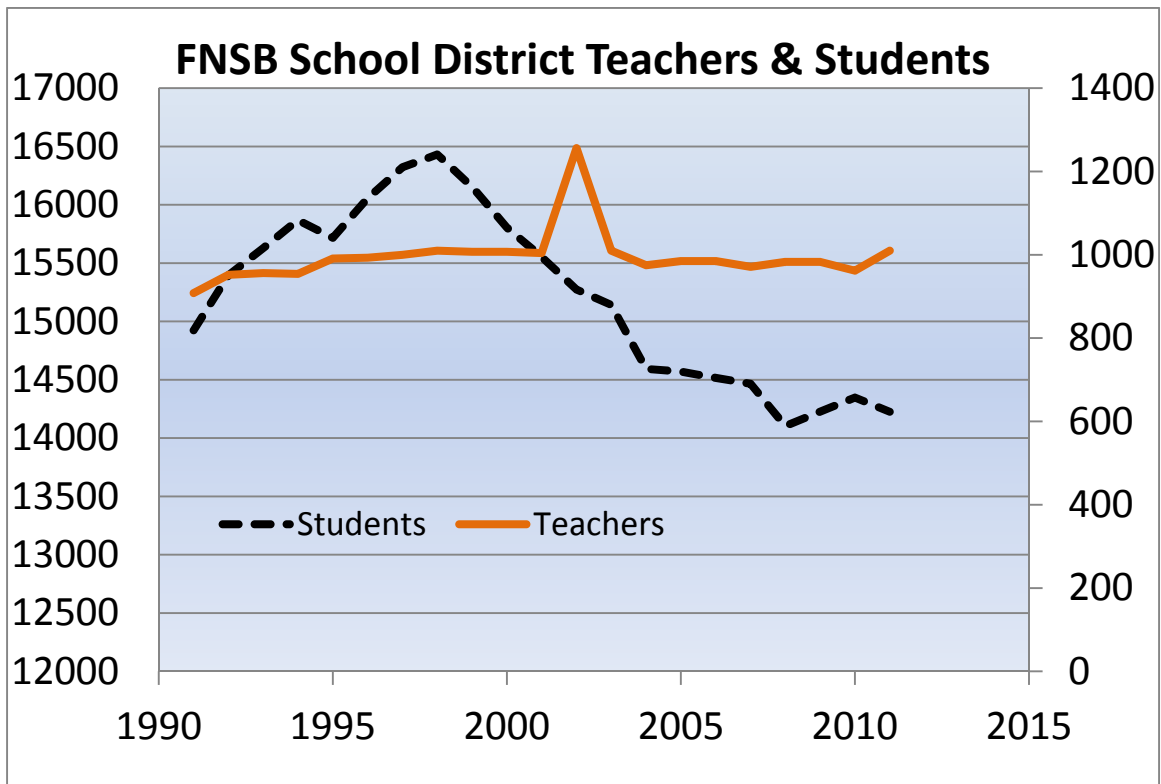


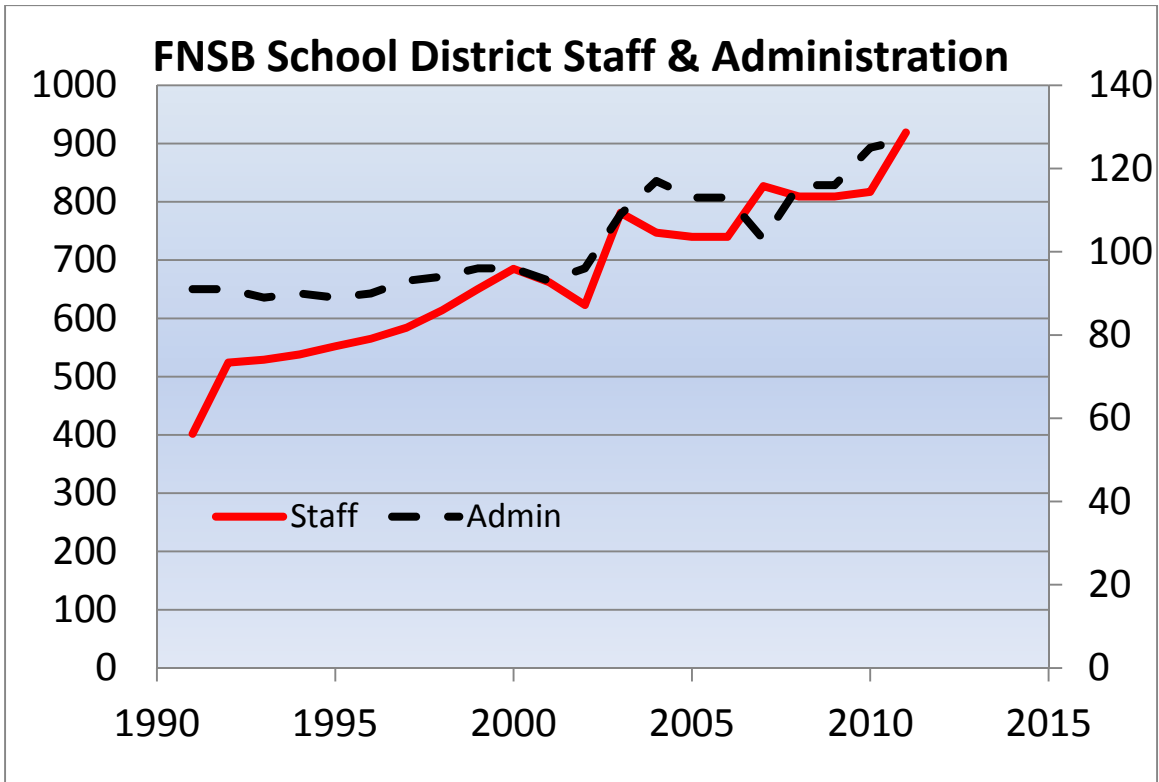
FNSB School District Trends (originally published in the Woodshed v.3 Issue 4 @April 2011)

