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To: jburgess@nomeschools.org

Thu, Oct 1, 2026 at 8:14 AM

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2026 Outstanding School Board Award Nomination

The Outstanding School Board Award is designed to reflect and honor a school board's involvement in AASB's Board Standards. **A School Board can self-nominate OR a School Board could nominate another School Board for this award.**

This award is presented at the Annual Conference awards luncheon (Friday, November 6th, 2026).

In order to be eligible, a nominated school board:

- Must be a member board in good standing of AASB
- Have formally adopted AASB's Board Standards

The Awards Committee will consider the following criteria:

- Community Engagement (10 points)
- Level of AASB Professional Development Program (7 points)
- Participation in State and National Activities (10 points)
- Evidence of Growth in Student Achievement (15 points)
- Demonstrated Evidence of Leadership as measured against AASB School Board Standards (25 points)

Nomination forms will be accepted through Friday, October 2nd, 2026.

Please reach out to phoepefner@asb.org if you have any questions or concerns about the status of your submitted application.

Email *

jburgess@nomeschools.org

Name of Individual Submitting Form *

Jamie Burgess

Name of School District You Are Nominating *

Nome Public Schools ▼

SELECTION CRITERIA

The following identifies specific criteria to be considered when nominating the school board for the Outstanding School Board Award. Identify and document pertinent items for the Awards Committee to consider when making their selection. The award criteria references the board in office prior to the current election.

Community Engagement

Describe actions the board has taken that have resulted in positive change in the community. Examples could include partnerships with other organizations, school sponsored community events, forums, community dialogues, or family engagement partnerships.

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Board members are deeply engaged in a variety of community organizations and events. Examples include participation in our Regional Wellness Forum, the Bering Strait Leadership Team, Alaska Family Engagement Center (Board), and many others. The Regional Wellness Forum is comprised of leaders from around the Bering Strait Region to coordinate efforts to address such concerns as suicide, fentanyl overdose prevention, substance abuse and healthy lifestyles. The Bering Strait Leadership Team is comprised of the heads of governmental and tribal organizations to address regionwide issues and concerns. The

BSL'T's recent focus on the lack of housing in the region has resulted in building of both multifamily and single family homes in Nome, scheduled to add over 100 new housing units by the end of 2026. The Alaska Family Engagement Center is dedicated to improving the quality of families engaging with their local school districts, giving them a stronger voice in decisions at both the school and district level.

In addition, Board members have been directly involved in bringing cultural education to Nome Public Schools' staff members during preservice and inservice opportunities. They also have coordinated and provided cultural activities during Indigenous People's Day activities in our schools and also with community celebrations, as well as similar activities all year round. One Board member serves on the Native Movement Advisory Board and World Eskimo Indian Olympics, and officiates at the NYO state tournament. Our Board values involvement and support for NYO.

One of our Board members teaches dual enrollment courses in indigenous language and educational history for our high school students, and another teaches cultural courses that would not otherwise be available to our community.

One of our Board members is also a very active volunteer coach with our basketball team, and another is our basketball team announcer! Board members act as judges for student events such as our Science Fairs, present in assemblies, teach cultural classes for students, and co-sponsor afterschool clubs at our elementary school. Supporting culturally affirming instruction and education has long been a Board goal, and our Board members are active in supporting that by interacting directly with students and staff in pursuit of this goal.

Our Board has supported student voice and choice, ensuring there is financial support for students to attend AASB student leadership opportunities, as well as having a very active student representative to the School Board.

The School Board is also very proud of its work on our Portrait of a Graduate, which has required significant community input as it has developed a strong picture of what our community desires from our schools.

Tribal consultation has been a strong focus for the Board to ensure tribal governments have their legal and moral right to provide input and guidance for decision-making at the district level.

Professional Development: Level of AASB Boardsmanship Award Program *

Board members progress through **Boardsmanship Award Levels** based on their engagement in Board professional development activities - eg. AASB trainings (local or statewide events), superintendent search participation, involvement with AASB committees. Points are awarded based on the highest level each member has achieved: one point for **Basic**, three points for **Excellence**, five points for **Masters**, and seven points for **Lifetime Achievement**.

AASB staff can help determine which award level each board member has reached.

Each board member's points will be added together and then divided by the total number of board members to get the final score.



