

**Board Legislative Committee Meeting**  
**January 19, 2022**  
**5:30-7:00 p.m.**  
Board Room, Administrative Center, 520 Fifth Avenue

**AGENDA**

Zoom Meeting Information:

For Devices: [Launch January 19, 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: 862 2882 4569

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 – April 13, 2021 Meeting Notes
5. Lobbyist Update on Current & Future Legislation
6. Education Issues
7. 2022-2023 Legislative Priorities Work
8. Adjournment

**Board Legislative Committee Meeting, by Zoom  
April 13, 2021**

**Meeting Notes**

**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Through video conference, Chair Doran called the Legislative Committee Meeting to order at 3:00 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** [0:00:34]

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

Timothy Doran, Committee Chair & Board President  
Chrya Sanderson, Board Committee Representative  
Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent  
Sandi Ryan, FEA President  
Jasmine Adkins-Brown, ESSA President (joined the meeting at 3:03 pm)

**Excused:**

Erin Morotti, Board Committee Representative  
Sarah Gillam, FPA President  
Robert Kinnard, Community Representative

**Staff Present:**

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

**Adoption of the Agenda** [0:03:10]

ADKINS-BROWN MOVED, RYAN SECONDED, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AND THE MEETING NOTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2021 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.

**Education Issues/Legislative Update** [0:03:36]

John Ringstad, district lobbyist, reported on:

- Education Legislation
  - College/Dual Credit
  - Rural Schools
  - HB 169: Education – Pupil Transportation
  - SB 111: Early Education, Reading Intervention
  - SB 6: RIP (retirement incentive program) for Public Employees/Teachers

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

- Education Funding
  - School Bond Reimbursement
  - CARES Funding
  
- Other
  - SB 15: Open Meetings Act, Penalty
  - Borough Budget Presentation
  - Possible Building Repairs/Capital Projects Due re Snow and/or Recent Earthquake

## **Furthering the District's 2021-2022 Legislative Priorities** [0:35:25]

Chair Doran explained it was important to partner and team with other entities, such as the district's associations etc., in messaging and lobbying the borough and even the legislature. There was discussion on:

- charting the history of funding;
- public testimony and advocacy;
- student enrollment and borough population;
- sharing personal educational stories;
- noting the district doesn't control its revenue, whereas the borough does; and
- carryover funds.

Dr. Gaborik would send out talking points for those who want to advocate to the borough and legislature. The board was scheduled to present its budget on Thursday.

## **Committee Comments/Announcements** [0:55:45]

Chair Doran thanked committee members for their time and commitment for serving on the committee.

The Borough Finance Committee would be meeting on Saturday, April 24 to discuss and consider education funding.

The committee meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Academic Year 2021-22

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**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.**

## 2020-25 STRATEGIC GOALS

- ▷ **Student Success:** Increase academic achievement and social emotional well-being for all students.
- ▷ **Equity & Inclusion:** Provide equitable opportunities and an inclusive environment where all students and staff are respected and feel welcome, safe, and supported.
- ▷ **Communication & Engagement:** Ensure students, staff, families, and the community are informed, connected, and engaged with the district.
- ▷ **Workforce & Organizational Excellence:** Create an environment that supports the strengths and needs of staff so they can create a safe climate where students thrive.

# RESILIENCE IN A YEAR OF COVID-19



- 48% growth in eLearning enrollment to 1000+ students
- 6,500 distributed devices to families
- 260% increase in BEST Homeschool enrollment to 1,000+ students
- 1,400 individual staff trainings in social emotional support practices and 2 all-staff events
- 450+ teachers trained in online/remote teaching strategies since March
- 172,400 meals delivered spring 2020 by Nutrition Services and Transportation
- Districtwide Design team of administrators, teachers, and support staff developed Green, Yellow and Red Zone school access plans for 9300+ students

## Social Emotional Learning Needs & Supports

- Increased family outreach to gather parent/guardian feedback about gaps in learning opportunities
- Student needs identified at schools through a combination of:
  - Professional Learning Community meetings
  - Staff meetings
  - Parent-teacher conferences
  - Student Support Team meetings
- District level identification and monitoring of student subgroups at higher risk for dropout
  - Early Warning System tracks students based on a variety of risk factors including graduation, dropout and attendance rates, GPA, NWEA MAP growth, and PEAKS proficiency
- Project AWARE Grant - \$3.16 million over five years
  - Expand social emotional learning, restorative practices, and trauma-engaged practices
  - Increase capacity to meet the mental health challenges through additional staffing
- School mental health providers at West Valley HS, North Pole HS, North Pole MS, and Tanana MS
- Social service managers, counselors, support staff connecting families with resources

## Staff Recruitment & Retention

- Team Optimizing Project: Proactive approach to leadership, workforce engagement, and employee retention that provides invaluable feedback to individual schools.
- Supplemental Retirement Benefit
  - District matches up to 1% of the certified teacher's annual salary into a supplemental 403b retirement account
  - Tier III teachers may cash in sick leave to contribute to 403b
  - Certified staff may cash in personal leave to contribute to 403b plans
- Human Resources Outreach
  - Support Staff Job Fairs: Ft. Wainwright, UAF, Education Week Virtual, Dept. of Labor Virtual, and more!
  - Resume, Interview and Application Assistance, Dress for Success Clothing Drive
  - Substitute employee recruitment events



## Medical Advisory Team

Thanks to a partnership with Foundation Health Partners and Public Health, the superintendent convened a Medical Advisory Committee that meets frequently to advise district leadership and the Board of Education regarding COVID-19 health and safety data and protocols.

