

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** NWABSD Board of Education  
Members

**DATE:** August 26, 2025

**NUMBER:** 26-028

**FROM:** Office of the Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Funding  
Request to the Northwest  
Arctic Borough for the  
Playground Replacement  
and Refurbishment Project

### **ABSTRACT**

Approval by the School Board is required to request funding from the Northwest Arctic Borough for the Playground Replacement and Refurbishment Project.

### **ISSUE**

At issue is approval to request funding from the Northwest Arctic Borough for the Playground Replacement and Refurbishment Project and delegation of authority to the Superintendent to manage the project.

### **BACKGROUND AND/OR PERTINENT INFORMATION**

In Summer 2024, District's Capital Improvements Projects Manager was requested to do an analysis of the condition of the existing playgrounds across the district. The intent was to establish a baseline condition of each playground and determine funding requirements to replace and refurbish playgrounds as needed.

From this effort, playgrounds were divided into categories per level of need as noted below.

1. No work needed – Kivalina's playground is new, and Deering's will be replaced with the new school.
2. Swing set parts or other broken parts or pieces replaced only – Ambler, Kiana, and Shungnak
3. Replacement of broken equipment and parts of swing sets – Buckland, Kobuk, Selawik and Noatak.
4. Replacement of whole play structures, swing sets and adding Safety Surface – Noorvik, and JNES.

An estimate of \$615,000 has been established for this work. Installing code compliant safety surfacing at three schools is roughly one third of the overall cost. Historically, local sources have been used to provide safety surfacing and have often not met the depth or material specifications needed to be code compliant. This was done due to the playground surface being covered by snow most of the year. The playgrounds are not only school playgrounds but are typically the only playground in the community. Installing code compliant safety surfacing is recommended when playgrounds receive major overhauls. For this project that would include Noorvik and JNES.

Grant funding from Northwest Arctic Borough has been discussed in past JMCC meetings and may be a funding opportunity. To move forward, the Superintendent requires Board approval to request funding from the Borough and delegation of authority to manage the project if funding is received.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve funding request to the Northwest Arctic Borough not to exceed \$615,000 for the Playground Replacement and Refurbishment Project of playgrounds across the district and delegation of authority to the Superintendent to manage the project, as presented.
2. Do not approve funding request to the Northwest Arctic Borough not to exceed \$615,000 for the Playground Replacement and Refurbishment Project of playgrounds across the district and delegation of authority to the Superintendent to manage the project, as presented.
3. Take no final action.

## **ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION**

The administration recommends approval of the funding request to the Northwest Arctic Borough for \$615,000 for the Playground Replacement and Refurbishment Project of playgrounds across the district.