

Budget Committee Meeting

Administrative Center - Board Room
520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska
Tuesday, November 10, 2020 from 5:00-7:30 p.m.
Public Zoom Webinar Link:
Administrative Center – Board Room (Zoom)
Meeting Notes

A. Preliminaries

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chrya Sanderson, School Board Member and FY 20-21 Budget Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM. Budget Committee meetings are recorded and will be available on the district's website.

Committee Members Present:

Tara DeVaughn, FEA Secondary Representative
Coby Haas, FEA Elementary Representative arr. 6:50
Lynn Weckesser, FPA Elementary Representative arr.5:15
Graham Storey, FPA Secondary Representative
Mark Hermann, Community Representative
Brandon Boylan, Parent Representative
Kathy Bennett, Parent Representative
Ryan Hinton, Non-Represented Representative
Melissa Walker, ESSA Representative arr. 5:18
ESSA Representative (Secondary) TBD
Chrya Sanderson, Board Committee Chair
April Smith, Board Committee Member
Andy DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer
Student Representative TBD

Committee Members Absent:

Greg Kahoe, Parent Representative excused

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent
Sandra Weaver, Budget Specialist II
Nico Herbert, Director of Accounting

B. Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda

Graham Storey made a motion to adopt the agenda. Ryan Hinton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of October 28th, 2020 Notes

Kathy Bennett made a motion to adopt the October 28, 2020 Notes, Graham Storey seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A. Opening remarks – Chrya Sanderson

C. Department Overview:

✚ Special Education, presented by Executive Director Derek Coryell

The purpose of special education is to enable students with disabilities to access the general education curriculum to the greatest extent possible and the best outcomes and opportunities beyond school. The Special Education Department serves approximately 2,400 students. This number has been steady for many years but as of our November count we were sitting at approximately 2,100 students. These students range in age from 3-22. in programs ranging from Preschool services to post-secondary programs.

PROGRAMS

Resource

Early Learning

Intensive Resource

Extended Resource

Structured Resource

BRIDGE, Project Search, ABEL

The Special Education department provides support to every district school including schools of choice and provides support to community agencies. Partnership with FNA to provide evaluations and related services in their preschool programs. Work closely with DVR and currently partnering with Stone Soup to provide training for parents during the school closure.

\$33,364,111 TOTAL HARD BUDGET

Staffing accounts for almost 91% of our total budget.

HARD 369.1 positions

Huge range of staff required to support students and meet state and federal guidelines including both FEA and ESSA staff SLIs, COTAs, SPED Teachers, Classroom Para educators, SLPAs, SLPs, Psych's, OTs, PTs, vision specialist, augmentative communication specialist, Assistive Technology Specialists.

Other functions include administration and support of the ELP Program, district wide PD, CPI Training for both SPED and other staff, preparation for the State sped audit and support of 504 compliance.

RESOURCES

Special Education District Website:

<https://www.k12northstar.org/domain/1157>

Special Education Parent Resources

<https://www.k12northstar.org/Page/2040>

Who to Contact In Special Education:

https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1wdFMEwWSSIIjhQNTKMkqQ-GzyP5-WHI2_TbD--Je6UM/edit

D. Department Overview:

- ✚ Student Support Services, presented by Executive Director Helen Clark

- ✚ Presentation Documents:

- [Student Support Services Department](#)
- [Student Support Services Department Program- Booklet](#)
- [Student Support Services - Organizational Chart](#)

Committee discussion ensued:

What funds for Title I School vs. “regular” school?

- Must approve same funding that the regular schools do.
- Title Funding - Per Pupil Allocation \$1054 “free and reduced student”.
- Supplemental Funds.
- Funding comes in as poverty funding, but implement for all teachers and students.

E. Committee Discussion:

- What is important to us? (Continued)
- Consideration of items to include in Budget Committee Report

Two Tiered Bussing –

- Would not affect start times.
- Board discussion still to ensue.
- \$670,000 savings on reduced rates.
- \$150,000 savings on gas/mileage.
- How do charters work? How does that look for timing?
 - This will open a lot of free space for charters (after non-COVID).
- New contractor starting 2021-22 for bussing – Durham
 - Durham is ready for routes as needed.
 - 1.5 million needed to supplement transportation.

School Closure -

- Details – some schools approaching 50% level on enrollment.
- There are fixed cost at the schools.
 - Savings would be estimated \$1.5 million in savings (fixed cost and employee salary and benefits).
 - There could be potential revenue loss.
 - Repurpose a school for other programs such as: BEST, BRIDGE, CEC, etc.
 - Is there a cost of shuffling students?
 - Would it increase? No, bussing wouldn’t cost more, it would be similar.
 - Staffing would follow students, but not all.
 - Utilities not 100% savings, would need to still maintain the building.
 - Short notice for school closure, the msg. could be shared for future planning.
 - Are certain schools considered? Would like to hear of a list.
 - Narrowed down to 3 school, all in town. Joy considered as one.

- Eielson, we have an agreement for the schools to be available for growth at the Base.
 - Consider Title Schools enrollment.
- ✚ This committee will give as a group items to be considered:
 - ✓ Please carryover the recommendations from last year's committee.
 - ✓ How will the fund balance look for next year?
 - Fund Balance: 2020-21 will end \$4 to \$5 million range.
 - Recommend to protect the fund balance.
 - ✓ CTE – how are we doing with Pathways?
 - Continue to support CTE.
 - ✓ Rollover priorities and add two-tiered bussing and school closure.
 - Priorities: Effective communication
 - Parent communication.
 - ✓ e-Learning – funds not to invest, but to reallocate.

Many stakeholders that give input for considerations of the budget.

Trust the administration – priority “people over things”.

Dr. Karen Gaborik shared that there will be different opportunities for the committee to share input.

Draft – Andy DeGraw will create the DRAFT letter and share it with Board Committee Members Chrya Sanderson and April Smith to review.

Meetings:

- ✓ September 29, 2020
- ✓ October 13, 2020 – Department Overview: Facility Management Department & Information & Technology
- ✓ October 28, 2020 – Department Overview: Human Resources & Teaching and Learning
- ✓ November 10, 2020 – Department Overview: Special Education & Student Support Services
- ✓ December 1, 2020 - Committee presentation to the Board (not all members need to be present)
- ✓ March 3, 2021 – Review Proposed Budget, Legislative update
- ✓ April 13, 2021 – Review Recommended Budget, Legislative update

Additional Discussion Topics:

Audio of the Budget Review Committee meetings can be heard on the following site:
<http://www.k12northstar.org/boe/meeting-minutes>

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM
 Notes respectfully submitted by Sandra weaver