# #1 BUDGET PRIORITY: COVID-19 RECOVERY

Estimated Enrollment and Fiscal Impacts as of January 22, 2021

## \$22 MILLION LOSS OF REVENUE

- Enrollment **Loss: 1,962 Students** (14.8% Reduction)
- FY21 General Fund Revenue **Loss: \$6.0 million**
- FY21 Transportation Fund Revenue **Loss: \$2.3 million**
- FY21 Nutrition Services Fund Revenue **Loss: \$1.0 million**
- FY22 General Fund Revenue **Loss: \$13.0 million**

**FUNDING NEED: Include homeschool students fully in the Foundation Funding Formula.**

## CAPITAL PROJECTS & DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

**NEED: Create a statewide deferred maintenance fund for healthy and safe facilities conducive to learning.**

- \$265+ million deferred maintenance, expected to exceed \$300 million by 2023
- Funded by the school district: Ben Eielson Jr/Sr roof replacement \$4.6 million
- Fairbanks North Star Borough contributed \$3.9 million to finish Barnette Elementary in 2022
- Surplus bonds funds currently being repurposed:
  - \$2.9 million exterior renovations at Tanana Middle School
  - \$359,000 complete interior renovations at Two Rivers Elementary
  - \$2.2 million exterior renovations at North Pole Middle School

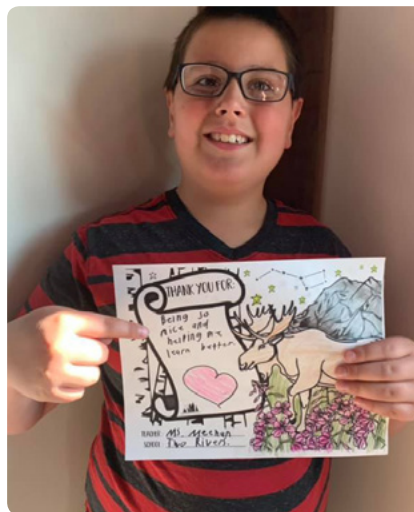
## INTERNET CONNECTIVITY & DEVICES

**NEED: Provide high speed internet access to all students and staff throughout the Borough.**

- 150+ (1.6%) of district families have no internet connectivity
- 27% of families say internet access is a challenge that makes learning at home difficult
- 6,500 district devices provided to students to support remote learning needs - as well as additional devices provided to support professionals to allow working from home
- Poor internet connectivity geographically impacts employee effectiveness and student learning

## CARES ACT I FUNDS USED FOR:

- Smart Start Planning
- Student Devices
- Paraprofessional Devices
- Summer School
- Social Emotional Learning Assessment Tool
- Digital Content
- Online Textbooks and Licenses
- Occupational Health Nurse
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Cleaning Supplies
- Professional Development



# FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



- **NEA Alaska 2020 Outstanding District Practice Award**
- **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Award:** Demonstration of the highest commitment to hiring people with disabilities.
- **Alaska After School Champion Award:** Dr. Karen Gaborik
- **Alaska Afterschool Superhero:** Wendi Raygor and Billy Smith
- **Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence** (national award) and **2021 Alaska Teacher of the Year:** Amy Gallaway
- **Alaska High School Principal of the Year:** Robyn Taylor
- **Alaska High School Assistant Principal of the Year:** Clarice Mingo
- **2020 Alaska History Teacher of the Year:** Jayme Gafford
- **Northwest Director of the Year:** Amy Rouse

**18** Elementary Schools • **8** Secondary Schools • **10** Schools of Choice

## ENROLLMENT

Grade	2020-21
Elementary (Pre K-6)	5,677
Middle/Jr High (7-8)	1,355
High School (9-12)	4,228
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,260</b>

## TARGET CLASS SIZE

Grade	2020-21
Kindergarten	22.5
1st - 3rd	24.0
4th - 6th	26.0
7th - 8th	27.0
9th - 12th	29.5

## FAST FACTS

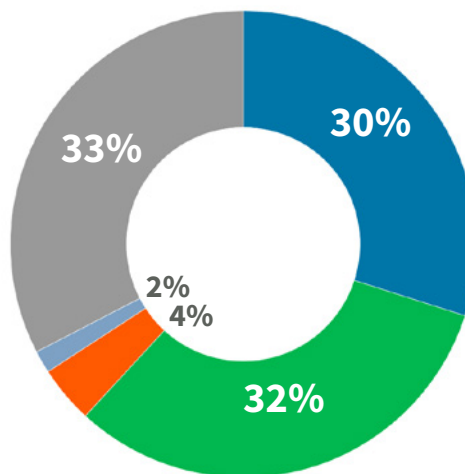
- 2,774 students, or 24.6%, are economically disadvantaged
- Over 21% of students are military connected
- The 2019-20 4-year graduation rate is 78.4%
- The 2019-20 5-year graduation rate is 86.8%
- Districtwide attendance is 92%
- 87% of the district's operating fund is spent on employee salaries and benefits

## ETHNICITIES

Includes students who identified as an additional race or ethnicity.

- **78.1%** - Caucasian
- **25.0%** - Two or More Races (*includes students who also identified as Hispanic*)
- **20.7%** - Alaska Native/American Indian
- **10.4%** - African American
- **9.6%** - Hispanic
- **8.9%** - Asian/Pacific Islander

## DISTRICT STAFF AS OF FALL 2020



- Fairbanks Educators Association
- Education Support Staff Association
- Fairbanks Principals Association
- Non-Represented
- Substitutes & Temporary Staff

**Total Staff: 2,742**

## LANGUAGES

There are **over 69 different heritage languages** spoken in our students' families across the school district. Approximately 10% of all students have a heritage language.



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is an equal employment and educational opportunity institution, as well as a tobacco and nicotine-free learning and work environment.