



**North Slope Borough School District Board of Education
Archie K. Brower Conference Room, Central Office
Utqiagvik, AK**

**Unapproved Minutes
Special Meeting
September 2, 2021
4:15 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Qaiyaan Harcharek, Board President, called the Board of Education Special Meeting to order at 4:19 p.m. in the Archie K. Brower Conference Room in North Slope Borough School District Central Office and ZOOM Video Communications.

FLAG SALUTE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL:

Nora Jane Burns – Present
Madeline Hickman – Present
Frieda Nageak– Present
Robyn Burke- Present

Caitlin Montague – Present
Nancy Rock – Present
Qaiyaan Harcharek - Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Nancy Rock MOVED to APPROVE the agenda. Madeline Hickman SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: ASNA Representative, Alaska School Health & Safety Representative, District staff, and Community members were present.

COVID-19 SCHOOL STATUS includes presentations from Barbara Pennington and Mishelle Nace with School Health & Safety, and discussion with Martha Monin and Richard Hall with ASNA.

In addition, Principals were available to discuss the mitigation plans and strategies within their school at different statuses.

Points of discussion regarded mitigation plans, protocols, first contact, contact tracing, exceptions, vaccinations, quarantining, food service, mask wearing, proper technology, student activities and sports, potential extra precautions, and funding.

Robyn Burke MOVED the following: It's the responsibility of the Board to ensure that our schools are providing a safe learning environment for students, as well as the staff, and the rising number of children testing positive for COVID is alarming; and as such, I move that Utqiagvik Schools be placed in a temporary closure from September 7 to September 21, a two week period, with a tentative return date of September 22, 2021. Caitlin Montague SECONDED the motion. Discussion called. Question called. The motion carried in a roll call vote of seven in favor, and zero against.

Board member Robyn Burke requested the community follow mitigation strategies to slow the spread of coronavirus; social distance; limit gatherings; wear face masks in public spaces; and receive testing if experiencing symptoms. In addition, sanitize the schools, and make adjustments to the mitigation as necessary, with packet based work for parents as the District is not currently equipped for technology based distance delivery. Board member Qaiyaan Harcharek reiterated that this temporary school closure is a reset for the community, and to schedule a workshop with Principals to detail a mitigation plan for the

District. Board member Caitlin Montague requested clarification of Sports with confirmation from Superintendent Richard Carlson that sports activities will be suspended until the schools in Utqiagvik re-open. Board member Qaiyaan Harcharek reiterated that food service will not be available in order to keep staff safe during this quarantining period.

Nora Jane Burns – Yes
Madeline Hickman – Yes
Frieda Nageak– Yes
Robyn Burke- Yes

Caitlin Montague – Yes
Nancy Rock – Yes
Qaiyaan Harcharek – Yes

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS: Board member Frieda Nageak thanked the Board for ensuring the safety of students and staff and by working together, the spread will slow. Board member Qaiyaan Harcharek reiterated that the work shop would include the Principals, and asked that the Principals invite staff members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Volleyball Coach and Alumni of Barrow High School, Crystal Lynn Tu'ai, requested clarification of sports activities and practice. Board President Qaiyaan Harcharek clarified that there will be no activities at school sites; and further clarified by Superintendent Richard Carlson that travel is also cancelled during the closure. Atqasuk School Advisory Council President, Veronica Neakok, thanked the Board for the meeting and mitigation planning meeting. Community Member, Heidi Ahsoak, thanked the Board for the meeting and improved communication and requested the improved communication continue, and continue screening and testing students. Community member, Stephanie Lozano, requested the schools improve tracking which students are sent home and adjoining family members that are kept home. Community member, Isabel Edwardsen, expressed concern on the vaccination percentage among staff and requested the District promote vaccination among staff members. Board member Caitlin Montague announced the availability of vaccines on Saturday at the clinic. Board member Robyn Burke announced the weekly lottery the State is holding to encourage residents to vaccinate. Community member, Debby Edwardson, requested the Board require vaccinations. Staff member, Jeffrey Prothero, inquired on policy for employee vaccinations. Alyssa G., Volleyball team member, requested the District not shut down sports activities whose members are fully vaccinated. School Advisory Council President, Justina Wilhelm, inquired of having a School Advisory Council member invited to the mitigation worksession discussion and is confirmed by Board President Qaiyaan Harcharek. Staff member, Timothy Taylor, requested an agenda item for an upcoming inservice dedicated to the mitigation plans and expectations. Board President Qaiyaan Harcharek reiterated that the work session with Principals, teachers, and School Advisory Council members will and should be managed in a way to be most efficient and inclusive.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 9, 2021 Regular Meeting, Archie K. Brower Conference Room/ZOOM Video Communications in Utqiagvik, AK.

ADJOURNED AT 7:07 P.M. Qaiyaan Harcharek MOVED to ADJOURN. The meeting stands adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for the October 7, 2021 Regular Meeting:

Chelsie Overby, Board Secretary

Qaiyaan Harcharek, Board President

Nancy Rock, Board Clerk

Date