I understand that AASB staff will calculate the boardsmanship points on behalf of this nomination

Participation in State and National Activities *

Identify activities with which the board or individual members have been involved on a state and national level. This could include AASB committees, AASB Board of Directors, state task forces or committees (on behalf of the school board), participation in NSBA events and committees. Provide the name of the committee, task force, or meeting and dates. Include board member(s) name, activity, and length of time.

Darlene Trigg - AASB Resolutions Committee Chair, Sustainability Committee Member, June Nelson Scholarship Committee, Chair of AdHoc Tribal Committee, and current AASB President-Elect, Nome Community Center Board. Has attended NSBA 2026 Leadership Summit and NSBA Annual Meeting.

Kunaq Tahbone - AASB Budget Committee, NACTEC Advisory Board

Sigvanna Tapqaq - President-Elect for the Alaska Bar Association, Alaska Legal Services Board of Directors, Alaska Bar Foundation Board of Trustees, AASB Policy Committee and AASB AdHoc Tribal Committee, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Inuit Youth Engagement Program participant, Nome City Councilman (6 years), Nome Re-Entry Coalition, Bering Sea Womens' Group Board of Directors and Board President for 2 years, Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors, Governor of Alaska Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

Jon Gregg - City of Kotzebue Alcohol and Marijuana Control Board, Alaska Society for Healthcare Engineering member

Evidence of growth in student achievement

Please email phoeppfner@aab.org supporting documentation showing the board has identified student achievement as a priority in its goals or strategic plan.

Examples of documents to submit via email:

- District Report Card (DEED)
- Graduation rate data over multiple years
- MAP (or other standardized) assessment scores showing trends
- Board goals or strategic plan excerpts referencing student achievement priorities
- Any other data showing consistent or improving results over time

Requirements:

- Files must be in .pdf format
- Maximum of 5 files
- Data should show a trend or comparison (e.g., multi-year results), not a single snapshot, since the goal is demonstrating growth

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I understand that I need to send a separate email to phoeppfner@aab.org containing the documents listed above in order for my submission to be complete.

Demonstrated evidence and leadership as measured against BOARD STANDARDS

VISION: The Board Creates a Shared Vision to Enhance Student Achievement

1.1 Board develops a dynamic shared vision for education that reflects student needs and community priorities.

1.2 Board keeps the district and community focused on educating students.

1.3 Board demonstrates its strong commitment to vision by using the shared vision to guide decision making.

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Identify how the board has been actively involved in achieving the Vision standard for the district.

The Board actively participates in the Strategic Plan process, and requires that Principal and Director reports link to the Board's priorities and goals, and has developed the Strategic Equity Framework to ensure district and school initiatives and leadership are focused on addressing historic inequities for Alaska Native children in the K-12 school system. The Board engages in an annual planning process to set priorities for the school district for the subsequent year for school and site administration guidance.

STRUCTURE: The Board Provides a Structure that Supports the Vision

2.1 Board establishes a management system that results in effective decision making processes and enables all the people to help the district achieve its vision and make the best use of its resources.

2.2 Board ensures that long and short term plans are developed and annually revised through a process involving extensive participation, information gathering, research, and reflection.

2.3 Board sets high instructional standards based on the best available information about the knowledge and skills students will need in the future.

2.4 Board acts to ensure vision and structure comply with legal requirements.

2.5 Board encourages and supports innovative approaches to teaching, learning, and the continuous renewal of education.

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Identify how the board has been actively involved in achieving the Structure standard for the district.

The Strategic Planning process is extensive and involves a wide variety of stakeholders. In addition, the development of the Strategic Equity Framework and the new Portrait of a Graduate provide guidance and structure to district and school leadership as well as the Board when considering selection of new initiatives and programs, decisions on operations and instruction, budget priorities, professional development for staff, and even the hiring process. The Board is working hard to improve culturally relevant instruction and curriculum

in the District. The Board empowers the Superintendent to engage in this work and be creative in leveraging district resources while still holding them accountable for results and reporting.

ACCOUNTABILITY: The Board Measures District Performance Toward Accomplishing the Vision and Reports the Results to the Public

3.1 Board receives regular reports on student progress and needs based on a variety of assessments to evaluate the quality and equity of the educational program.

