

**Board Legislative Committee Meeting**  
**February 7, 2022**  
**5:30-7:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom Only**

**AGENDA**

Zoom Meeting Information:

For Devices: [Launch February 7, 2022 Board Legislative Committee Meeting by Zoom](#)  
Or by phone, please dial: +1 888 788 0099 (Toll Free), or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free). Webinar ID: 838 7704 8208

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. 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:
  - Jennifer Luke, Board President & Committee Chair
  - April Smith, Board Representative
  - Erin Morotti, Board Representative
  - Karen Melin, Chief School Administrator
  - Cori Anthony, FPA President
  - Sandi Ryan, FEA President
  - Danielle Logan, ESSA President
  - Janet Farris, Community Representative
  - To Be Filled, Parent Representative
- Staff:
  - John Ringstad, District Lobbyist
  - Andrea DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer
  - Jahanara Carreon, Executive Director of Facilities
  - Rebecca Hurbi, Executive Director of Communications, Development, & Engagement
  - Sharon Tuttle, Board Executive Assistant & Committee Administrative Support
4. Adoption of the Agenda with Consent Agenda Item
  - a. \*\*Consent Item – January 19, 2022 Meeting Notes
5. Lobbyist Update & Discussion on Legislation
6. 2022-2023 Legislative Priorities Work
7. Adjournment

**Board Legislative Committee Meeting, by Zoom  
January 19, 2022  
Meeting Notes**

**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Through video conference, Board Vice President and Committee Member April Smith called the Legislative Committee Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. She 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**

Mrs. Smith 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** [0:00:31]

**Committee Members Present & Comprising a Quorum:**

Jennifer Luke, Committee Chair & Board President (joined the meeting at 5:37 pm)  
April Smith, Board Committee Representative  
Erin Morotti, Board Committee Representative  
Karen Melin, Chief School Administrator  
Cori Anthony, FPA President  
Sandi Ryan, FEA President  
Janet Farris, Community Representative

**Excused:**

Danielle Logan, ESSA President

**Staff Present:**

John Ringstad, District Lobbyist  
Andraeu DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer  
Jahanara Carreon, Executive Director of Facilities Management  
Rebecca Hurbi, Executive Director of Communications, Development & Engagement  
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board & Committee Administrative Support

**Adoption of the Agenda** [0:01:29]

RYAN MOVED, FARRIS SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AND THE MEETING NOTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2021 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

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

**Education Issues/Legislative Update** [0:02:09]

Board President and Committee Chair Jennifer Luke joined the meeting at 5:37 pm and assumed her role as committee chair.

John Ringstad, district lobbyist, reported on:

- Meetings with individual legislators prior to the legislative session;
- Funding:
  - State revenue forecast – surplus revenue;
  - Permanent Fund Dividend; and
  - Governor's budget.

## **Education Issues/Legislative Update** (continued)

- Education:
  - Increase the BSA;
  - Cost of living/inflationary increases;
  - Long-term versus short-term funding;
  - One-time funding;
  - SB 111: Early Education; Reading Intervention;
  - Capital Budget;
  - Forward funding;
  - HB 220: Retirement Systems; Defined Benefit Option;
  - HB 259: Permanent Fund Dividend; 25/75 POMV Split;
  - Legislative visits/AASB Fly-ins;
  - Fiscal goals/priorities and academic goals/priorities; and
  - Unified request with other Big 5 Districts.

## **2022-2023 Legislative Priorities Work** [0:45:57]

Chair Luke facilitated the committee's discussion on the 2022-2023 priorities. Once the priorities were proposed through the committee, the priorities would go before the board for approval. The discussion on priorities included:

- Funding:
  - BSA adjustment/increase; and
  - One-time allotment
- Forward funding;
- Staff recruitment and retention:
  - Defined benefit retirement program; and
  - State recruitment effort;
- Lobbying and communicating with the district's priorities and needs.

After the committee's discussion, Chair Luke summarized the two main priorities of an increase to the BSA, and staffing and retention. Once the priorities were drafted by Rebecca Hurbi, executive director of communications, development, and engagement, another committee meeting would be scheduled for the committee to review and finalize the draft priorities to move forward to the board for approval.

The committee meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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



Academic Year 2022-23

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has the following legislative priorities in order to provide an excellent education to Alaska students while maintaining fiscally responsible operations.

## #1 PRIORITY Increase Base Student Allocation (BSA)

**Increase total Base Student Allocation (BSA) to approximately \$50 million using a cost-based formula.**

The district strongly believes the BSA should be increased by \$200, bringing the BSA per student to \$XXXX. As of FY2022, there have been five consecutive years of flat BSA funding, despite costs increasing XX% in the same length of time.



## #2 PRIORITY Staff Recruiting & Retention

**Address the educator shortage through defined benefit retirement and a statewide recruitment effort.**

A strong education system needs a stable work force.



*Charmaree Cook, 5th grade teacher at North Pole Elementary.*

*"I'm inspired when students work hard and succeed at difficult tasks."*

# 2021-22 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



The following information summarizes the 2021-22 academic year.

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

## ENROLLMENT

Grade	2021-22
Elementary (Pre K-6)	6,652
Middle/Jr High (7-8)	1,480
High School (9-12)	4,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,268</b>

## TARGET CLASS SIZE

Grade	2021-22
Kindergarten	25.0
1st - 2nd	25.0
3rd - 6th	26.0
7th - 8th	29.0
9th - 12th	32.0

## FAST FACTS

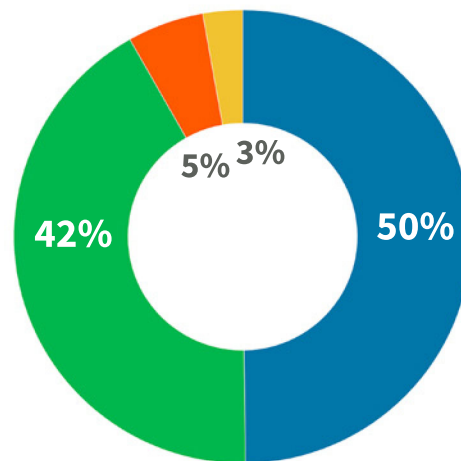
- 2,870 students, or 23.4%, are economically disadvantaged
- Over 23% of students are military connected
- The 2020-21 4-year graduation rate was 77.6%
- Districtwide attendance is 92%
- 87% of the district's operating fund is spent on employee salaries and benefits

## ETHNICITIES

Includes students who identified as an additional race or ethnicity.

- **78.1%** - Caucasian
- **24.6%** - Two or More Races (*includes students who also identified as Hispanic*)
- **20.6%** - Alaska Native/American Indian
- **10.4%** - African American
- **10.0%** - Hispanic
- **8.6%** - Asian/Pacific Islander

## DISTRICT STAFF



- Fairbanks Educators Association
- Education Support Staff Association
- Fairbanks Principals Association
- Non-Represented

## LANGUAGES

There are **over 68 different heritage languages** spoken in our students' families across the school district. Approximately 10% of all students have a heritage language.

