



**North Slope Borough School District Board of Education
ZOOM Video Communication
Utqiagvik, AK**

**Unapproved Minutes
Special Meeting
January 28, 2021
5:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Qaiyaan Harcharek, Board President, called the Board of Education Special Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on 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

Muriel Brower – Present
Nancy Rock – Present
Qaiyaan Harcharek - Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Muriel Brower MOVED to APPROVED the Agenda with the addition of Public Comments. Robyn Burke SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: District staff and Community members were present.

CONTRACT OVER 10K, BROADBAND LEGAL STRATEGIES, LLC is presented by Chief Financial Officer Fadil Limani. In accordance with applicable Board policy 3312, contracts and MOA's \$10,000 or greater require Board approval. In addition, Board Policy 9124, provides the School Board may use the services of private attorneys to meet the needs of the district. The Board-appointed legal counsel shall render legal advice to the Superintendent or designee and the Board and perform other administrative duties as assigned by the Board and Superintendent or designee. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation created in 1997 to collect universal service contributions from telecommunications carriers and administer universal support mechanisms (programs) designed to help communities across the country secure access to affordable telecommunications services. USAC carries out its functions as the administrator of the federal universal service programs and Universal Service Fund (USF) under the oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). USAC administers universal service programs for high cost companies in rural areas, low-income consumers, rural health care providers, and schools and libraries. The universal service Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as "E-rate," provides discounts of up to 90 percent to help eligible schools and libraries in the United States obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access. The program is intended to ensure that schools and libraries have access to affordable telecommunications and information services. Eligible participants include public and most non-profit K-12 schools as well as all public and many private libraries. Program participants may request funding in five categories of service: Telecommunications, Telecommunications Services, Internet Access, Internal Connections, and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections. Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served and range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services. Historically, the District has utilized the services of SERRC Alaska Educational Resources Center surrounding the overall E-Rate management and submission of required

state and federal forms including with the assistance of the E-Rate Application. USAC denied the District's E-Rate application which was submitted in March of 2020 for funding year 2020 (FY21 for NSBSD). The anticipated E-Rate Revenue for FY21 is expected at approximately \$4.4 million. The Scope of Services for Broadband Legal Strategies, LLC will provide a limited-scope engagement to represent and advise North Slope Borough School District with respect to an E-rate funding denial and possible recovery action by the Universal Service Administrative Company.. The contract will commence upon adoption of this memo and execution of the engagement letter and the length of the agreement is yet to be determined. This contract will be funded under the Legal Services Account 100.200.511.000.414 and the estimated not to exceed is \$15,000. Compliance with Board Policy 3311 is not applicable as the dollar amount of the contract is less than \$20,000. The available budget for account code 100.200.511.000.414 has an unexpended budget balance of \$19,986.19. Additional details, the scope of representation, and detail of attorney fees is included in the engagement letter.

The points of discussion include: Financial impact to the District; timeline of appeal; and an overview to be provided at the next regular meeting.

Robyn Burke MOVED that the NSBSD Board of Education APPROVE the above \$10,000 and greater proposal for Broadband Legal Strategies, LLC, as described in this memo and related engagement letter. Nora Jane Burns SECONDED the motion. Discussion called. Question called. The motion carried in a roll-call vote of seven yes, zero no.

Nora Jane Burns – Yes

Madeline Hickman – Yes

Frieda Nageak– Yes

Robyn Burke- Yes

Muriel Brower – Yes

Nancy Rock – Yes

Qaiyaan Harcharek – Yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS were provided by community members in regards to internet connectivity and increased cost to attend classes through ZOOM; social/emotional impacts on their children; lack of effective education retention; improvement of communication on transition plans for school re-opening; and community requests for school re-opening in Utqiagvik.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS: Board members thanked the families for their public comments in regards to school re-opening; the extended amount of time students have not attended school in-person; teachers for their diligent work in the student packets and videos; and to remain positive. Board member Muriel Brower expressed concern regarding a limited amount of students allowed in school facilities in relation to staff. Board member Madeline Hickman expressed concern for the lack of social/emotional expression for students and understanding of each families frustration. Board member Qaiyaan Harcharek referenced internet connectivity, cost to families, and additional options from local organizations for internet relief.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 4, 2021 Budget Hearing and Wednesday, February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting in Utqiagvik, AK on ZOOM Video Communications.

ADJOURNED AT 6:18 P.M. Nora Jane Burns MOVED to adjourn. The meeting stands adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for the March 11, 2021 Regular Meeting:

Board Secretary

Board President

Board Clerk

Date