

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 10, 2026
5:32 pm
NES Library/Zoom

Member Trigg called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm Tuesday, March 10, 2026 with a quorum present.

Mrs. Korenek-Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance in Inupiaq.

Member Trigg read the Nome Public Schools Mission Statement.

School Board Members Present:

Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone (excused)	Darlene Trigg	Jon Gregg (arrived at 5:52 pm)
Nancy Mendenhall	Sigvanna Tapqaq (via Zoom)	
Student Representative, Sara James		

Others in attendance included:

Jamie Burgess	Alisha Papineau	Genevieve Hollins (via Zoom)
Karen Dixon (via Zoom)	Mary Donaldson (via Zoom)	Heidi Secor (via Zoom)
Jill Peters (via Zoom)	Jennifer Shreve	Jim Shreve
Elizabeth Korenek-Johnson	Ariana Crockett O’Harra	Presten Sund
Alexander Nelson	Kaya Kent	Holly Harlow
Erika Rhodes	Renee Brown	Teriscovkya Smith
Emily Annas		

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Mendenhall moved to approve the agenda with the removal of I.1. Approval of FY27 Budget.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone: (excused)	Darlene Trigg: yes	Jon Gregg: (excused)
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	
Sara James (Advisory Vote): yes		

CONSENT AGENDA

Member Mendenhall moved to approve the minutes from Regular Meeting: February 12, 2026; the February 2026 disbursements; the February 2026 Gifts, Grants and Bequests; the February 2026 personnel report; approval of out of state staff travel; and approval of out of state student travel.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone: (excused)	Darlene Trigg: yes	Jon Gregg: (excused)
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	
Sara James (Advisory Vote): yes		

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence included was a letter to the school board from Keane Richards; and the ASAA review conclusion for February 6-7 varsity basketball games.

INTRODUCTIONS OF GUESTS AND VISITORS

NONE

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

NBMHS Principal, Teriscovkya Smith celebrated students Alayniya Dixon and Presten Sund.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Student Council Vice President, Renee Brown advocated for Rachel Finney to be hired as the Drama Club teacher.

Student Council Public Relations Officer, Angela Omedelina echoed Ms. Brown's comment and advocated for a Drama Club teacher.

NEA President, Rachel Ventress discussed concerns shared by NEA members regarding repeatedly using teacher employment as bargaining chips in financial negotiations. The association strongly urged the district to cease prioritizing other spending above teachers

NBMHS teacher and parent, Erika Rhodes thanked the school board for what they do for the students. Mrs. Rhodes recommended offering reproductive education starting in 3rd or 4th grade. She also recommended combining Nome-Beltz Middle School with ACSA so students that age group can interact with each other daily.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Burgess reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS

Student Representative, Sara James reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

NEA Representative, Sarah Liben reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

NES Principal, Michelle Carton reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

ACSA Principal, Emily Annas reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

NBMHS Principal, Teriscovkya Smith reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

Director of SPED, Mary Donaldson reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

Director of Technology, Jim Shreve reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

Director of Federal Programs, Karen Dixon reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

Director of Facilities, Jonathan Duarte reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes.

CFO, Genevieve Hollins reported. The report is attached to the original of these minutes. Discussion followed.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

NONE

ACTION ITEMS

Member Gregg moved to approve a contract for Mrs. Jennifer Shreve for Assistant Principal at Nome Elementary School.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone: (excused)	Darlene Trigg: yes	Jon Gregg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	
Sara James (Advisory Vote): yes		

Member Mendenhall moved to approve the special education provider contracts for FY27 as presented.

The motion carried by a roll call vote with the following results:

Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone: (excused)	Darlene Trigg: yes	Jon Gregg: yes
Nancy Mendenhall: yes	Sigvanna Tapqaq: yes	
Sara James (Advisory Vote): yes		

BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Representative, Sara James emphasized the importance of supporting teachers.

Member Gregg thanked Mrs. Hollins for being a part of the City Council joint work session and thanked Superintendent Burgess for how she handled the meeting.

Member Mendenhall brought up she had an issue receiving the board packet electronically.

Member Trigg announced that the National Association of School Boards Executive Director would be retiring and are recruiting.

Member Trigg thanked Superintendent Burgess and Member Tapqaq for attending the Legislative Fly-In. Member Trigg brought up that she is frustrated budget has been an issue every year she's been on the school board. She acknowledged that others are frustrated as well.

Superintendent Burgess mentioned the changes within city management and city council has affected the schools budget and timeline. Superintendent Burgess sympathized with teachers frustrations.

Superintendent Burgess gave recognition that teachers are working hard and doing their best.

Superintendent Burgess announced the March 24th work session would also be a special meeting.

Superintendent Burgess announced that next week would be spring break.

Superintendent Burgess thanked the board members who showed up to advocate with the city.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday, March 24, Special Meeting/Work Session, 5:30 pm, NES Library
- Tuesday, April 14, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NES Library/Zoom
- Tuesday, April 28, Work Session, 5:30 pm, NES Library
- Tuesday, May 12, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NES Library/Zoom
- Tuesday, May 26, Work Session, 5:30 pm, NES Library
- Tuesday, June 9, Regular Meeting, 5:30 pm, NES Library/Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

Member Gregg moved to adjourn at 6:55 pm.

Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone Date
President, Board of Education

Darlene Trigg Date
Vice President/Clerk, Board of Education