3.2 Board evaluates the superintendent and board performance annually and reports the result to the public.

3.3 Board ensures long and short term plans are evaluated and revised with the needs of students in mind.

3.4 Board uses an understandable format to periodically report district performance to the public.

Identify how the board has been actively involved in achieving the Accountability standard for the district.

The Board conducts annual and transparent superintendent evaluations, annually reviews state and local assessment results (AK Star, MAP, DIBELS) as well as other data such as attendance rates, the School Climate and Connectedness Survey results, and ensures the Superintendent and other district and school leadership make that information available to the public through Board reports, newsletters, and other public communication channels. The Board ensures the Superintendent completed the Annual Report Card to the Public, as well as all required reporting requirements for the Alaska Department of Education. The school principals also develop an annual School Improvement Plan (regardless of official SI status with the Department of Education) and present progress mid-year and end of year. The work on the Portrait of a Graduate will allow the District to conduct other measures which are not academic in nature, but also look at our progress in developing the whole child, and see progress towards goals which do not depend on standardized assessments.

ADVOCACY: The Board Champions The Vision

4.1 Board leads in celebrating the achievements of students and accomplishments of others who contribute to education.

4.2 Board advocates for children and families and establishes strong relationships with parents and other mentors to help support students.

4.3 Board establishes partnerships with individuals, groups, and organizations to promote educational opportunities for all students.

4.4 Board promotes school board service as a meaningful way to make long term contributions to the local community and society.

4.5 The board is proactive in identifying and addressing issues that affect the education of students.

Identify how the board has been actively involved in achieving the Advocacy standard for the district.

The Nome Public School Board is active in a variety of local organizations as shared in the Community Engagement section, communicates regularly with the Superintendent regarding concerns or issues impacting students locally, statewide and nationally, such as eRate, internet security, bullying, school funding, etc. and is active in suggesting solutions, engaging in advocacy, and communicating to the public. Our Board members are well-known within our community, and actively promote themselves as representatives and conduits and families and other community members regularly engage with them to share concerns and thoughts. One of the Board's favorite portions of our Board meetings is student celebrations, and regularly invites students who have participated in local, state and national events to share their stories and be recognized for their achievements. This includes Educators Rising, Alaska Science Fair winners, essay winners, and recognizing students who have displayed achievements in academics, sports, cultural activities, leadership and character development. Nome Public Schools Board members have been instrumental in strengthening the process of tribal consultation, not only locally but through work on the AASB policy committee, to ensure tribes have a strong voice in decision making processes at both the district and site level. The Board has also been active in working towards the creation of the STEC (State Tribal Education Compact) schools.

Board members also engage regularly in advocacy work with the Alaska State Legislature to ensure the rural voice is heard; working not only with the district's representative and senator, but also with legislative members from across the state.

CONDUCT & ETHICS: The Board and Its Individual Members Conduct District Business In a Fair, Respectful, and Responsible Manner

5.1 Board and its individual members act in a manner that reflects service to the community on behalf of students.

5.2 Board demonstrates a commitment to continually improving teamwork, problem solving, and decision making skills through a conscious program of board development.

5.3 Expenditures for board activities are clearly identified in the budget, related to the district vision, and open to public scrutiny.

Identify how the board has been actively involved in achieving the Conduct and Ethics Standard.

The Board regularly attends AASB meetings and trainings, engages in Board retreats and trainings locally, and actively participates in AASB committees and leadership opportunities in order to grow their knowledge and practice as school Board members.

The Board holds work sessions and town halls, and actively works to invite community members to discuss decisions, especially with regards to budget development. The Board conducts a joint work session with the City Council each year to develop open lines of communication and the creation of joint priorities to encourage high levels of funding from the City, and to make the budget development process transparent to all.

The Board also engages in regular self-evaluations in the area of superintendent and Board responsibilities to ensure they are focused on the Board's legal areas of governance and to allow the Superintendent to engage in administration of the school district, while keeping accountability measures in place through the superintendent evaluation process and regular Board member/Superintendent conversations.

SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT

Name of Nominating District *

Nome Public Schools ▼

Name of Nominating School Board President or Designee *

Jamie Burgess, Superintendent

Nominating School Board President or Designee Email Address *

jburgess@nomeschools.org

Nominating School Board President or Designee Phone Number *

907-443-6191

