

## Nikiski Site Council Minutes

October 13, 2016

Called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Margaret Gilman

### Introduction of Members/Attendees

- Margaret Gilman, Garrett Coreson, John O'Brien, Karen Pala, Brian Lyke, Tanya Erwin, Ellen Kenna, Jeanne Nightingale, Sasha Fallon
- This meeting was advertised via Robocall on Wednesday, October 12, KPBSD and NNS Facebook pages

### Learning Goals for Tonight

- Understand the cuts the district has made the last 3 years
- Understand Fund Balance has been used to limit the impact of cuts and we're getting to the point where the use of fund balance won't be an option
- Realize if we do have to absorb a 10-20% in revenue for next year's budget, it will real change the way our schools look

Desired Outcomes for tonight include answers to answers to 3 questions

- What could we cut in our school or district to reduce expenditures 10-20%?
- What ways could we legally increase revenues?
  - PTA may communicate what we use tax money for and show how we are being good stewards of resources.
  - Parental involvement is critical; they need to communicate with legislators.
- Is there anything the district could provide that would help people understand the problem and help come up with solutions?
  - Laurie Olson may put together short videos to be made available to the public.

KPBSD superintendent Sean Dusek and KPBSD assistant superintendent Dave Jones were part of a PowerPoint that presented information about the fiscal situation. Afterward, Mrs. Gilman asked for questions and comments from meeting attendees about the PowerPoint. Some initial thoughts were:

- The school district knows we have to make cuts and are trying to do what's best for kids.
- A fiscal plan from state government leaders is needed.
- The presentations seemed a bit vague and lacked detail. Last year, there was almost too much information provided. This presentation as well as shorter videos are available on the district website.

- The public needs to call their legislators.
- The presentation had a balance of scary news and hopefulness. Appreciation for the district’s dialogue and it seems as if our voices are being heard.
- One parent mentioned how she appreciated the statement that the district is trying to keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. She also mentioned that at Headstart, they have experienced cuts as well. It is a challenge to keep things positive while dealing with grim numbers. They are seeing more and more behaviors with their students. They are helping teach parents how to be more effective parents.
- High quality public education is vital for all community members, not just parents and families.

Discussion of possible budget reductions suggested by NNS staff

Mrs. Gilman asked NNS staff for ideas on ways our school can reduce costs. She put all the ideas into a document that she passed out to meeting attendees. We had a few moments to read and consider the ideas. Our reactions were organized into two categories: things we must do and things we should cut

<u>Things We Should Keep/Do/Enact/Change</u>	<u>Things We Should Cut/Eliminate</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 day school week for students. Longer days, teachers work 5 days a week</li> <li>• SLP services</li> <li>• If students live within 5 miles or w amount of miles away/too far, no bussing provided.</li> <li>• No bussing for Kindergartners</li> <li>• ½ day for Kindergartners</li> <li>• Better communication with families and the public in general about ways that we are being good stewards of resources</li> <li>• Keep class sizes as they are; no increases in PTR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Consolidation is a possibility but more likely if funding rate at the state level changes</li> <li>• Clean up bus routes/smaller buses</li> <li>• Eliminate school sports and let outside agencies provide those services</li> <li>• Eliminate breakfast except for free and reduced meal recipients</li> <li>• Less custodial support-a discussion followed about how much time it actually takes to perform some their tasks. For example, if a child has an accident on the floor, that takes approximately 30 minutes. Teachers are already under</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider having a certified teacher as lead teacher over staff members with 1-year degrees, who would not cost as much as the certified teacher. Attendees didn't like this option. The student teaching experience weeds many people out. We also may be provided a lower quality of education</li> <li>• Information must come from parents, not the school</li> <li>• PTA will be very important in helping to communicate with the public and with our families about the current situation</li> </ul>	<p>great pressure with more and more on their plates. Do they really need to be responsible for cleaning their rooms as well?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer custodial supplies-no need for so many different chemicals</li> <li>• Foam trays at lunch. This would cut down on waste, garbage pickup, and consumables</li> <li>• No pay increase for Master's degrees, with the exception of those who already hold those degrees</li> <li>• Eliminate field trip funding. Currently, field trips are paid for with fundraisers</li> <li>• Eliminate consumables, such as the Social Studies and Health workbooks</li> <li>• Home lunches once a week. Money from the General Fund helps to cover food related costs-\$1 ½ million</li> </ul>
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An attendee asked about how much Special Education costs and where does that funding come from. SPED is largely state-funded but there is some federal funding as well. Intensive Needs (IN) students are funded at 16 times the amount of non-IN students.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30

Submitted by Tanya Erwin, NNS Site Council secretary