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District has submitted their budget request to the FNSB Assembly. This year it is for \$47,359,300, up from \$46,522,700 last year. Is the request needed, and is it fiscally responsible? I've collated some data so that everyone can see where the money goes, and where it comes from. All data is taken from the last 20 years of FNSBSD's Fingertip Facts, which is a great document put out every year by the School District that shows the various financial and employment statistics.

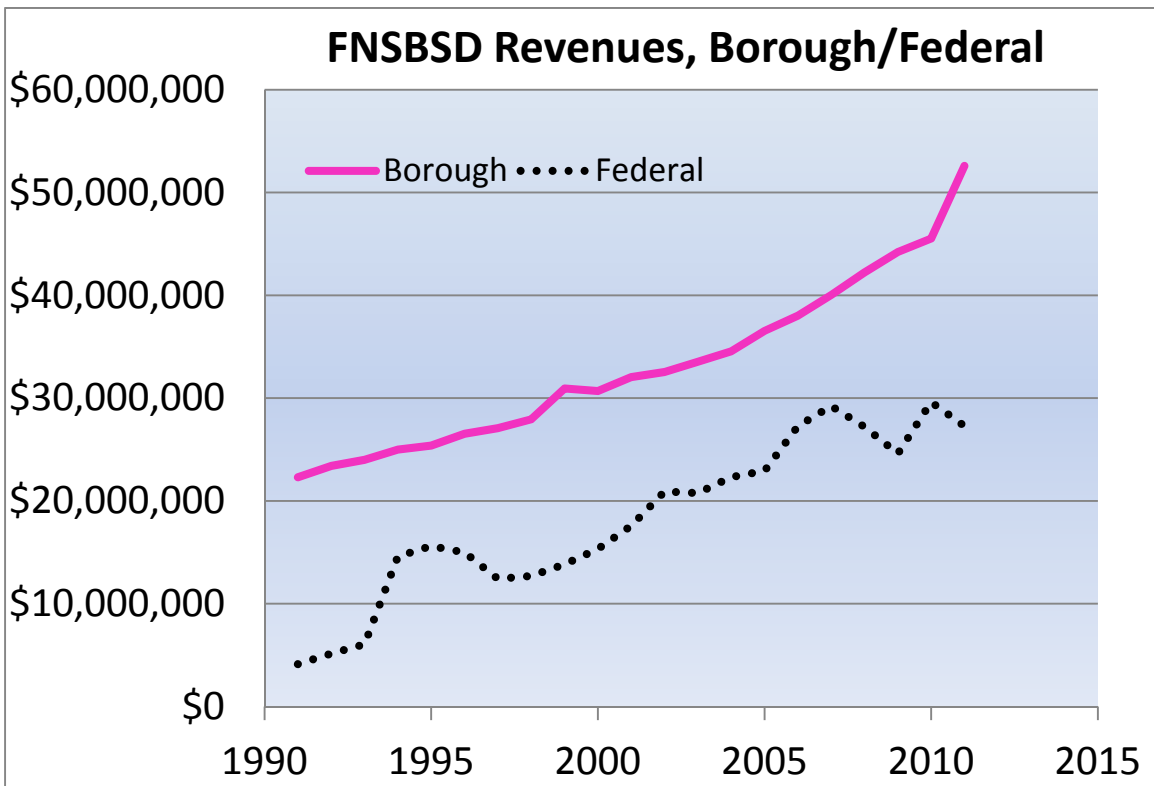
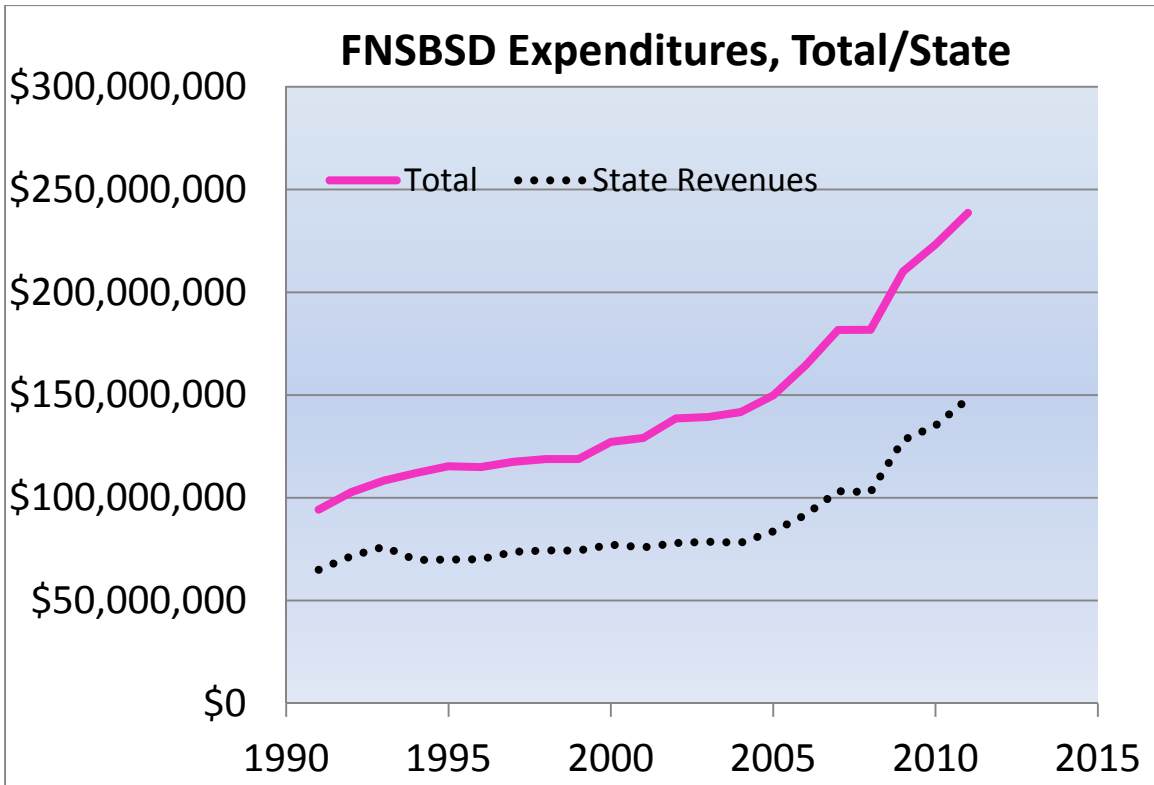
The first chart shows the number of Students and number of Teachers. The scale for the Students is on the left, and the one for Teachers on the right. The data shows that the Student population has decreased by 698 students (5%) in the last twenty years. The quantity of Teachers has increased by 102 teachers (11%) in that same time frame.



