



**Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Board Curriculum Committee
Minutes of November 20, 2025**

Mr. Doran called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. in the FNSBSD Administrative Center conference room (room 426), 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, AK. Committee members attended in person and via Zoom.

Members Present:

Hannah Harp

Elisabeth Nadin

Lynsy Carrell

Joshua Peter

Kenli Donahou

Edward Paxson

Heather Stewart

Allyson Nicholson

Nonvoting Members:

Chane Beam

Timothy Doran

Members Absent:

Heather McFarlin

Kerry Hahn

Guests:

Tara DeVaughn

Mackenzie Staiger

Andrea Wade

Shiela May Parragua

Committee Support:

Pamela Metzger

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- Ed Paxson motioned to approve the agenda, Lynsy Carell and Kenli Donahou seconded the motion.
- Agenda unanimously approved.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Ed Paxson motioned to approve the September 4, 2025 meeting minutes, Kenli Donahou seconded the motion.
- September 4, 2025 meeting minutes unanimously approved.

D. CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) UPDATES

Andrea Wade gave the committee background information on CTE, shorter cycle, industry driven, and meeting standards. Ms. Wade spoke of the different CTE pathways which often lead to certification, dual credit, or internship. There is a current push to bring more CTE into middle school.



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Next year CTE will be writing/updating the Health Science cluster, so they are currently looking at textbooks and materials. This year CTE is writing/updating Multimedia (Arts A/V), Hospitality, Events & Tourism (known as Family Consumer Science in middle school), and bringing back Business. CTE writers are hoping to finish edits by the end of November so the curriculum can go out for public comment in December.

E. CURRICULUM UPDATES

Tara DeVaughn went over the curriculum re-write timeline, bringing the committee to the January meeting and hopes that the writers will be working on draft 3.

Chane Beam asked Tara to explain public comment, Tara went over the process of how to get a draft out for public comment and the purpose of public comment.

Tara and Mackenzie Staiger reviewed draft 1 public comment and what those public comments did to change draft 1 to draft 2. Mackenzie spoke of the elementary curriculum and why some certain words have a definition in the Social Studies Curriculum. For example, curriculum is what we teach and adopted resources are what we use to teach. Overall public comment for the elementary social studies curriculum received high praise.

Tara explained the shift in 6th and 7th grade, how the district is to meet the state standards, just not in the exact same order as listed in the state standards. Tara covered that there are some concerns of gaps with offering World History and U.S. History in three semesters, but only requiring two semesters to graduate.

There have been some comments about not dropping World History Honors, however, it is only taught in one high school.

Currently in draft 1 and draft 2, geography is only one semester. Writers felt it may need to be a full year. So this was a public comment question, with results of three yes and three no.

Mr. Doran asked if there were concerns between sixth and seventh, highlighting that currently sixth is ancient civilization and is now going to be Alaska History & Geography.

Tara explained that the public and teachers really wanted to keep sixth as ancient civilizations so the writers kept some Alaska history weaved throughout sixth grade, mainly due to the concern of not having an adopted resource.

Sheila Parragua asked if Alaska Studies covers all cultures in Alaska, at elementary it seems to cover only Athabaskan. Tara explained that the new standards and curriculum cover all of Alaska's history. Mackenzie elaborated explaining that in our current and new standards, second grade focuses on Fairbanks and third is more overall Alaska history, but there is a common thread of Alaska weaved throughout K-12. Not just a study of culture but all of Alaska.

Circling back to draft two for social studies, there has been a class added. Introduction to Anthropology, the writing team had one person with the state endorsement.



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Ed Paxson asked if Anthropology would be one or two semesters, Tara replied one semester and it is an elective helping with APS.

U.S. Legal Systems was originally taken out, but after speaking with high school social studies teachers, it has been added back in.

