

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Location: 520 5TH Ave. Administrative Center Board Room

Date: Wednesday, October 9th

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Facilitator: Timothy Doran – Chairperson

Meeting Minutes

- A Call to Order Tim Doran called the meeting to order at 5:31pm
- B Roll Call FEA Secondary Rep – Edward Paxson
Quorum = 5 or more FEA Elementary Rep – Amy Culver-Bell
FPA Secondary Rep – April Scott
We have a Quorum FPA Elementary Rep – Teresa Lesage
ESSA Reps – VACANT (2)
Non Rep Rep – Clay Anderson
Student Rep – Ean Hernandez
Parent Reps – Lael Oldmixon, April Smith
At-Large Community Members – Axl Levan, Sean Li (absent)
FNA Rep – Melissa Charlie (via Zoom)
Military Connected Rep – VACANT(1)
Non-Voting Members:
Board Committee Chair – Tim Doran
School Board Member – Chrya Sanderson (excused)
Chief Operations Office – Andy DeGraw
- C Approval of Agenda Tim recommended approval of the meeting agenda for October 9, 2024- **NO OBJECTIONS – STANDS APPROVED**
Approval of Notes Tim recommended approval of the meeting notes from February 22, 2024- **NO OBJECTIONS – STANDS APPROVED**
- E Opening Remarks – Tim Doran & Andy DeGraw
 1. Purpose of the Committee
 2. Open Meetings Act
 3. Committee Best Practices

F Group Discussion

SEE ATTACHED NOTES FROM GROUP DISCUSSION

H Adjournment

1. Meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm

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Notes

- What is important to us?
 - Lael: Focus on keeping PTR as low as possible. How can we attract and retain educators? Be strategic and smart about what kinds of cuts we recommend. What is off limits, what cannot be reduced. Think creatively about ways to find revenue from space we have available.
 - Axl: Have a long term vision when it comes to reductions. As a committee it would be good to have clarity on the final report of the committee. Would like to see the vacant ESSA positions filled on the committee.
 - April Smith: I don't think the community will tolerate further class size increases. Keeping class sizes lower will help us retain our teachers as well. Close schools for efficiency in order to invest in other things like programs. Have an ability to see what will be put before the board and know that it's what the committee's ideas were. Agrees with eliminating the department presentations.
 - Melissa: She wants to learn more about this process. Are the decisions we are making actually strengthening the strategic plan goals?
 - Ean: Wants to ensure that it's a positive environment and he and his peers see the struggles.
 - Clay: We do a lot of things right in our schools. We are here to make recommendations, but not necessarily the decisions.
 - Amy: #1 priority is the PTR. The district is going to have a hard time retaining teachers and doesn't feel some that are brought in are not necessarily qualified to teach. Remember there are people that are attached to all the numbers.
 - Ed: Doesn't want to spend a lot of time sitting through dept. Budget presentations. Would rather read through a presentation on his own and then ask questions to the committee representatives. We should spend more time actually looking at the budget. Would like to see votes from committee members. Would like to see more respect for the staff members when having to have bad news delivered.
 - April Scott: Advocate for lower PTR's which also helps with teacher retention. With reductions of staff, there is no reduction of responsibilities; there are actually more responsibilities for the remaining staff. Communication around these issues needs to be open. Loved the budget tool last year. Be candid and delicate with the community when delivering news. Facility utilization is important and needs to be addressed. Let the legislators know what the schools would look like if we have certain levels of funding, Option A, Option B, etc
 - Teresa: PTR is huge. The music program cannot take any additional reductions. I would like to identify excess building capacity and right size the buildings. SPED Support is a priority investment to ensure those students have what they need. More support will help to retain the SPED staff as well.

What information do you need?

- What things were cut last year?
- What items were saved and may need to be looked at again this year?
- How many anticipated retirements are coming for this year?
- What does the curriculum reduction look like, why do we need to spend so much on these materials?

- Paper clips vs impactful reductions and their impact on the budget
- Priority tool
- What % of unfilled positions do we have and what impacts does that have on the current budget?
- Tutorial of the budget book and how to summarize it
- Have the agenda sent to committee members in advance for input on that
- A list of cuts made over the previous 2-3 years
- Dept information is still valuable but to get it in advance and in a 1-pager format would be best.
- Interested to see what it would look like for all departments to have to cut 5%, 10%, etc
- Perhaps sharing some of last year's information but somewhat updated from then

Action items

Michele will work on the custom prioritization tool and distribute to committee members