

FAIRBANKS NORTH
STAR BOROUGH

The seal of the Fairbanks North Star Borough is visible in the bottom left corner. It features a circular design with the word "FAIRBANKS" at the top and "January 1, 1964" at the bottom. In the center is a stylized star with a banner across it.

School Consolidation: Impacts, Strategies, and Cooperation

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Borough Mayor

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Slide 1

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has no easy answers

- Understand the need for school consolidation
- Understand the budget crunch
- Here to talk about:
 - Cooperation;
 - The impact of consolidation on the Borough's budget;
 - Options for repurposed facilities; and
 - Partnership for our community

Post-consolidation implications

- What we learned from bond counsel:
 - Bonds on buildings typically limit how they can be repurposed
 - Potential IRS implications
- Repurposing to a new entity:
 - Private vs. Public vs. Non-profit
 - Federal/Department of Defense
 - Geographic Location
- Benefit from close partnership in decision-making



Post-consolidation implications

- Schools with bonds vs. schools without bonds
 - Complications vs. Options
 - Flexibility
 - Community interest – *where and why*
- What makes buildings more or less simple to repurpose
 - Cannot “pay off” bonds earlier
 - Leased land
 - Zoning
 - Location
- The order buildings are given to the Borough, and when, matters



Buildings without bonds

- Arctic Light Elementary
- Anne Wien Elementary
- Crawford (But Anderson does have bonds)
- Denali Elementary
- Effie Kokrine
- Fifth Avenue Administrative Center
- Hunter Elementary
- Hutchison High School
- Nordale Elementary
- North Pole Elementary
- Nutritional Services Center
- Randy Smith Middle
- School District Facility Maintenance Warehouse



Capital improvement cooperation

- Entering small/medium/large nominations into Borough Capital Improvement Program (CIP)
- Avoiding possible gaps between nominations and needs
- School buildings are borough facilities
- Making decisions student/family centered



Decision-making processes

- Consider all options
 - UAF partnership with Hutchison High School/CTE
- Share space at ADC – *small impact*
- Bigger picture with more cuts next year?
 - Harder cuts later, but irreversible closures
- Budgeting from the Borough
 - Minimum funding ordinance
 - Timeline for our budget information
 - Assembly funded last year at \$58 million
 - Ask what for what we need

Building our community together

- Public trust, public input
 - How you make these decisions, as much as what decisions you make
 - Pearl Creek as magnet school
 - Salcha as charter school
 - Title 1 considerations
 - Draw new lines to support lower-income areas?
 - Other creative options?
- Transparency of full decision-making criteria
 - See the data, weigh the options

Building our community together

- Student, family, community-centered decisions
 - Bottom line is real, but so are community, family, student impacts...
 - Subjective vs. objective criteria
- Set your own timeline
- We are partners, working together for our community