



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Curriculum Committee

AGENDA

Date: April 2, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Location:

- In-person: FNSBSD Administrative Center, 520 Fifth Avenue, Room 426, Fairbanks, AK 99701
- Join through Zoom here: <https://k12northstar-org.zoom.us/j/82640292108>
- Participate by phone:
 - 1-888-788-0099 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 826 4029 2108 *6 mutes and unmutes
 - 1-877-853-5247 (Toll Free) *9 raises a caller's hand

A. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to order

- 2. Land Acknowledgement Statement:** As a standing committee of the School Board, we would like to this moment to acknowledge we are residing on the traditional land of the Dena (pronounced duhNay) people.

- 3. Mission Statement:** As a community, we create supportive learning environments where all students thrive.

4. Roll Call

Allyson Nicholson
Heather Stewart
Edward Paxson
Kenli Donahou
Shiela May Cole
Beth Zirbes

Elisabeth Nadin
Heather McFarlin
Hannah Harp
Lynsy Carrell
Joshua Peter

Nonvoting Members

Tim Doran
Chane Beam

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Recommend approval of the meeting agenda for April 2, 2026.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Recommend approval of the meeting minutes for March 2026 meeting.

D. CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) UPDATES

- Review Public Comment of Draft 1 for Business Management & Administration

E. MATERIALS UPDATES

- Social Studies materials public comment

F. MEMORANDUMS

- Wordsmith recommendation memo for the following:
 - CTE: Business Management & Administration
 - K-12 Social Studies Curriculum
 - Secondary Social Studies Materials

F. GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

G. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Board Curriculum Committee Meetings

April 16, 2026



Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Board Curriculum Committee

Minutes of March 5, 2026

Mr. Doran called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. in the FNSBSD Administrative Center boardroom, 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, AK. Committee members attended in person and via Zoom.

Members Present:

Joshua Peter

Beth Zirbes

Kenli Donahou

Ed Paxson

Lynsy Carrell

Shiela Paraggua

Nonvoting Members:

Chane Beam

Tim Doran

Members Absent:

Heather McFarlin

Allyson Nicholson

Heather Stewart

Hannah Harp

Elisabeth Nadin

Guests:

Tara DeVaughn

Committee Support:

Pamela Metzger

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- Kenli motioned to approve the March 5, 2026 agenda, Shiela second.
- Agenda unanimously approved.

C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Kenli moved to approve January 8, 2026 minutes, Ed second.
- Without objection the minutes from February 5, 2026 were approved.

-Roll call completed, quorum established. Land Acknowledgement and Mission Statement read by Mr. Doran.

D. CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) UPDATE

Tara DeVaughn discussed the CTE timeline informing the committee that business management and administration will be out for public comment the week after spring break, so we will be able to go over public comment in April. The other two CTE clusters will be completed throughout the summer and go for public comment in the fall.

Tim: Looking at this, students are not required to take the AP exam to take the class?

Tara: Correct. Students are not required to take the AP exam for any AP class.

E. CURRICULUM UPDATES

Tara DeVaughn discussed curriculum updates to include public comment on draft three closes March 6, Social Studies materials have circulated through the schools for teachers to review, and some vendors meet with us or sent us videos to discuss the online features. Biggest changes for draft three are that U.S. History is two semesters long, from three semesters. This is the same for World History. Also the Wars and Conflicts class has become two semesters from one. It was meant to be two semesters as there is too much content for just one semester.

Tim: For the vendors, which did teachers lean towards?

Tara: Attendance was low as the timing is difficult with the end of third quarter. A survey was sent when materials were in buildings. Another survey will be sent this week for the teacher's final choice.

Chane: We spoke last time specifically that World History would be three semesters, but mostly it is two semesters from around the nation. The writers pulled back U.S. History and made it two. The biggest things with world history being three semesters would be scheduling, but also that not all three semesters would be taught at all schools. Students moving within our district could have gaps. Administratively it is recommended that world history be brought back to two semesters.

Tara: So World History 1 and 2 will make up now World History 1 and what was World History 3 is now World History 2.

Tim: For the record Beth has arrived.

Josh: What eras are covered now in world history?

Tara: Our world history covers from 500 to current.

Josh: It is very important that world history two or three is what got us here today.

Tara: Yes - it is 1900 to now and our current draft reflects two semesters.

Tim: To confirm world history three is now world history two.

Tara: Yes.

Kenli: I was having this conversation with some friends and we all agree that three semesters, also that U.S. History seems to be covered in World History.

Chane: I think that has a lot to do with the US becoming a world power as the US has involved.

Josh: Hopefully there is a way to make sure that the content is not too redundant or repetitive.

Tim: U.S. History perspective from the U.S. World History is more broad, but not too euro-centric. We are always adding and what do we take out? We have the same instruction days, there should be enough leeway to teach most but may not cover everything.

Chane: Teachers should cover everything, but most won't to the same depth. I heard a someone say not every standard is created equal.

Tim: We should express that in the guide, or highlight that.

Tim: For record, do we have any objections for taking World History back to two semesters?