The second chart is the real eye opener. It shows the number of Staff and Administrators. The scale for the Staff is on the left, and the one for Administrators on the right. It shows that number of Administrators has increased by 36 (40%). The number of Staff has more than doubled in the last 20 years, increasing by 517 for a total of 129%.



The third chart shows the total amount spent by the School District. The three main sources of revenue are the Borough, State and Federal governments. The revenues acquired from the State are also shown in the third chart. The fourth chart shows the revenues from the Federal and Borough governments. The FNSBSD budget has increased \$92.4 million to \$238.7 million in the last twenty years, for an increase of 153%. As you can see from the Budget numbers, the revenues have been increasing from every sector, thereby showing that the increase in Borough funding from \$22.3 million to \$52.6 million (and increase of \$30.3 million, 136%) was not to “make up” for decreases in other areas. It’s just more gravy. It also shows that in the last decade and especially in the last few years, the budget has started to increase at an extreme rate.



The data shown here really points out that in the last decade and especially in the last few years, the School District budget has started to increase at an extreme rate. Is this rate of increase sustainable? Is it justifiable when the student population has been decreasing? Why, when the proponents of increasing the budget for the School District ask for more money, do they talk about how teachers should be paid well for their hard work, but yet the money isn't really going to the teachers? Why can't the School District tighten their belts like everyone else?

In the future, we can see the Federal government having to tighten up its excessive deficit spending ways and less money being given for education. We all know that the pipeline will be running out of oil in the next decade if nothing changes, so that the State will have much less money to be giving the School Districts. If we don't tighten our belts now and start cutting back, then our economy will be hit extremely hard when these events take place. Now is the time to prepare for the future, and being fiscally conservative is the way to prepare for it. Please let your Borough Assembly know at the May 5th meeting, or by email at assembly@co.fairbanks.ak.us that you would like them to trim the budget to at least last year's level.