Tara went on to explain that there was a pilot course from science, Intro to Ethnobotny, and the teacher's review stated that it may meet the requirement for Alaska Studies, as it does for UAF. There has been a research & inquiry being added to all 6 - 12 classes. Sixth and seventh mixed what the state said sixth and seventh should be, in draft 2 it is intermingled.

Ed Paxson asked Tara to clarify what that means for seventh grade content. Tara replied saying it looks more like the current curriculum but with units of Alaska as Alaska needs to be everywhere.

Ed: So not changing the book but adding more?

Tara: yes, but not a whole year of Alaska Study.

Tim Doran asked if Ethnobotny is one semester or two? Tara replied, one semester.

Tim: It sounds more cultural based than a Alaska Studies based course. Tara replied, yes it does, but we need to honor the teacher's feedback who actually taught the course.

Ed: Before the discussion, how does it fit the legal mandate of Alaska Statue.

Tara: At this time, I can't answer that, but we (Teaching and Learning) will look into it, it may not meet Alaska history but could potentially be an elective.

Andrea Wade: Is this Ethno class co-sponsored through UAF and receive three credits? Yes, replied Tara.

Lynsy: Eight out of eight students that took the class also took the credit for UAF.

Tara: Coming back to three semesters of World History and U.S. History, one solution would be to require a semester of modern World History and U.S. History as laid out on the table for graduation requirements. Ninety percent of freshmen take Alaska Studies. Draft one states two semesters of world history and U.S history. Draft 2 specifies how to fulfill a semester of modern world history and U.S. history.

Chane: I taught US history for years. Three semesters concerns me. Requiring all students to take the third part is better, but students will still be missing a significant portion of our history. It would almost be better to pick the ten or twenty most important events in our history and teach those thoroughly. With three semesters we could have six to seven years of students graduate without pertinent knowledge or knowledge of the Civil War. Sheila agreed with Chane on missing pertinent parts.



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Ed: I agree with Chane. Counselors would have a tough time scheduling. Does US History start at the beginning?

Tara: Not quite, we have to trust that our eighth grade teachers did this, and there is a built in review at eleventh grade.

Ed: I have not heard many favorable comments in three semesters, seems to create more problems than solving.

Sheila: How do we decide which is more important 1, 2, or 3? It may be beneficial to have a pre-requisite to bridge the gap.

Tara: Elaborated on our pre-req. However, in World Studies (requires one whole credit or two semesters) a student can fill this requirement without taking a class with World History in the title.

Ed: Global Diplomacy and UN speaks more of modern World History. With Ethno, would it require a qualified teacher to teach it?

Tara: It would most likely be taught by a science teacher.

Ed: So modern cultures, bringing back to AK Studies. Bringing US Legal Systems back is good. What would replace World History Honors?

Tara: We have a large transient population and to support our students, looking around the country, students take AP World History. Access and equity issues, in my opinion.

Ed: Undecided on world history honors. Sixth and seventh social studies is a positive addition back, I found teaching ancient civilizations to be a joy because the kids loved it. There are many resources at our disposal for this.

Tara: Sixth and seventh morphed due to what the trends across the country are.

Lynsy: What meets the Alaska Studies requirement? In terms of Ethno meeting it.

Mackenzie: We will dig into and get an answer to you.

Ed: There is too much in the curriculum to teach it all, we put more in, how do we narrow down?

Tara: Writers asked this, which is how it came to three semesters for world history and U.S. history. The new state standards are laid out in a thematic lens, and may need to narrow this down for two semesters. The state standards are guidelines vs. how to teach.

Tara: Thank you for being so engaged.



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F. GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Tim: Final comments? We will go around the table.

Heather Stewart: I appreciate the discussion and thank you for the insight.

Chane: Thank you for being here and welcome to Mr. Doran.

Tim: Thank you, I am excited to be on this committee. I taught social studies and language arts for many years.

G. ADJOURNMENT

-Hannah Harp motioned to adjourn the meeting, Lynsy seconded.

-Mr. Doran adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.