Ed: I support this completely, glad the second semester focuses on the 20th century.

Tara: Public comment yielded four, but we usually receive less comments towards the end, all were positive for draft three. There is still choice as well, like schools and teachers can choose to teach U.S. History: Wars & Conflicts to meet graduation requirements. Draft three is out now, public comment closes tomorrow, and this will be the final draft we bring to the April meetings.

Chane: We will bring the recommendation letters, you will edit. Then the second meeting you vote to approve, then I write a letter and Tim presents it to the school board.

Tara: Now that we have had the vendor's virtual presentations, there is a list of vendors on the next slide, next is to gather additional feedback from teachers. How we had it set up is that middle school was per grade, so teachers would select which publisher they think fits the curriculum best. At high school teachers would pick which publisher they preferred per topic/class and filled out the google form. This week I will reach out and ask them to pick their top publisher. Public comment for the top two or three will be the week after spring break. Public comment for social studies materials will be in person, the public will have the ability to get into the online resources. Teaching and Learning will also be open to 6 p.m. one evening.

Ed: Wars & Conflicts becoming two semesters, which negates redundant, this was a good idea. It goes back to colonial days and change, makes the class interesting and strong.

Tara: This class came about from Lathrop and WVH with ROTC, peaking their interest. The course had too much for one semester, it will use the same book at U.S. History.

Tim: From a military perspective, I assume from the French Revolution to the 20th Century.

Tim: We will officially adjourn the meeting before we go downstairs to view materials so that those online do not have to wait around for us to come back and if some need to go they can.

Tara: The set-up is the same now as it will be for public comment, there are three publishers to look at: McGraw Hill, Savaas, and TCI. Samples of teacher books and students books, plus some extra pieces. Including AP choices. We won't have online access, but this will be available for public comment after spring break.

Ed: What will happen if no feedback on which AP world history book, district does not have one.

Tara: We have one, could change if not cared for. Most use a lot of support from the AP classroom.

Beth: When the textbook aligns it's great. If not, it is challenging.

Tara: College board recommends books, most, about a quarter take AP U.S History. We could pause on purchasing an AP textbook.

Tim: The materials we are going to look at, have been written in the last year or so, unlike our materials?

Tara: Correct.

Tim: Many have experience, what tips would you look for?

Tara: 1) How busy are the pages? Due graphics match what is being taught? Does the layout make sense?

2) What is the primary source access? Are they embedded? Online makes this easier.

3) How are we supporting different groups? IEP, English Language Learners, etc,

Chane: One thing I keep in mind is are the visuals easy enough for me to use as a teaching tool?

Reenforce content and can we teach the students to read the graph?

Beth: What does that entail?

Tara: Images, charts, graphs and such exist online allowing students to draw on them. However, limiting screen time, as this can be distracting. Can we be intentional with cognitive load, support teaching, and student learning.

Tara: Committee members for next week, Mon-Wed, could come see materials, the following week after spring break week is public comment.

Chane: As we have three teachers in the room, we want teachers' feedback on materials. Previously they didn't feel they had much say so in materials. Now we physically take books from school to school. The hope is that teachers will take time to put their input. As we aren't teaching in the classroom, we don't care which materials are selected. Teaching & Learning does not have an agenda, we are about the process. What we do want is that whatever materials are chosen, that folks use them. To get input and give feedback with colleges.

Tim: Curriculum is curriculum - not the materials. Materials support the curriculum. That is why there are separate adoptions, one for curriculum and one for materials.

Shiela: What is the length of contract with vendors?

Chane: Generally six years. Theoretically we will do Social Studies again in six years.

Shiela: Do they revise books during that time?

Chane: Yes, but we have the actual books, digital materials may update and most elementary materials are consumable.

Tara: Some publishers will update consumables, and we would get the new consumables, but we will still have the original textbooks.

Tim: Let's do round table comments:

Lynsy: I'm good.

Josh: I'm good.

Beth: I'm a math teacher - but two semesters seems good.

Ed: It will be interesting to see, in our April meeting, we will get results from textbook choice in April? I am especially interested in middle school.

Tara: Sixth grade teachers are very excited to have a physical book. As our current materials were from when sixth grade was in elementary, then moved up to middle school but no new materials. Interestingly high school and middle school did not pick the same publisher.

H. GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Tim: Let's do round table comments:

Lynsy: I'm good.

Josh: I'm good.

Beth: I'm a math teacher - but two semesters seems good.

Ed: It will be interesting to see, in our April meeting, we will get results from textbook choice in April? I am especially interested in middle school.

Tara: Sixth grade teachers are very excited to have a physical book. As our current materials were from when sixth grade was in elementary, then moved up to middle school but no new materials. Interestingly high school and middle school did not pick the same publisher.

Tim: During public comment at the School Board meeting, there were three people that spoke of the 250th year of the constitution founding. I spoke of at least three times throughout education that we cover the constitution and civics. Really learning civics throughout k-12. Depending on how much the teacher wants to cover, there will be a tradeoff. Not everything can be covered.

