

**Budget Committee Meeting**

Administrative Center - Board Room  
520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska  
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

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 5:32 PM. 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*

*Ryan Hinton, Non-Represented Representative 5:33  
ESSA Representative TBD  
ESSA Representative TBD  
Student Representative TBD  
Kathy Bennett, Parent Representative  
Brandon Boylan, Parent Representative  
Greg Kahoe, Parent Representative – excused,  
joined @ 7:15*

Committee Members Absent:

*Coby Haas, FEA Elementary Representative - excused*

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent of Schools  
Sandra Weaver, Budget Specialist II

**B. Agenda**

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Tara DeVaughn made a motion to adopt the agenda. Kathy Bennett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**2. Adoption of September 29, 2020 Notes**

Graham Storey made a motion to adopt the September 29, 2020 Notes, Ryan Hinton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

A. Opening remarks - Erin Morotti

Erin Morotti recognized Mr. Brandon Boylan as being new to the committee, he shared with the committee some information about himself and why he joined the committee.

B. Department Overview:

 **Information & Technology, presented by Chief Information Technology Officer  
James Gentry – PowerPoint presented – Attached**

Committee discussion ensued:

- Huge issue is school closure due to COVID, and keeping students on-line
- FNSBSD is 1-1 ratio for computers, important topic is communicating and invest to communicate to our community with the technology
- Many programs internally produced in-house, is there a way to develop more in-house programs?
  - There are some problems with in-house, with the staffing now it would be hard to implement any larger implementations
- Students have better technology this year in comparison to last spring
- Chromebooks – lifespan was 5 year, we found older devices do not have some features needed for student learning remote
- UAF integration still being discussed, would like to see platforms the same
- CareDocs – any thoughts on entry and integration?
- Printers – less small printers, and moving towards larger printers
  - Small printers are not use at Weller, large copiers are used solely
- Google Suites – changing the way they work? Is there a cost to switching over?
  - A known cost for G Suite – around \$ 40,000 annually, 3% increase each year
    - Savings hard to figure

What to protect?

The department has fixed cost we cannot reduce them, protecting staff FTE on hand is important

#### **Facility Management Department, presented by Executive Director Mark Nilson – Information presented – Notes Attached**

Committee discussion ensued:

- Deferred maintenance – what schools are older?
  - Barnette – energy use very expensive
- Closing schools – schools would be maintained 1 year before we hand it back over to the FNSB
  - Andy DeGraw discussed the savings not only with the building, but also the savings of personnel
- Underground storage tanks are a huge expense
- Fixed cost – elevators
- NPH – exterior – capital improvement would be needed
- Work orders – many work orders with COVID related maintenance(plexiglass)
- Cost per square foot – how has it changed?
- CARES funding helping with some supplies
- What should we protect, or consider?
  - Set cost FMD can't get away from (oil, gas, utilities, etc.)
  - Maintaining staffing levels

#### **C. Revenues Outlook – PowerPoint Provided**

- Enrollment Trends
  - We've lost 1900 students which will equal \$7-10 million
- State Economic Climate
- Legislative Issues
- Fund Balance Utilization

Committee discussion ensued:

- 3-5 million of the 9 million of fund balance
- Smaller fund balance going into the next year budget
- CARES funding cannot replace funding – supplanting
- District has been reducing, so the fund balance is a soft landing
- COVID curve ball

## **D. Committee Discussion:**

Priority Discussion Notes

### Priority #1 & #2

Student Success (23)

1.3 - Instructional Excellence (12 of the 23)

1.4 - Multiple Pathways

1.3 - Instructional Excellence

1.2 - CTE

Best practice

### Priority #3

Workforce/Organizational Excellence

4.4 - District Operations/Site Support

4.3 - Facilities

4.1 - Workplace Excellence

### Priority #4

Communication

3.1 - Effective Communication

3.3 - Family engagement

- What is important to us? (Continued)
- Consideration of items to include in Budget Committee Report (Andy DeGraw)
  - School closure
  - 2 Tier Bus System
    - Example: North pole model – combining times
    - Investment in e-Learning Platform
    - BEST investment

Committee discussion ensued:

- Consider information shared with committee before the meetings; Erin Morotti said she would reach out to G.S. on this topic

### **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 7:38 PM

Notes respectfully submitted by Sandra Weaver