

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Location: 520 5TH Ave. Administrative Center Board Room

Date: Wednesday, November 13

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Facilitator: Timothy Doran – Chairperson

Agenda Items

- A Call to Order Morgan Dulian called the meeting to order at 5:32pm
- B Roll Call FEA Secondary Rep – Edward Paxson
Quorum = 5 or more FEA Elementary Rep – **Amy Culver-Bell (absent)**
FPA Secondary Rep – April Scott
FPA Elementary Rep – Teresa Lesage
We have a Quorum ESSA Reps – April Johnson, Steven Bonfoey
Non Rep Rep – Clay Anderson
Student Rep – Ean Hernandez
Parent Reps – **Lael Oldmixon (absent), April Smith (absent)**
At-Large Community Members – Axl Levan, **VACANT (1)**
FNA Rep – Melissa Charlie
Military Connected Rep – Valerie Stansel
Non-Voting Members:
Board Committee Chair – Morgan Dulian
School Board Member – Tim Doran
Chief Operations Office – Andy DeGraw
- C Approval of Agenda Dr. Scott recommended approval of the meeting agenda for Nov. 13, 2024, Mr. Anderson 2nd- **NO OBJECTIONS – STANDS APPROVED**
Approval of Notes Mr. Paxson recommended approval of the meeting notes from October 23, 2024, Dr. Scott 2nd- **NO OBJECTIONS – STANDS APPROVED**
- E Opening Remarks – Morgan Dulian, Tim Doran, Andy DeGraw
 1. Review Priorities from last meeting (**SEE NOTES BELOW FROM DISCUSSION**)
 2. Revisit Budget Outlook (Andy DeGraw) ([presentation](#))

- F Group Discussion • SEE NOTES BELOW FROM GROUP DISCUSSION
- H Adjournment Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm

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Notes

- Review Priorities:
 - Consolidation of schools - **high priority** (Right-sizing to support students should be a priority)
 - Increase PTR-**LOW priority-if at all** (This is an area the committee feels strongly about - Increasing PTR should be avoided at all costs. Increasing PTR is NOT a priority of the board and they would rather it not be considered at all.)
 - Calendar reduction-**low priority**
 - Contract Custodial services-**high priority**
 - Tech replacement-**middle priority**
 - Curriculum-**medium to high priority**
 - Transportation-**low priority**
- Andy's Budget Outlook review presentation - will share presentation in google folder
- \$1,808 BSA increase is the # that the State School Board is promoting. This is the legislative figure. It's optimistic, but some legislators are promoting this as well.
- Discussion of "Your Suggestions"
 - Close district admin building - no questions/comments - **LOW/MEDIUM PRIORITY**
 - Eliminate Activity funding - Elementary \$85K, Secondary \$1.3M (\$400K-\$500K - in savings without reducing coordinators) - **LOW/MED PRIORITY**
 - many students rely on these activities for scholarships, etc.
 - activities hold a level of accountability for many students
 - Seemed to me the most viable option to save a little. It's a luxury outside the classroom that is offered. Should we spend money on luxurious things? The reality is that the number of students is down and could continue to go down if the school environment is less appealing without these activities.
 - Savings doesn't justify what the impact would be to families. Important to the culture of the schools.
 - Move SON program to alternate location - this is actually in progress already. - **HIGH PRIORITY**
 - Reduce 12 month staff to 11 month - non rep and ESSA employees fall into this category - this would be challenging to impossible in most arenas - the work doesn't stop - countless projects that cannot be done during the regular school year - HR recruiting doesn't stop - \$1.1M for non rep, \$1.2M for ESSA staff - **LOW PRIORITY**
 - Are there any legal ramifications if we reduced these staff to 11 month
 - Don't know how we would keep up on maintenance when there are not children in the buildings
 - Are any of these areas that we are fully hired, we are already understaffed and this could cause greater turnover
 - Eliminate student activities that require building rentals of some sort - generally those fees are picked up by booster clubs/fundraisers, etc. - **LOW/MEDIUM PRIORITY**
 - There are other fees associated with this as well
 - Increase fee paid by Out of District homeschool students for HS Sports - charge a fee and we are looking at updating that agreement now. **HIGH PRIORITY**
 - \$250 per student per activity
 - If we increase the fee, this could perhaps increase the BEST homeschool enrollment. But some outside home schools might cover that fee.

- Eliminate SPED Coordinator positions and use them to fill vacant SPED Teaching positions. - little benefit to the general fund because these positions are grant funded and not all of these folks are certified SPED Teachers. - **LOW/MEDIUM PRIORITY**
- Replace PIS with SBST positions - these are very different positions that have different certifications. It would be approx. \$125K savings if that change were made. - **MEDIUM/LOW PRIORITY**
 - It would not be a benefit to High School students. Might lose staff.
 - The purpose of this position is not being met and possibly could happen with little problem. There is not the support of the curriculum that there was supposed to be. The SBST's still do some of those things.
 - The SBST's are more preventative so things don't happen and the PIS are more reactive to things happening. The SBST's reflect more of the change in philosophy across the district.
 - Pay is \$4 less and 2 grades lower which may create retention issues.
- Repurpose closed building into an indoor athletic center to alleviate space issues in the spring and winter. - we did not have enough information to provide any feedback. - **AS AN INVESTMENT THIS WOULD BE A MEDIUM PRIORITY**
 - This would be an investment, not a cost savings. This would help athletes train during inclement weather.
 - Would be worth the investment.
 - Would this just be for district activities or would it be for building rental opportunities as well?
- Reduce one Assistant Superintendent - **LOW/MEDIUM PRIORITY**
 - They require different sets of skills/expertise
 - This is something that could come up in public comment and it would be worth ranking.
- Discuss "Plan B" if the assumptions don't come through - the outcome for this gets very bleak considering over 85% of our budget is salaries and benefits.
- Discuss "Best Case Scenario" - things to reinvest in
 - Reduce PTR from current - many different scenarios would be available
 - This is an area the committee feels strongly about - Increasing PTR should be avoided at all costs. Increasing PTR is NOT a priority of the board and they would rather it not be considered at all.
 - Funding transportation for Schools of Choice
 - A suggestion made by a committee member was to implement $\frac{3}{4}$ day attendance for all K-1-2 students. They felt it would bring maximum educational outcomes by 3rd grade. Educational outcomes are a high priority.
 - We did not pull data on what the financial implications would be for this, but it would come at a cost to the district.
 - A review of items that have been reduced over the past 3 years would assist with other reinvestments ideas. This information was provided at the Oct. 23rd meeting and is in the [google folder](#).

Action items

- Draft Budget Report for next meeting
- Results to committee from Priority tool