



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

**Unapproved Minutes
Special Meeting
April 25, 2025
1:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: John Hopson Jr., Board President, called the Board of Education special meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. in the Archie K. Brower Conference Room in Central Office in Utqiagvik, Alaska and over ZOOM Video Communications.

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

ROLL CALL:

Nora Jane Burns – Present via ZOOM	Kristine Hilderbrand – Present
Frieda Moore – Present	Frieda Nageak – Present via ZOOM
Nancy Rock – Present via teleconference	John Hopson Jr. – Present via ZOOM
Esther Evikana - Present	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Esther Evikana MOVED to APPROVE the agenda. Frieda Moore SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion carried in a roll call vote of six yes, zero no.

Nora Jane Burns	Yes	Kristine Hilderbrand	Yes
Frieda Moore	Yes	Frieda Nageak	Yes
Nancy Rock	Yes	John Hopson Jr.	Yes
Esther Evikana	Yes		

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: District staff, members of the VOICE of the Arctic Iñupiat, and community members were recognized as present.

VOICE OF THE ARCTIC IÑUPIAT MEMBERSHIP

Esther Evikana MOVED in light of reports of the conduct of the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat on March 19, 2025, that the Board of Education ADOPT Resolution 25-04 which requests from the Voice of the Arctic Inupiat Board of Directors an explanation of the conduct of the meeting of March 19, 2025 and, further, a written apology, and in addition, provides notice that the District shall withdraw from the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat as set out in Resolution 25-04. Frieda Nageak SECONDED the motion. Question called. The motion carried in a roll call vote of seven yes, zero no.

Nora Jane Burns	Yes	Kristine Hilderbrand	Yes
Frieda Moore	Yes	Frieda Nageak	Yes
Nancy Rock	Yes	John Hopson Jr.	Yes
Esther Evikana	Yes		

RESOLUTION 25-04

NSBSD MEMBERSHIP IN VOICE OF THE ARCTIC IÑUPIAT

WHEREAS, the North Slope Borough School District Board of Education (“NSBSD”) is a regional organization formed under the laws of the North Slope Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat is a not-for-profit corporation formed under the laws of the State of Alaska and pursuant to Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States internal revenue law) (the “Code”); and,

WHEREAS, as recently as December 20, 2024, the North Slope Borough Board of Education resolved to be a member of the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat; and,

WHEREAS, the decision to be a member of the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat was based on the stated purposes of the organization which include to establish a “unified Voice of the Arctic Inupiat.”; and,

WHEREAS, the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat has stated its purpose is to “join together to speak as one on issues that affect our well-being.”; and,

WHEREAS, The VOICE of the Arctic Iñupiat’s Mission Statement is “Preserving and advancing North Slope Iñupiat cultural and economic self-determination.”; and,

WHEREAS, the NSBSD Board of Education’s mission is to support “students who are empowered, culturally rooted, bilingual, healthy, critical, creative, life-long learners”; and,

WHEREAS, at the March 19, 2025 Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat Annual Board meeting, the District was invited to share a report, after which the Superintendent was subjected to questions, accusations and comments from board members which were openly hostile, targeted District staff, questioned the transparency of the District and questioned the integrity and leadership of the Superintendent personally; and,

WHEREAS, the comments, accusations, and questions created a climate of disrespect which is inconsistent with Iñupiat values and the fundamental value of unity espoused by the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat; and,

WHEREAS, neither the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat nor any director of the Board of the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat called a point of order or otherwise took effective action to stop the disrespectful verbal attacks and accusations; and,

WHEREAS, since March 19, 2025, the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat has not taken any formal action that would underscore its purpose, and has not clearly communicated that the conduct displayed at the meeting of March 19, 2025 did not reflect the organization or the Iñupiat values at the foundation of all members of the Voice of the Arctic,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that

1. The North Slope Borough School District Board of Education requests that the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat Board of Directors provide an explanation of the conduct and control of the meeting of March 19, 2025 and, further, provide an appropriate written statement of apology to the District and its Superintendent.
2. The Fifth Amended Bylaws of the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat provides that a member may withdraw from the organization upon resolution of the governing body “and upon reasonable notice given to the Board of Directors.” Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat Bylaws, Article II, Section 4. The North Slope Borough Board of Education, by the adoption of this Resolution, hereby gives notice of withdrawal from the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat which withdrawal will be effective as of the close of business on the date of the Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat Board of Directors’ next meeting or August 14, 2025 (the first day of school), whichever occurs first.

Board discussion regarded organizational direction and purpose.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: VOICE of the Arctic members provided detail of mission and vision, recent activities, summary of events during the referenced meeting, and collaboration with NSBSD.

SCHOOL BOARD COMMENTS: Board comments regarded appreciation for Superintendent Vadiveloo and partnership with the VOICE.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING: May 18 – 20, 2025 Summer Retreat, Anchorage, AK.

ADJOURNED AT 1: 43 P.M. Esther Evikana MOVED to ADJOURN. Frieda Moore SECONDED the motion. The meeting stands adjourned.

Respectfully submitted for the May 13, 2025 Meeting:

Marie Stackhouse, Board Secretary

John Hopson Jr., Board President

Frieda Nageak, Board Clerk