellow and Red Zone school access plans for 9300+ students

Social Emotional Learning Needs & Supports

- Increased family outreach to gather parent/guardian feedback about gaps in learning opportunities
- Student needs identified at schools through a combination of:
 - Professional Learning Community meetings
 - Staff meetings
 - Parent-teacher conferences
 - Student Support Team meetings
- District level identification and monitoring of student subgroups at higher risk for dropout
 - Early Warning System tracks students based on a variety of risk factors including graduation, dropout and attendance rates, GPA, NWEA MAP growth, and PEAKS proficiency
- Project AWARE Grant - \$3.16 million over five years
 - Expand social emotional learning, restorative practices, and trauma-engaged practices
 - Increase capacity to meet the mental health challenges through additional staffing
- School mental health providers at West Valley HS, North Pole HS, North Pole MS, and Tanana MS
- Social service managers, counselors, support staff connecting families with resources

Staff Recruitment & Retention

- Team Optimizing Project: Proactive approach to leadership, workforce engagement, and employee retention that provides invaluable feedback to individual schools.
- Supplemental Retirement Benefit
 - District matches up to 1% of the certified teacher's annual salary into a supplemental 403b retirement account
 - Tier III teachers may cash in sick leave to contribute to 403b
 - Certified staff may cash in personal leave to contribute to 403b plans
- Human Resources Outreach
 - Support Staff Job Fairs: Ft. Wainwright, UAF, Education Week Virtual, Dept. of Labor Virtual, and more!
 - Resume, Interview and Application Assistance, Dress for Success Clothing Drive
 - Substitute employee recruitment events



Medical Advisory Team

Thanks to a partnership with Foundation Health Partners and Public Health, the superintendent convened a Medical Advisory Committee that meets frequently to advise district leadership and the Board of Education regarding COVID-19 health and safety data and protocols.

#1 BUDGET PRIORITY: COVID-19 RECOVERY

Estimated Enrollment and Fiscal Impacts as of January 22, 2021

\$22 MILLION LOSS OF REVENUE

- Enrollment **Loss: 1,962 Students** (14.8% Reduction)
- FY21 General Fund Revenue **Loss: \$6.0 million**
- FY21 Transportation Fund Revenue **Loss: \$2.3 million**
- FY21 Nutrition Services Fund Revenue **Loss: \$1.0 million**
- FY22 General Fund Revenue **Loss: \$13.0 million**

FUNDING NEED: Include homeschool students fully in the Foundation Funding Formula.

CAPITAL PROJECTS & DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

NEED: Create a statewide deferred maintenance fund for healthy and safe facilities conducive to learning.

- \$265+ million deferred maintenance, expected to exceed \$300 million by 2023
- Funded by the school district: Ben Eielson Jr/Sr roof replacement \$4.6 million
- Fairbanks North Star Borough contributed \$3.9 million to finish Barnette Elementary in 2022
- Surplus bonds funds currently being repurposed:
 - \$2.9 million exterior renovations at Tanana Middle School
 - \$359,000 complete interior renovations at Two Rivers Elementary
 - \$2.2 million exterior renovations at North Pole Middle School

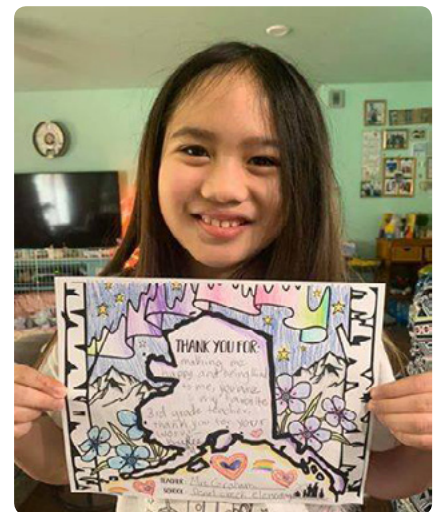
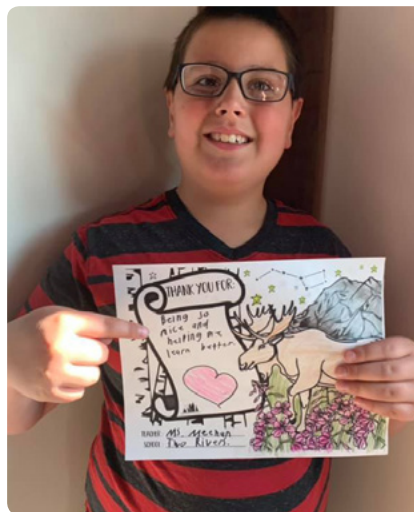
INTERNET CONNECTIVITY & DEVICES

NEED: Provide high speed internet access to all students and staff throughout the Borough.

