

Budget Committee Meeting

Administrative Center - Board Room
520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska
Wednesday, October 28, 2020 from 5:30-7:45 p.m.

Public Zoom Webinar Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84247406485>

Administrative Center – Board Room (Zoom)
Meeting Notes

A. Preliminaries

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Erin Morotti, School Board Member and FY 20-21 Budget Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 5:33PM. Budget Committee meetings are recorded and will be available on the district's website.

Committee Members Present:

*Erin Morotti, Board Committee Chair
Andy DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer
Tara DeVaughn, FEA Secondary Representative
Mark Herrmann, Community Representative
Lynn Weckesser, FPA Elementary Representative
Graham Storey, FPA Secondary Representative
Coby Haas, FEA Elementary Representative*

*Ryan Hinton, Non-Represented Representative
Melissa Walker, ESSA Representative
ESSA Representative (Secondary) TBD
Student Representative TBD
Kathy Bennett, Parent Representative
Greg Kahoe, Parent Representative*

Committee Members Absent:

Brandon Boylan, Parent Representative

Staff Present:

Sandra Weaver, Budget Specialist II

B. Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda

Ryan Hinton made a motion to adopt the agenda. Tara DeVaughn seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of October 13th, 2020 Notes

Coby Haas made a motion to adopt the October 13, 2020 Notes, Ryan Hinton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A. Opening remarks - Erin Morotti

Erin Morotti recognized Melissa Walker as being new to the committee, she shared with the committee some information about herself and why she joined the committee.

Erin Morotti shared with the committee where to find the 2020-21 Approved Budget and the information of the District.

B. Department Overview:

- ✚ Human Resources, presented by Executive Director Ivory McDaniel
PowerPoint presented – Attached

Committee discussion ensued:

- .5 FTE's for each union is allocated in the HR budget, cannot cut; contractual obligation.
- Has HR researched efficiencies?
 - Yes, utilizing different systems.
- Title IV; what is different?
 - New regulations came out that puts perimeters in place.
 - Regulations announced in May, put into practice in August.
- Recruitment video "What is Fairbanks like, this is what it is like to work in our District"
- Million; most of the budget is salary and benefits.
- American Fidelity; this company is a partner for open enrollment assistance.

What to protect?

Need personnel, would have to cut services

- ✚ Teaching and Learning, presented by Executive Director Melanie Hadaway
PowerPoint presented – Attached

Committee discussion ensued:

What should we protect, or consider?

Challenge is that we've tightened the belts so much, we must be willing to cut programs. What are the priorities?

- Impressed with eLearning and what is provided for our students in the remote environment, pleased with the 3 topic schedule.
- Grant funded positions – what happens to the employees when the budget expires?
- Curriculum; Our District we'll be a 1:1 with computers, is there a savings if we don't have the hard copy books? Most of the books are included in the purchases.
- The T&L Department is very helpful. Very challenging times with remote learning, and still T&L is very helpful.
- Curriculum rotation used to be every six years, because of the expense it's harder to fund.
 - Budgeted curriculum for the 19-20 SY is 1.42 million, this year 20-21 budgeted is \$425,000
 - Books are with students if they want them during remote learning.
- eLearning PTR
 - Target (approx.)
 - 35 Elementary School
 - 175-180 High School
 - eLearning – before this year it was only for HS, now that we're K-12 elementary is using other resources.
- eLearning: Brick and mortar comparison
 - Big factor is the PTR
 - One benefit would be retaining the students with the pandemic.
- Have we cut too much in curriculum?
- Changes in standards (science curriculum adopted recently).
- Equity issue, making sure that all students get the same education.
- Expected in cuts is approximately \$20 million. In regards to textbooks, can we make it with the old curriculum, squeeze more life so we can hold on to more teachers?
- Teachers are the source to make the curriculum thrive.
- Quality of textbooks is valuable.
- Textbooks aren't the curriculum, it's part of the curriculum.

- Multiple pathways 1.4 Strategic Plan
 - eLearning investment
 - eLearning is a full on-line remote learning. An elementary eLearning teacher may have students from 3, or more schools.
 - eLearning is difficult for some students.
 - Older students could benefit from eLearning.
 - SPED and T&L are coordinating together for eLearning.
- BEST is a homeschool program; families receive allotments.

Graham Storey moved to extend the meeting, Ryan Hinton second the motion until 7:45. There was a request to extend the topics to the next meeting, the committee will pick up this dialogue to the next meeting and the meeting will start ½ earlier than normal at 5 p.m.

C. Committee Discussion:

- What is important to us? (Continued)

Committee discussion ensued:

- What is important to us? (Continued) Instructional Excellence is totally possible part of the Strategic Plan
- Push back to eLearning – may not retain knowledge.
- What does the data show with this?
- eLearning at elementary – it's not enough time to know if it's effective.
- Could be reassignment of teachers, movement of staff and funds; not additional dollars.
- eLearning could receive a large demand.
 - Consideration of items to include in Budget Committee Report.

Upcoming 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 9, 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 7:50 PM
 Notes respectfully submitted by Sandra Weaver