

**Board Legislative Committee Meeting
by Video Conference
November 18, 2020**

Meeting Notes

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement Statement

Through video conference, Chair Doran called the Legislative Committee Meeting to order at 5:30 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

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

Timothy Doran, Committee Chair & Board President
Erin Morotti, Committee Representative & Board Treasurer
Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent
Jasmine Adkins-Brown, ESSA President
Sarah Gillam, FPA President (joined the meeting at 5:39 pm)
Sandi Ryan, FEA President
Robert Kinnard, Community Representative

Excused:

Chrya Sanderson, Committee Representative & Board Clerk

Recruiting:

Parent Representative

Staff Present:

Andrea 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 [0:01:11]

KINNARD MOVED, ADKINS-BROWN SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AND THE MEETING NOTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 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.

Current and Future Legislation [0:01:41]

Sandi Ryan, FEA president, and Jasmine Adkins-Brown, ESSA president, assisted by a couple of other committee members who had also been able to listen in, provided an overview of the recent Education Committee meeting. Committee discussion ensued on:

- Covid-19 recovery;
- Putting students first;
- Middle college program;
- Teacher training and education programs; and
- Transportation.

Education Issues [0:11:04]

Committee members discussed education issues, including:

- Supplemental funding;
- Covid recovery funding;
- State and local funding;
- Fund balance spend-down and previous discussion of borough assistance;
- State Hold Harmless Clause; and
- CARES funding.

2021-2022 Legislative Priorities Work [0:26:33]

The committee reviewed the text drafted for the 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities, based upon the committee's discussion and input from the November 4 meeting. Superintendent Dr. Gaborik facilitated the committee's review of the draft text.

Committee members commented and provided input on several sections, including:

- Covid-19 recovery;
- Success in a year of Covid-19;
- Social Emotional Learning and Supports;
- Recruitment and retention; and
- Medical advisory team.

The committee had suggested Covid-19 recovery as the district's number one budget priority, as Covid-19 had affected every aspect of the school district and education. Committee members provided several recommendations and input as they reviewed and refined each section. They selected the following operational topics to focus on:

- Enrollment & Fiscal Impact;
- Staff Resignations and Retirements;
- Economic Impact on the Borough;
- Capital Projects and Deferred Maintenance;
- Internet Connectivity and Devices; and
- CARES Funding.

The priorities brochure would also include information on district demographics and staff recognition and awards.

Committee members asked questions and shared input on:

- The importance of having a consistent message, not only from within the district, but within the state, specifically the Big 5 districts.
- The effect of reduced enrollment, not only for districts in Alaska, but throughout the nation.
- Necessary budget reductions.

The committee thought it would be helpful to know and somewhat align to the other Big 5 districts in regard to legislative priorities, budget needs, etc. They also asked for information on the position statements and resolutions approved through the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) at its Annual Conference, related to Covid-19, funding, or other issues Alaska districts were dealing with. Chair Doran would get the information and provide it to committee members.

Dr. Gaborik would continue to work with Rebecca Hurbi, executive director of communication, development, and engagement, to edit the text, and not only bring back an updated dated of the text, but perhaps even a draft of the design layout. Once the committee had a final draft of the priorities completed, it would be taken before the full board for consideration and approval.

It was suggested another committee meeting be scheduled for early January for a final review, prior to submitting the document to the board for consideration. Chair Doran would look at the calendar and schedule another meeting. The committee was working to have the document ready in time for the school board's next Regular Meeting, January 19, 2021.

Committee Comments/Announcements [1:22:53]

The committee's upcoming scheduled meeting:

- December 9, 5:30-7:00 p.m. by video conference

The committee meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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