

Fairbanks North Star Borough Board of Education
Budget Committee Meeting
Administrative Center –February 22, 2024, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Administrative Center – Board Room
Meeting Notes

A. Call to Order

Tim Doran, School Board Member and FY24 Budget Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. 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
Andy DeGraw, Chief Operations Officer
Jarrod Decker, FPA Representative
Allison Curry, FEA Secondary Representative
Chris McGoffin, Student Representative
Robert Herrick, Parent Representative
Clay Anderson, Non-Represented Representative
Axl Levan, At Large Community Member (via Zoom panelist)
Edward Paxson, FEA Elementary Representative
April Smith, At Large Community Member
Lael Oldmixon, Parent Representative
Sean Li, Community Representative
Neil Hecht, FPA Secondary Representative (standing in for Robyn Taylor)

Committee Members Absent:

Chrya Sanderson, Board of Education
Robyn Taylor, FPA Secondary Representative
Kimberly Aiken, Parent Representative

Staff Present:

Michele Nilson, Budget Specialist II

C. Agenda

1. Adoption of Agenda February 22, 2024

Lael Oldmixon moved to approve and Clay Anderson 2nd, the agenda was approved.

D. Notes

2. Adoption of Notes November 29, 2023

Allison Curry moved to approve and Chris McGoffin 2nd, the notes were approved.

E. Opening Remarks – Chairperson Tim Doran

Tim welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of tonight's meeting.

F. Overview of FY25 Proposed Budget

- ✚ Andy DeGraw presented the budget to the committee by PowerPoint and fielded questions after the presentation.
- ✚ Michele Nilson presented the Balancing Act budget tool and did a brief explanation.

G. Legislative Update

- ✚ Tim Doran gave a brief overview of where things stand right now on Borough and State funding. He also talked about the timeline of what happens next in the budget process.

H. Committee Discussion Ensued – Included Topics:

- ✚ There was a consensus that PTR should be the #1 priority add-back
- ✚ Kindergarten Aids should not be reduced and should be the #2 priority add-back
- ✚ Other topics included:
 - Reduce K-2 PTR by changing to a ¾ day school day
 - \$1,413 BSA would provide approx. \$11-\$12M surplus
 - Make all Elementary schools K-8 and close Middle Schools
 - Criteria used for school closures has significant flaws
 - School utilization needs to be addressed
 - Defer school closures for one year and have more meaningful conversations with the community
 - Next year 6th graders return to elementary schools and close a middle school
 - Teachers don't need individual laptops, they can share or have a tablet or use library devices
 - Mimic what the University did in budget constraints by having Executive leadership furlough days and staff and executive leadership did not take cost of living raises
 - Look closely at shortening the school year/week and what this could look like and consider creative ways to deliver the academic experience that may not be in the classroom
 - Explore additional ways to generate revenue using creativity (surplus revenue from laptops/equipment, rentals, additional activities or opportunities)
 - Be sure to take into consideration student success, equity and inclusion, student development
 - Create more efficiencies in our systems- business, travel, programs
 - All of our students deserve a world class education
 - District staff can help provide some substitute assistance and save costs on substitute teachers-it would help build a better connection with schools/staff/students
 - Turn North Star College back to 12th grade only
 - Volunteer pool for substitute teachers
 - Do not reduce contracts by 5 days

- Closing BEH is very much about student success-their current education is not excellent or equitable, there has been a reduction of opportunities for students
- Set expectation for parent volunteer hours/opportunities
- Reductions in Student Activities
- School closures is a responsible action to protect quality education for students
- Contracting custodial services is not a good idea
- Be fiscally responsible, rather than responsive. Build toward a long term responsible fiscal plan.
- Reduce the length of the school year
- Retain Day Custodians if custodial services are contracted out
- Close a 3rd school and don't contract janitorial services

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm with no objections.
Notes respectfully submitted by Michele Nilson

Next Committee meeting - TBD

Audio of the Budget Review Committee meetings can be heard on the following site:
<https://www.k12northstar.org/Page/7360>