

Budget Committee Meeting

Administrative Center – via ZOOM February 23, 2023, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Administrative Center - ZOOM meeting

Meeting Notes

A. Call to Order

Tim Doran, School Board Member and FY 22-23 Budget Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Budget Committee meetings are recorded and will be available on the district's website.

B. Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Tim Doran, Board of Education Chairperson
Brandy Harty, Board of Education
Andy DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer
Allison Curry, FEA Secondary Representative
Wendy Demers, FEA Elementary Representative
Bruce Bell, FPA Secondary Representative joined at 5:39pm
Teresa Lesage, FPA Elementary Representative
Robert Burgess, Parent Representative
Robert Herrick, Parent Representative

Committee Members Absent:

Loa Carroll-Hubbard, Community Representative
Corey McGoffin, Student Representative
Ryan Hinton, Non-Represented Representative
TBD, ESSA Representative
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Staff Present:

Michele Nilson, Budget Specialist II
Nico Herbert, Director of Accounting Services
Emily Proper, Director of Procurement and Warehousing
Karen Melin, Chief School Administrator

C. Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda February 23, 2023

Robert Herrick made a motion to adopt the agenda, Robert Burgess seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

D. Notes

2. Adoption of October 26, 2022 Notes

Notes were not made available to the committee for review prior to the meeting and will be adopted and the next scheduled committee meeting.

E. Opening Remarks – Chairperson Tim Doran and Board Member Brandy Harty

Tim appreciates the work that the committee did in the fall getting ready for the proposed budget. Tim is

glad to have the opportunity to talk about the Proposed Budget at this time. Next week the board will really get going with hearings and public sessions regarding budget. Brandy is glad to be here and is in a learning role at this time. Tim then turned the meeting over to Andy DeGraw for an overview of the FY24 Proposed Budget.

F. FY24 Proposed Budget Presentation: Andy DeGraw

Committee Discussion Ensued - Included Topics:

- Mr. Herrick commented that the current state of the district is less than optimal. He is concerned with the PTR in the proposed budget, especially at the elementary level. He is also concerned about the reduction of ELP teachers at the elementary level.
- Mrs. Lesage appreciates that PTR and Kindergarten aides are at the top of the priority add back list.
- Mr. Burgess thanked Andy for the presentation. He wanted to know if there were any other budget remedies being discussed. He would also like to see Library Assistants and Safety Assistants higher up on the priority add back list.
- Mrs. Demers had questions regarding the fund balance. Mr. DeGraw explained the process of when we receive money and what that money is assigned to. He also commented that we have had to pre-spend some of that money just to stay above water.
- Ms. Curry commented about the Instructional Technology Teachers in eLearning. If that is not what they are, then we should call them what they are.
- Mr. Bell commented that the Library Assistants are a very valuable asset in the schools to assist with increased technology needs for students.
- Mr. Herrick wanted to know the plan to provide ELP services in the elementary schools.
- Mr. Burgess agreed that we need to “call it what it is” regarding eLearning teachers. He expressed concerns regarding the North Star College adds and would like to see a cost breakdown by position for priorities. He also asked about adding back the Assistant Principals rather than more teachers.
- Mrs. Demers questioned why we need a counselor for NSC to service only 180 students compared to the number that counselors at our full high schools service. She also had concerns about the pay scales for the Emergency Cert teachers hired by the district.
- Mrs. Lesage expressed how qualified her emergency cert teachers are and they are very happy to be here. She also mentioned that the 3 she has in her building are all certified teachers, they just hadn’t received their AK certification yet.
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- ✚ **Legislative update by Karen Melin and Andy DeGraw**
 - Karen said that she, Andy and Mr. Ringstad met with 14 legislators on their recent trip to Juneau. They met with some that were in favor of an increased BSA and so that were not so much. They did have some great conversations and focused on the great things happening in our district schools. Noting that without an increase in BSA we may be at the point of not being able to do some of these great things with students any longer. Andy said that they also stressed that the timing of State funds is crucial and talked about the two bills out there now in committees. (HB65 in the House Education committee proposing a \$1250 BSA increase and SB52 in the Senate Education committee proposing a \$1000 BSA increase).

Closing Remarks:

- Mr. Doran commented that it’s encouraging that legislators are starting to pay attention and support education. We need to share stories and pictures with them to make our point. Board members are working hard for support. He then polled the committee on whether they were in favor or not to request additional funding beyond the \$3.4 million from the Borough.
- Mrs. Harty informed everyone that there is a number in Juneau you can text to be able to follow

different house and senate bills. Text HB65 and/or SB52 1-559-245-2529. This will keep you informed of any movement in either of these bills.

- Mrs. Demers mentioned the READS Act and the additional amount of support and training it would require which would also require additional funding.
- Ms. Curry and Mr. Bell thanked Andy for the presentation and his work on developing the budget.
- Mrs. Lesage thanked Andy as well and recognized that it takes a toll on people.
- Mr. Burgess thanked Andy as well as the Board for passing the funding resolution at the February 7th Regular meeting.
- Mr. Herrick expressed his appreciation to everyone as well.

Additional Discussion Topics:

Audio of the Budget Review Committee meetings can be heard on the following site:
<http://www.k12northstar.org/boe/meeting-minutes>

Robert Burgess made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Teresa Lesage seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM,

Notes respectfully submitted by Michele Nilson.