



**North Slope Borough School District Board of Education
Zoom Video Communications
Utqiagvik, Alaska**

**Unapproved Minutes
Special Meeting
March 30, 2020
3:00 pm**

CALL TO ORDER AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Board President, Roxanne Brower, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 3:00 pm on ZOOM Video Communications in Utqiagvik, Alaska.

FLAG SALUTE: The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Mary Jo Olemaun - Present
Roxanne Brower - Present
Madeline Hickman. - Present
Qaiyaan Harcharek – Present

Nancy Rock – Present
Muriel Brower - Present
Nora Jane Burns – Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Muriel Brower MOVED to APPROVE the agenda. Qaiyaan Harcharek SECONDED the motion. Discussion Called.

Muriel Brower MOVED to AMEND the motion to INCLUDE three Items: Contract and Remote Teaching; Public Comments on Agenda Items; and Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items. Mary Jo Olemaun SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion CARRIED In a roll-call vote of seven yes, zero no.

Question called for the main motion. The motion CARRIED with a roll-call vote of seven yes, zero no.

CONTRACT AND REMOTE TEACHING Is presented by Acting Superintendent Ronnie Stanford. The North Slope Education Association provided their official position concerning the allowance of teachers to work at alternate locations off-slope. Many teachers are currently working from home because they are in an at-risk group, may have been exposed to the Novel Coronavirus, or have their own children to care for while schools are closed. Additionally, there are a large number of teachers who have quarantined family members to care for off-Slope. There are, however, many obstacles that are making it difficult for teachers to serve their students effectively and respond to parents who want daily contact using apps and platforms that require internet and unlimited data plans. Among these obstacles are available internet bandwidth at homes and limited data on phone data plans. Many teachers do not have internet at home, and

while GCI has offered to install the internet for “free” (it is still \$99), our members are discovering that installation occurring in a speedy manner is not happening. GCI isn’t even responding to requests by phone or email. Teachers in villages have a very low chance of getting the internet in their North Slope homes within the next few weeks. For some, this issue could be solved by allowing teachers to work from an off-Slope location with better internet connectivity so they will be more effective in serving students. The current Board Policy forces them to take paid or unpaid leave if they want to do that which means they are in a leave status and cannot be working with students. Another obstacle to effectively serving students is the availability of medical resources. Teachers with conditions that put them in an at-risk category would like to keep working, but also require the need to be closer to medical care. It would seem that under current policy, they too will be forced to take leave. Again, a teacher on leave should not be working with students. If the Board allowed them to work off-Slope, they would be able to keep working and serving their students.

Points of discussion Include: reasoning for the addition of agenda Items; recently enacted Senate Bill S74; Internet difficulties In Kaktovik and status of Interim school; amount of staff allowed In buildings limited; Implementation of guidelines for work In buildings for essential staff; non-congregated meals provided and process; sanitation In buildings; reimbursement for Internet usage and lack of bandwidth; school calendar expectations; recently enacted federal laws on employment, paid sick leave, and FMLA changes; lack of daycare; and social media posting by an employee.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: Community member J. Wilhelm thanked the District for accomodating the parents and communication and advised the District to allow the contract for distance working off slope In terms of Improved Internet and less cost to the District and families. Administration re-assured the District Is looking Into cost efficient methods of delivering distance learning for families.

EXECUTIVE SESSION at 3:40 PM - 6:05 PM. The Board of Education may go into executive session for: Matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district; Subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion; Matters, which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential; or Matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure.

Muriel Brower MOVED to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION for the purposes of attorney/client communications regarding Internal financial controls at 3:40 PM. Madeline Hickman SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion CARRIED In a roll-call vote of six yes, one no.

Mary Jo Olemaun – Yes
Qaiyaan Harcharek – No
Frieda Nageak – Yes
Nora Jane Burns – Yes

Madeline Hickman – Yes
Nancy Rock – Yes
Muriel Brower - Yes

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: North Slope Borough Educator's Association Executive Board representative J. Antes announced that the social media posting is not supported by the unions membership at large. District Attorney A. Clendaniel stated many teachers qualify for leave under the newly enacted laws. Board member Mary Jo Olemaun requested information on potentially offering internet usage coverage for teachers working on the North Slope from home. Acting Superintendent Ronnie Stanford informed the Board on developing partnerships with GCI and ASTAC in order to support distance learning/working. Board member Mary Jo Olemaun requested the school sites follow protocol of limited access into school buildings. Board member Muriel Brower advised the administration to document pandemic processes should this happen in the future.

INFORMATIONAL, FISCAL YEAR 2020 SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES Includes the following information on graduation dates, time, and location: Ałak School, 7:00 PM on May 1, 2020 at the Ałak School Gym attended by Madeline Hickman with Nancy Rock as alternate; Barrow High School, 5:00 PM on May 9, 2020 at the Barrow High School Gym attended by Muriel Brower; Kali School, 6:00 PM on May 8, 2020 at the Kali School Gym attended by Nora Jane Burns with Muriel Brower as alternate; Kiita Learning Community, 7:00 PM on May 7, 2020 at the Hopson Middle School Gym attended by Qaiyaan Harcharek; Meade River School, 5:00 PM on May 9, 2020 at the Meade River School Gym attended by Nancy Rock and Madeline Hickman; Nunamiut School, 6:00 PM on May 6, 2020 at the Nunamiut School Gym attended by Qaiyaan Harcharek and Nora Jane Burns; Tikigaq School, 6:00 PM on May 8, 2020 at the Tikigaq School Gym attended by Nancy Rock with Muriel Brower as alternate; and Nuiqsut Trapper School, 7:00 PM on May 8, 2020 at the Nuiqsut Trapper School Gym attended by Nora Jane Burns.

Points of discussion include: Kaktovik School Graduation plan still undecided; alternate graduation ideas; and progress of pandemic on the North Slope.

DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 9, 2020 Special Meeting on ZOOM Video Communications.

ADJOURNED at 6:35 PM. Muriel Brower MOVED to ADJOURN. Madeline Hickman SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion carried UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted:

Board Secretary

President

Clerk

_____ Date