

Budget Committee Meeting

Administrative Center - Board Room 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Public Zoom Webinar Link location: Administrative Center – Board Room, or Zoom

Meeting Notes

Call to Order & Roll Call

Chrya Sanderson, School Board Member and FY 21-22 Budget Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Budget Committee meetings are recorded and will be available on the district's website.

Committee Members Present:

Chrya Sanderson, Board Committee Chair
April Smith, Board Committee Member excused 6:30
Andy DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer
Tara Devaughn, FEA Elementary Representative
Wendy Demers, FEA Secondary Representative
Stacey Foshee, FPA Elementary Representative
Graham Storey, FPA Secondary Representative arrived 5:50
Loa Carroll-Hubbard, Community Representative
Jeffreda Knight, Community Representative
Ryan Hinton, Non-Represented Representative
Kathy Bennett, Parent Representative

Committee Members Absent:

Greg Kahoe, Community Representative
Kenneth McLeod, Parent Representative
TBD, ESSA Representative
TBD, ESSA Representative
TBD, Student Representative

Staff Present:

Karen Melin, Superintendent of Schools
Sandra Weaver, Budget Specialist II
Nico Herbert, Director of Accounting

A. Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda October 26, 2021

Stacy Foshee made a motion to adopt the agenda, Wendy Demers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Adoption of October 12, 2021 Notes

Wendy Demers made a motion to adopt the October 12, 2021 Notes, Ryan Hinton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. New Business

Opening remarks – Chrya Sanderson
Chrya welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the meeting over to Andy DeGraw

C. Introduction to the Presenters – Andy DeGraw

D. Guest Speakers:

- ✚ Student Support Services, presented by Executive Director Carla Marquand
 - [Student Support Services link to video](#)
- ✚ Teaching and Learning, presented by Executive Director Chane Beam
 - [Teaching & Learning link to presentation](#)
- ✚ Transportation, presented by Director Ryan Hinton

G. Committee Discussion:

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

E. Committee Discussion Ensued - Included Topics:

Student Support Services, presented by Executive Director Carla Marquand

- Federal Funding – mostly, funds salaries and benefits, student supplies, transportation, etc.
- Social Emotional Learning & Prevention (SELP) – What they do?
 - Social Services Managers – assisting kids connecting to supports, counselors, problem solving skills.
- Many employees are one-to-one supporting student learning at the schools
- Due to pandemic has there been additional need for our students? Absolutely!
- Vacancies - How do we address students that need assistance where the staff may not be present?
 - Building support capacity within all of us
 - Admin Team is exploring reaching out for recruitment for more staff
 - District Support Team

Teaching and Learning, presented by Executive Director Chane Beam

This year curriculum adoption is PE and Health Curriculum, 6 year cycle

- Peaks testing is gone, currently using the AK Star testing
- Project Diplomas is going away, we haven't seen a grant that matches, but we are looking for it.
- Goal for a grant is that it's set up where we can provide the sustainability
- Student Support Services (SSS) works with students, T&L works with teachers

Transportation, presented by Director Ryan Hinton

- Ryan will provide committee on detailed information
- 3 person department
- Funded by the State, \$902 per student (less correspondence)
 - Execution of the contract is processed through Durham
- If route is not running, we're not paying for services
- Current 92 drivers, started year at 99 routes with 75 drivers
- With limited drivers the district had to schedule rotation route outages
- Routing is getting better, more drivers are working
 - Short term –
 - Reached out to the military – didn't really work out
 - Reached out to FNSB– MAC system for secondary students riding the Borough busses
 - Durham working on getting more drivers
 - Long term -
 - Possibly district purchasing a fleet of vans

- Superintendent Karen Melin - Appreciation to the Transportation Department
 - Reliable and consistent service is important
- What is Durham doing to recruit?
 - Banner is on our website
 - Advertising all over town
 - Recruitment fairs
 - Pay increase 10% more than last year - \$ 5000 CDL/\$2000 for non-CDL
 - 32 drivers brought up, 1 driver returned to Fairbanks to live
 - Also offering employee families incentives for moving here
 - Durham doing a good job on communication
 - General Fund must support some of the transportation cost - Last year 1.3 million, \$200,000 previous year
 - Durham has a bulk tank for gasoline; savings for the district

Andy reviewed the Budget Committee Report with the committee

School Board asked for a Task Force for School Closure conversation

Adding another layer to navigate is going to be very stressful, make sure to communicate and transparent.

Competency based learning – students are 2-3 years behind; it'll take time to get them where they need to be.

Legislative discussion around funding

State Statute

- Funding model hard to change
- Hold Harmless

FNSB- doesn't have a similar funding as State

Is there a benefit for the committee members to attend the December meeting when the memo is presented?

Not necessary, but welcomed to join.

Meetings:

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 7:27 PM, Tara DeVaughn made a motion to adjourn, and Wendy Demers second the motion.

Notes respectfully submitted by Sandra weaver