Tara: Teaching & Learning is located on the second floor for those of you that would like to review materials this evening.

I. ADJOURNMENT

-Without objection, motion to adjourn moved.

Tim adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE:

TO: FNSB Board of Education

FROM: Board Curriculum Committee

SUBJECT: Career and tEchnical Education - Business Management & Administration Curriculum

The Board Curriculum Committee supports the *CTE Business Management & Administration Curriculum* and **recommends it for adoption by the School Board.**

Our support of the proposed curriculum began at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year. The proposed curriculum has followed the established curriculum revision process outlined in [AR 910](#) (Curriculum Development). The curriculum writers worked to identify where the curriculum aligned to the following standards: Alaska's English/Language Arts, Mathematical, Science, Cultural, and Employability Standards and Technical Standards. It is based on the curriculum from Future Business Leaders of America.

Draft one of the *Business Management & Administration Curriculum* was made available for public review and comment in March 2026, feedback was solicited from a variety of stakeholders, including principles, teachers, parents, students, members of the community, representatives from local industry, and faculty from University of Alaska Fairbanks. Writers, CTE, and Teaching and Learning staff reviewed and considered all input. The Board Curriculum Committee reviewed the draft and discussed it as a group. The proposed curriculum reflects a lengthy process of thought, discussion, and research, and the final draft reflects the priorities of the Board's Strategic Plan.

At the April 16, 2026 meeting the Board Curriculum Committee voted to recommend draft one of the proposed *Business Management & Administration* be forwarded to the School Board for adoption. The committee supports the vision of providing opportunity and access in CTE coursework and postsecondary career planning for all students.

The Board Curriculum Committee thanks the curriculum writers for all their work. They have developed a document that is strong, clear, reflects the input of our district and community, and is aligned to state and industry standards.

Respectfully submitted by the FNSBSD Board Curriculum Committee.

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE:

TO: FNSB Board of Education

FROM: Board Curriculum Committee

SUBJECT: Social Studies Curriculum for Grades K-12

The Board Curriculum Committee supports the *Social Studies Curriculum* for grades K-12 and **recommends it for adoption by the School Board.**

Our support of the proposed *Social Studies Curriculum* began at the beginning of the 2025-26 school year and continued through each draft. The proposed curriculum has followed the established curriculum revision process outlined in [AR 910](#) (Curriculum Development). The curriculum writers worked to create a curriculum aligned to the Alaska Social Studies Standards.

Draft one of the *Social Studies Curriculum* was made available for public review and comment in August and September 2025. Feedback was solicited from a variety of stakeholders including principals, teachers, parents, students, members of the community, and faculty from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Curriculum writers reviewed and considered all input before revising the next draft. The Board Curriculum Committee also reviewed every draft and discussed each draft as a group. This process was repeated when draft two was released in December 2025 and when draft three was released at the end of February through the first week of March 2026. The proposed curriculum reflects a lengthy process of thought, discussion, and research, and the final draft reflects the priorities of the Board's Strategic Plan.

At the April 16, 2026 meeting the Board Curriculum Committee voted to recommend draft three of the proposed *Social Studies Curriculum* be forwarded to the School Board for adoption.

The Board Curriculum Committee thanks the curriculum writers for all their work. They have developed a document that is strong, clear, reflects the input of our district and community, and is aligned to state standards.

Respectfully submitted by the FNSBSD Board Curriculum Committee.

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE:

TO: FNSB Board of Education

FROM: Board Curriculum Committee

SUBJECT: Materials Recommendations

The Board Curriculum Committee supports the adoption of the materials recommended by the Teaching Learning Department for Social Studies as listed below.

District staff, parents, and the community had the opportunity to review sample materials and provide feedback. This committee also reviewed and discussed these materials. At the April 16, 2026 meeting the Board Curriculum Committee voted to recommend the School Board adopt the materials.

Respectfully submitted by the FNSBSD Board Curriculum Committee.

Curriculum Content Area	Course Name	Proposed Textbook Title	Publisher
Middle School	6th Grade: Ancient Civilizations	World History Early Ages	Savaas
	7th Grade: World Geography & Cultures	World Geography	
	8th Grade: U.S. History & Civics	American History Beginnings to 1877	
Alaska Studies	Alaska Studies		https://sites.google.com/g.kpbsd.org/alaskastudies/home?authuser=0
World Studies	World History 1 & 2	World History, Modern Times	McGraw Hill
	World Geography	Geography: The Human and Physical World	
	AP World History	Bentley, Traditions & Encounters, AP Edition	
United States Studies	U.S. History 1 & 2	United States History, Modern Times	McGraw Hill
	U.S. History: Wars and Conflicts 1 & 2	United States History, Modern Times	
	U.S. Civil Rights Experience	Civil Rights; A Global Perspective	
Government Studies	United States Government & Civic	United States Government & Civics	McGraw Hill
	U.S. Legal Systems	Street Law: A Course in Practical Law	
Contemporary Economic Studies	Economics and Financial Literacy	Economics	McGraw Hill
Electives	Psychology	Understanding Psychology, High School Edition	McGraw Hill