- 150+ (1.6%) of district families have no internet connectivity
- 27% of families say internet access is a challenge that makes learning at home difficult
- 6,500 district devices provided to students to support remote learning needs - as well as additional devices provided to support professionals to allow working from home
- Poor internet connectivity geographically impacts employee effectiveness and student learning

CARES ACT I FUNDS USED FOR:

- Smart Start Planning
- Student Devices
- Paraprofessional Devices
- Summer School
- Social Emotional Learning Assessment Tool
- Digital Content
- Online Textbooks and Licenses
- Occupational Health Nurse
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Cleaning Supplies
- Professional Development



FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



- **NEA Alaska 2020 Outstanding District Practice Award**
- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Award:** Demonstration of the highest commitment to hiring people with disabilities.
- **Alaska After School Champion Award:** Dr. Karen Gaborik
- **Alaska Afterschool Superhero:** Wendi Raygor and Billy Smith
- **Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence** (national award) and **2021 Alaska Teacher of the Year:** Amy Gallaway
- **Alaska High School Principal of the Year:** Robyn Taylor
- **Alaska High School Assistant Principal of the Year:** Clarice Mingo
- **2020 Alaska History Teacher of the Year:** Jayme Gafford
- **Northwest Director of the Year:** Amy Rouse

18 Elementary Schools • **8** Secondary Schools • **10** Schools of Choice

ENROLLMENT

Grade	2020-21
Elementary (Pre K-6)	5,677
Middle/Jr High (7-8)	1,355
High School (9-12)	4,228
Total	11,260

TARGET CLASS SIZE

Grade	2020-21
Kindergarten	22.5
1st - 3rd	24.0
4th - 6th	26.0
7th - 8th	27.0
9th - 12th	29.5

FAST FACTS

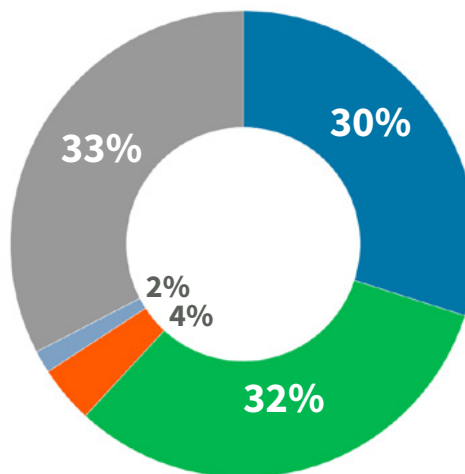
- 2,774 students, or 24.6%, are economically disadvantaged
- Over 21% of students are military connected
- The 2019-20 4-year graduation rate is 78.4%
- The 2019-20 5-year graduation rate is 86.8%
- Districtwide attendance is 92%
- 87% of the district's operating fund is spent on employee salaries and benefits

ETHNICITIES

Includes students who identified as an additional race or ethnicity.

- **78.1%** - Caucasian
- **25.0%** - Two or More Races (*includes students who also identified as Hispanic*)
- **20.7%** - Alaska Native/American Indian
- **10.4%** - African American
- **9.6%** - Hispanic
- **8.9%** - Asian/Pacific Islander

DISTRICT STAFF AS OF FALL 2020



- Fairbanks Educators Association
- Education Support Staff Association
- Fairbanks Principals Association
- Non-Represented
- Substitutes & Temporary Staff

Total Staff: 2,742

LANGUAGES

There are **over 69 different heritage languages** spoken in our students' families across the school district. Approximately 10% of all students have a heritage language.



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is an equal employment and educational opportunity institution, as well as a tobacco and nicotine-free learning and work environment.